

G20 Rio Declaration: The Path Towards Navigating Global Challenges Together

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The G20 Brazil Leaders' Summit held on November 19 2024 in Rio de Janeiro marked the end of the G20 Presidency of Brazil, and the passing of the presidency to South Africa. The [Declaration](#) comes at a time of ongoing conflicts and wars which has caused immense human suffering and catastrophe. Given the geopolitical, socio-economic, climate and environment related challenges and crises, the Declaration focused on sustainable development, social and digital inclusion, climate action, addressing global inequalities and reform of global governance institutions.

The key motto 'Building a just world and a sustainable planet' was highlighted in the Declaration. Placing inequality at the core of the agenda, the Declaration called for urgent action, which is socially just, environmentally sustainable and economically sound, with respect to Sustainable Development. Further, it stressed the need for social inclusion and importance of food security and nutrition. Additionally, another key feature of the Declaration was its emphasis on harnessing the potential of digital and emerging technologies to reduce inequalities, recognising the significance of digital inclusion. Building on India's G20 Presidency, Brazil prioritised expansion of Digital Public Infrastructure to enhance digital access, reduce inequalities and support innovation. Mainstreaming gender equality and decent work can also be seen a key achieve of the Brazil presidency. The declaration additionally, reaffirmed commitment towards the Paris Agreement and underlined the importance of climate finance, sustainable and just ener-

gy transition, biodiversity conservation, climate-resilient infrastructure, etc. It also underscored the need for increased international cooperation for scaling up climate finance and investment for developing countries, further building on the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration. The Brazil Presidency also recognised the significance of sustainable production and consumption patterns, endorsing the idea of Lifestyles for Sustainable Development (LiFE), which also found space in the India's G20 Leaders' Declaration.

The Declaration also called for global economic stability and advocated for reforming international financial institutions to further strengthen their support to emerging economies, and measures to address global debt vulnerabilities in low income countries. It also called for action towards reforming global governance, especially the United Nations. Thus, advocating for an inclusive global governance and multilateralism which is more poised to achieve common goals, tackle common challenges especially from a Global South perspective. There was also emphasis on equitable access to emerging technologies and its responsible governance, with special mention of the Artificial Intelligence.

The Brazilian Presidency highlighted the need for coordinated action to tackle climate change, and move towards just energy transition. It also underlined the need for comprehensive reform in global governance institutions and promoting ethical and equitable development and governance of emerging

technologies like artificial intelligence.

As the G20 presidency moves to South Africa, it will be crucial to see if the focus on implementation gains further momentum, and moves towards addressing issues of inequalities and access faced by the Global South. The developing countries' troika has strongly put forth these issues in G20, and it would be important for South Africa to further consolidate the position of the Global South and hand-over the Presidency to the United States in 2025. The theme "solidarity, equality, and sustainability" focusing on SDGs, adopted by South Africa is set to further international cooperation to ensure equitable access and sustainable development for all.