

6. G20 AND DEVELOPMENT

The G20 is mentioned in a number of topics in the main report, including trade, agriculture, infrastructure, the private sector, food security and economic governance. This reflects both a growing G20 engagement on specific development issues, and the way in which wider global economic and financial issues impact on development, including in Africa.

G20 engagement on development issues has increased significantly since 2010. It is reflected specifically in the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth and Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP), but development issues also permeate other G20 work streams, including issues related to illicit financial flows under the Anti-Corruption Action Plan. The G20's 'core business' of steering the global economy also has major implications for Africa. In all these areas G20 work streams do not focus specifically on Africa – they address global development and financial/economic issues. The commitments are policy commitments rather than financial commitments. At the same time, they are profoundly important for development in Africa.

The Seoul Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP)

The MYAP was adopted in 2010 and consists of 27 action items grouped in 9 key pillars considered critical to inclusive and sustainable growth in developing countries, including low-income countries: infrastructure; food security; private investment and job creation; human resource development; trade; financial inclusion; growth with resilience (i.e. social protection and remittances); domestic resource mobilization; and knowledge sharing.

The G20 Development Working Group (DWG) was established in 2010 to follow up on the implementation of the MYAP's action items. Within the overall global approach, there has been some focus on Africa, especially with respect to infrastructure, intra-regional trade and food security. The G20 High-Level Panel on Infrastructure Investment thus recommended several initiatives to overcome obstacles to infrastructure investment, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. The DWG and G20 Agriculture Ministers adopted an Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture, again with specific references to Africa including the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, and the ECOWAS pilot project for a regional emergency humanitarian food reserves system.

In 2012 leaders committed to continue work on food security and infrastructure, and added inclusive green growth to the DWG agenda. The work programme in 2013 focuses on food security, infrastructure, financial inclusion, and human resource development.

Other specific G20 work streams

The Anti-Corruption Action Plan adopted at Seoul in 2010 includes commitments relevant to combating illicit financial flows, including tackling bribery and corruption, combating money laundering, supporting the recovery of stolen assets, and promoting transparency. In 2012 G20 leaders renewed the initial mandate of the Working Group established in 2010, and endorsed the development of a revised Action Plan for 2013-2014. Finance Ministers (and Central Bank Governors) have also commissioned work from relevant international organisations to assess factors affecting long-term financing for infrastructure investment, which will complement work under the DWG's infrastructure pillar.

G20 'core' business

The G20's "core" business of steering the global economy and policy areas of energy, financial stability, monetary and fiscal policy [addressed by Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors] also has major implications for Africa. Addressing the sovereign debt and banking crisis in the Euro area, ensuring a stable financial system, boosting demand and economic growth, avoiding oil price spikes, ensuring a strong and sustainable growth path for emerging markets, resisting protectionism and improving market access for least developed countries are among the policy actions agreed by G20 leaders.

Accountability

Through the Los Cabos Accountability Assessment Framework the G20 will assess progress in meeting its commitments towards the shared goal of strong, sustainable and balanced growth for all. A Framework Working Group will report regularly on progress in respect to fiscal, monetary, financial sector, development and trade policies. The World Bank, with other international organisations, will assess the impact on the growth and development agenda in developing countries. The DWG will also be submitting a report to leaders in St-Petersburg, assessing progress achieved and outcomes under the Multi-Year Action Plan.