

G20 Summit in India: A Voice from the Global South

Dr. Suresh Maind¹, Dr. Flora Pandya²

¹Professor, Mumbai School of Economics and Public Policy, University of Mumbai, Mumbai.- 400 098

²Assistant Professor, K. J. Somaiya college of Arts and Commerce University of Mumbai, Mumbai- 400 098.

Abstract

The world is on the verge of unanticipated crises as a result of high debt levels, widening income disparities, poverty, malnutrition, hunger, and starvation in many nations, all of which threaten humanitarian crises. The countries union offers a platform for countries to work toward shared objectives. With two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of the global GDP, and 75% of all trade, the G20 is the largest organization to address global issues. The paper analyzes various issues including debt restructuring, food security, climate change, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), corruption, and terrorism with a focus on the G20 summit in 2023.

Key Words: G20, Sustainable Development Goals, Vasudeva Kutumb, Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas

The world is on the verge of unexpected crises, with countries suffering from high debts, high inequality, poverty and malnutrition, hunger, and starvation, all of which are threatening humanitarian crises. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the emergence of the COVID-19 virus has resulted in 6,960,783 deaths worldwide. Meanwhile, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has resulted in tens of thousands of deaths and soaring food prices worldwide. A new humanitarian crisis with thousands of casualties has resulted from the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict. Since October 10, 2023, the price of crude oil has increased by 4%, and there is a chance that this will have an impact on prices in the long run. To address these issues, the G20 countries union provides a platform for countries to strive towards common goals. There are numerous global issues, such as preserving the environment, climate change, food crises and security, achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs), debt restructuring, and human rights, where it is impossible for a single country to bring about change. It takes collective efforts by all countries to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth.

The G20 was established in 1999, post-Asian financial crises, as a forum to discuss financial stability. Openness and transparency in decision-making are cornerstones of the G20. After the global financial crisis of 2008, the G20 has become the foremost forum for international economic cooperation. The forum initially focused on macroeconomic issues but later broadened its scope to include the environment, climate change, agriculture, energy, anticorruption, trade, and sustainable development. The G20 is comprised of 19 countries and the European Union, which represent 75% of global trade, 85% of the world's GDP, and two-thirds of the world's population. For the governance of the G20, it is a rotating presidency. India was designated to host the G20 summit in New Delhi on September 9 and 10, 2023. On September 9, 2023, the African Union joined the G20 as

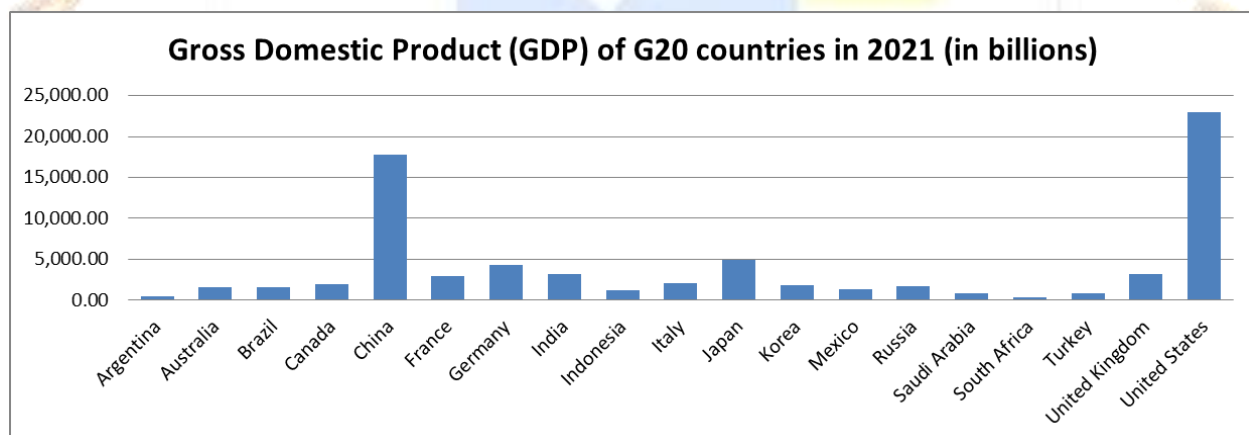
a permanent member and added itself to become the G21. This year's G20 theme is "Vasudeva Kutumb," a phrase derived from ancient Sanskrit scripture. It translates to "One Earth, One Family, One Future". It represents the richness of our Indian constitution in terms of unity, fraternity, and harmony. The motto of India is "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas" on the New Delhi declaration of 2023. The summit Key objectives are as follows:

- Inclusive Sustainable, balanced growth
- speeding up the SDG Goals' progress
- Future Sustainability Through Green Development Pact
- Multilateral Institutions in the twenty-first century
- Digital Public Infrastructure
- Taxation on an International Scale
- Gender Equality
- Concerns in the financial sector
- Terrorism prevention and money laundering

India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC): The G20 summit announced a multi-national shipping and rail network. The corridor will link India, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and the European Union in order to boost multilateral trade and connectivity.

The GDP of the United States is 22.996 trillion US dollars, while China's GDP is 17.7 trillion US dollars. India has already attained a GDP of \$3.17 trillion and aims to reach an economy of \$5 trillion by 2025-26. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts that India's economy will expand by 6.1% in 2023, while China's will expand by 5.2% and the United States' will expand by 2.8%.

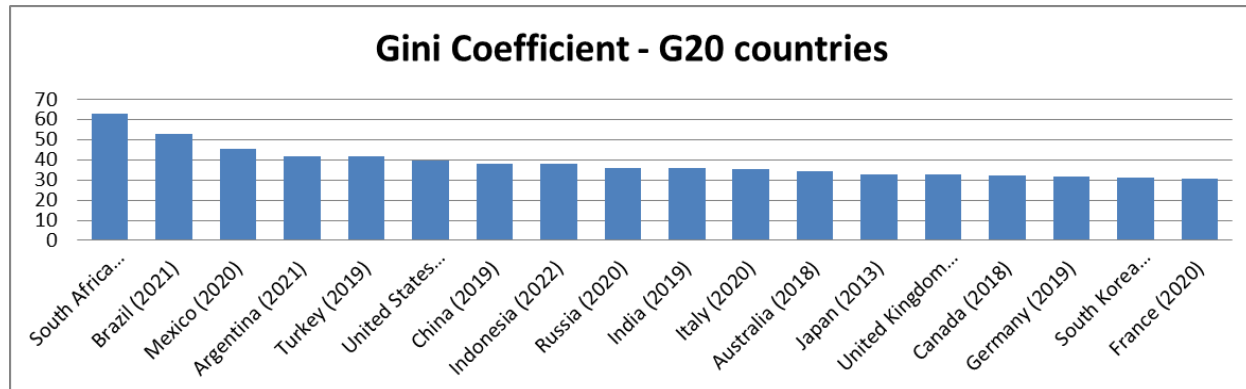
Table 1: Gross Domestic Product (GDP) - G20 countries



Source: IMF

Gini-coefficient is a metric utilized to measure wealth inequality. The index value ranges from 0 to 1, with 0 representing greater equality and 1 representing greater inequality. South Africa, Brazil, and Mexico have the highest levels of inequality among the G20 nations, while France, South Korea, and Germany have the lowest. The remaining G20 nations have a medium level of inequality ranging from 32% to 42%. The Gini coefficient for India is 35.70 as per 2019 statistics.

Table 2 : Gini Coefficient - wealth Inequality (G20 Countries)

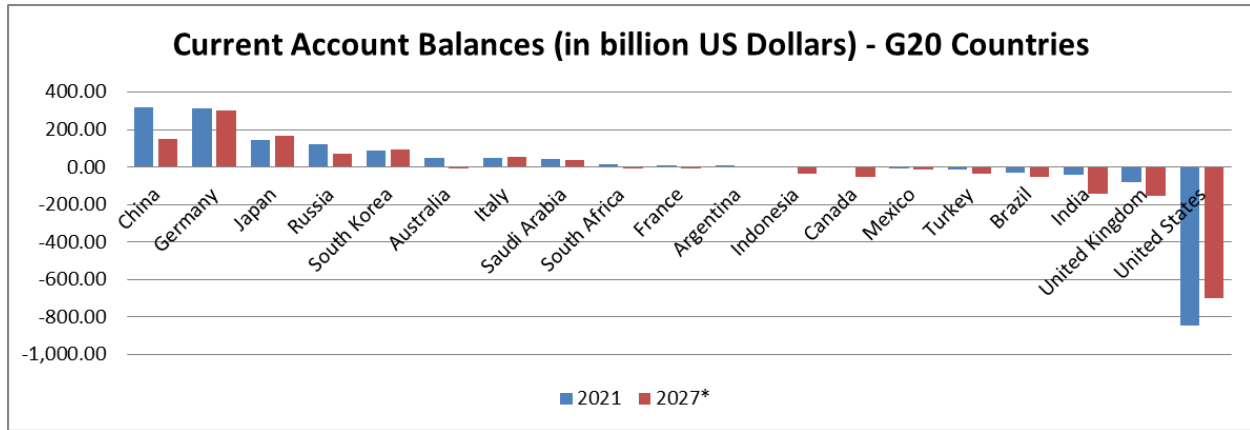


Source: World Bank

Note: Data not available for Saudi Arabia.

In 2021, China, Germany, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Australia, Italy, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, France, Canada, and Argentina had a current account surplus. While the U.S., U.K., India, Brazil, Turkey, and Mexico have current account deficits, the IMF forecasts that in 2027, Indonesia, France, Australia, and Canada, which currently have current account surpluses, will have current account deficits. According to the IMF, India will have a deficit of 140.61 billion USD in 2027, while the United States will have a deficit of 701.36 billion USD. The G20 summit meeting provided the common framework required to resolve debt issues in countries such as Zambia, Ghana, Ethiopia, and Sri Lanka. The Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable (GSDR) was established in February 2023 to expedite debt restructuring efforts. G20 finance ministers and central bankers expressed a strong level of confidence in the GSDR. However, it is crucial to comprehend the causes of debt. Depending on whether they are low-income or middle-income countries, the reasons why some nations borrow excessively and have structural problems must be examined. Rising interest rates could be another problem for developing countries rather than developed countries. Variations in interest rates and currency exchange rates can both make it difficult for counties to make timely debt repayments.

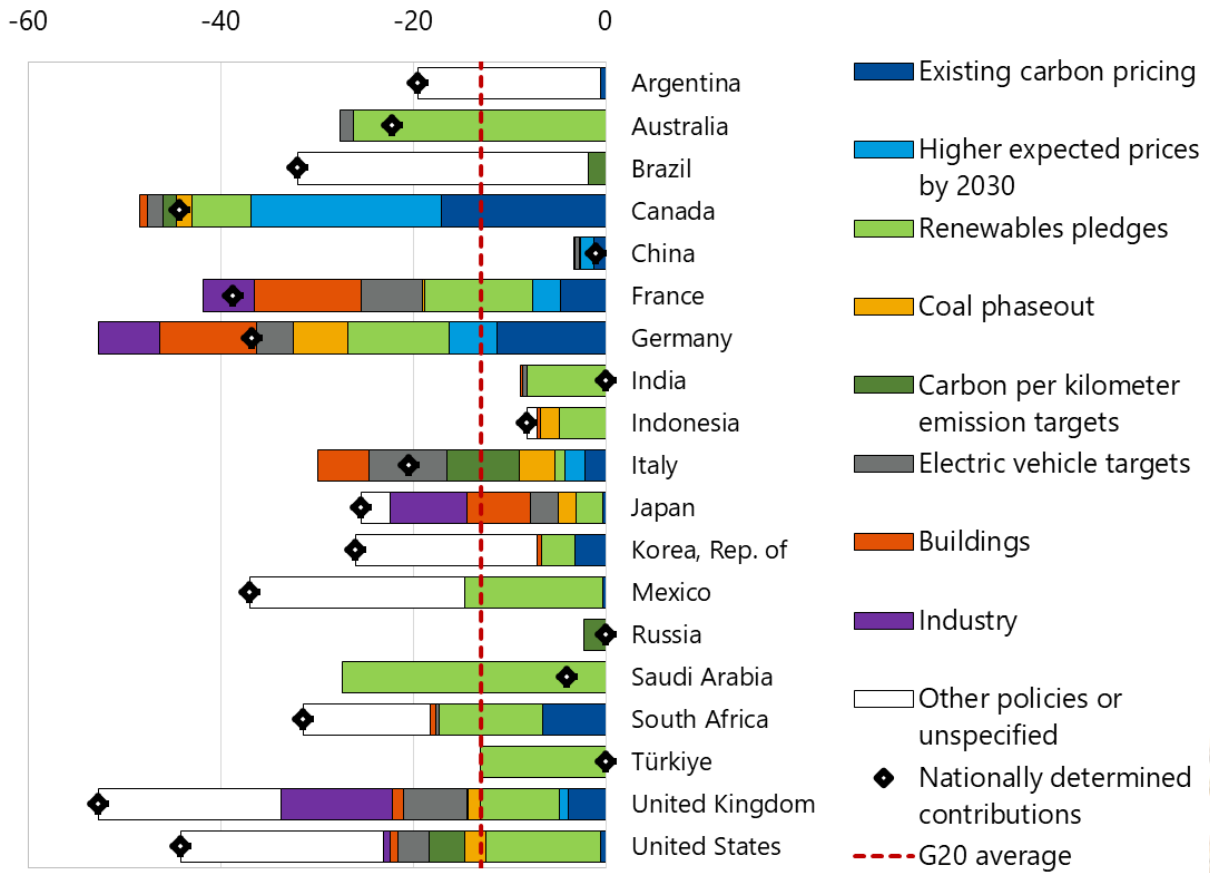
Table 3: Current Account Balance - G20 Countries



Source: IMF

The largest emitters, including China, the European Union, India, and the United States, together accounts for more than 60 percent of global emissions by 2030. (IMF 2023) Different nations have formulated diverse policies. Some nations implement carbon pricing on the emission of greenhouse gases, while others invest in clean energy, green infrastructure, the adoption of low-carbon technology, and green subsidies. India is investing in electric vehicles, renewable energy, and buildings for CO2 reduction. China has increased its green public investments and solar energy subsidies, while the United States has increased its investments in green energy and electric vehicles. France, Germany, Italy, and Japan have set goals to reduce energy consumption in buildings, whereas Canada, the United States, South Africa, and Korea have mandated that new building construction achieve net zero emissions by 2030.

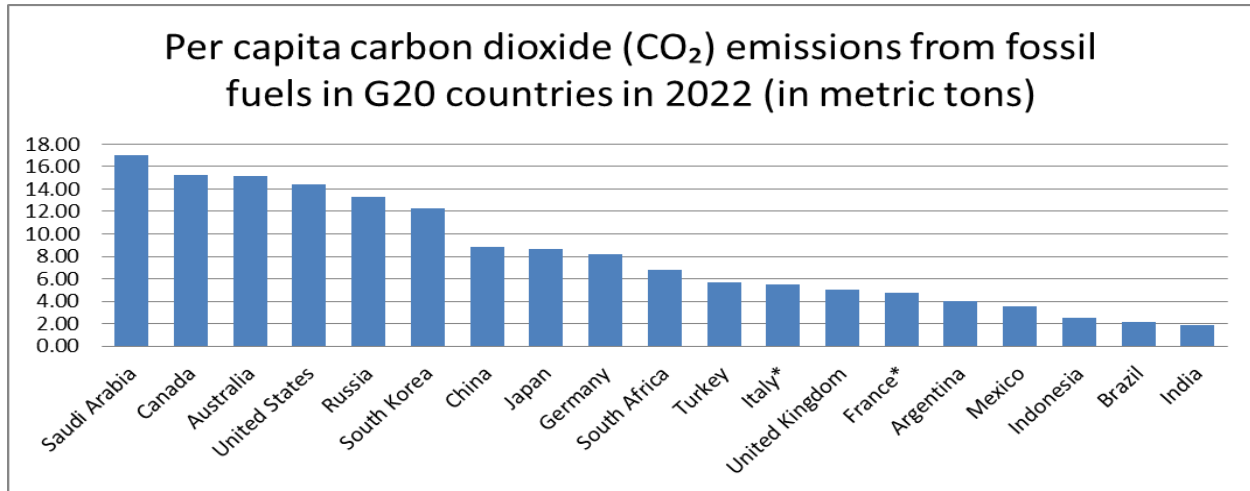
Table 4: Climate change policies by countries.



Source: IMF staff estimates using the IMF-World Bank climate policy estimates tools

Saudi Arabia had the highest CO2 emissions per capita, followed by Canada, Australia, the United States, Russia, and South Korea. China produces 8.85 metric tons of carbon dioxide per capita, whereas India only produced 1.91 metric tons per person. Our Honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized the importance of LIFE-Living for the Environment-in order to combat climate change by preserving marine life and reducing plastic pollution to zero by 2040. Additionally, 19 nations and 12 international organizations have joined the India clean energy initiative with the Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA). It will assist nations in achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

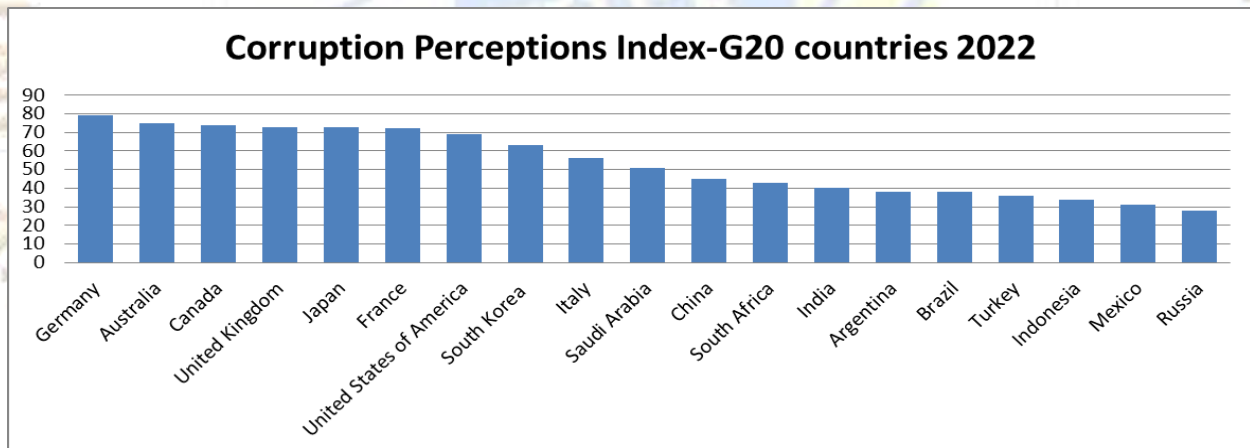
Table 5: Per capita Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions - G20 countries



Source: EDGAR/JRC. (September 8, 2023). Per capita carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuels in G20 countries in 2022 (in metric tons) [Graph]. In *Statista*. Retrieved October 07, 2023, from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/723173/g20-carbon-dioxide-emissions-per-capita/>

Transparency International has published a yearly Corruption Perceptions Index since 1995. It is determined by the perceived degree of corruption in the public sector. The range is from 0 to 100. As the index approaches zero, a country is considered to be highly corrupt, whereas an index closer to one hundred indicates that the country is not corrupt. Analyzing the situation of G20 nations, Germany is the least corrupt nation with an index score of 79, while Russia is the most corrupt nation with a score of 28. India, which has a corruption index score of 40 on average, must increase its score in order to become anti-corrupt.

Table 6: Corruption Perception Index - G20 Countries



Source: Transparency International. (January 17, 2023). Corruption index in the G20 countries 2022 [Graph]. In *Statista*. Retrieved October 07, 2023, from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/722930/g20-countries-corruption-index/>

CONCLUSION

In 2023, India successfully presided over the G20. India has benefited from and been a successful diplomat in dealing with Russia, Western nations, and as the voice of the Global South. The declaration covered a number of important topics, including Inclusive Sustainable, Balanced Growth, Progress SDG Goals, Future Sustainability through Green Development Pact, Multilateral Institutions in the Twenty-first Century, Digital Public Infrastructure, International Taxation, Gender Equality, Debt Treatment, Regulation of Crypto currencies, Concerns in the Financial Sector, and Terrorism Prevention. The Global South opposes solitary military operations carried out in the name of democracy. G20 participants' denounced terrorism and actions related to terrorism.

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