

# Break the G20!...

...before it breaks all of us!

*Background articles on Johannesburg's hosting of the G20 – including G7 & BRICS*

At a time of stress unprecedented since 1945, societies must oppose senseless wars, capitalist crises, extreme inequality and ecocide.

## March against the G20!

**Sunday, November 23: gather at 10AM  
Diepkloof (location to be announced),  
and move peacefully to Nasrec**

**G20 = elites mismanaging global capitalism  
offering nothing for people & planetary survival**

**Join the United Front to march against  
both imperialists and subimperialists:**

Meadowlands Community Forum,  
Abahlali baseZela, Sisonke  
Revolutionary Movement,  
Thembelihle Crisis Committee,  
Voice of the Poor Concerned  
Residents, Bekkersdal Community  
Forum, Ivory Park/Tembisa  
Residents Forum, Pimville  
Klipspruit Community Committee,  
Water Works Kliprivier  
Community Forum, Nana's Farm  
Community Forum, Labour  
Community Media Forum (Alex,  
Soweto, Orange Farm,  
Mpumalanga), Soweto Electricity  
Crisis Committee, Kashmir Global  
Movement – and more TEA !



### The G20 claims to promote

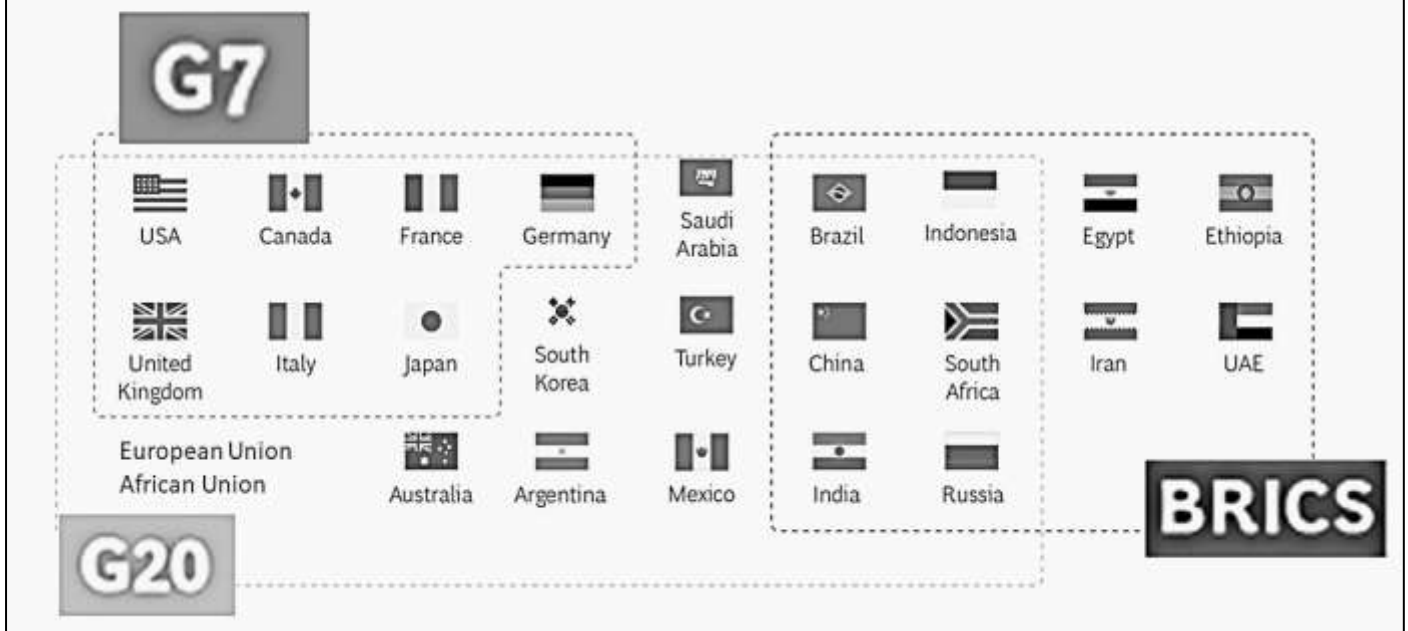
**‘Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability’**

... but this is rhetoric, to hide what South African and world rulers and their corporates are doing to us all:

- Joburg water, electricity, housing crises
- profiting from Israel's Gaza genocide
- more wars, violations of sovereignty
- cuts to Overseas Development Aid
- worsening inequality, poverty
- looting Third World resources
- climate catastrophe, ecocide
- exploitation, unemployment
- austerity and neoliberalism
- censorship and surveillance
  - abusive high technology
  - violence against women
  - human rights abuses
  - LGBTQI+ repression
  - rampant tyrannies
  - venal corruption



# Blocs of imperial, sub-imperial and fusion states



## March against the G20!

**Sunday, November 23: gather at 10AM at Diepkloof Extreme Park, Zone 5, Diepkloof (near corner of Baragwanath Road and Immink Drive), and march to the G20 Summit at Nasrec**

 **Donald J. Trump Pos...**  [Subscribe](#)

@TrumpDailyPosts

How could we be expected to go to South Africa for the very important G20 Meeting when Land Confiscation and Genocide is the primary topic of conversation? They are taking the land of white Farmers, and then killing them and their families. The Media refuses to report on this. The United States has held back all contributions to South Africa. Is this where we want to be for the G20? I don't think so!

 **Donald J. Trump**  

@realDonaldTrump

It is a total disgrace that the G20 will be held in South Africa. Afrikaners (People who are descended from Dutch settlers, and also French and German immigrants) are being killed and slaughtered, and their land and farms are being illegally confiscated. No U.S. Government Official will attend as long as these Human Rights abuses continue. I look forward to hosting the 2026 G20 in Miami, Florida!

**Hosting the G20 in 2026:  
Trump – with allies MBS (Saudi  
Arabia) and Milei (Argentina)**





## Green Connection, Extinction Rebellion, Project90By2030 and SboNdaba Dance

### CIVIL SOCIETY TO G20: SOUTH AFRICANS DEMAND A JUST, PEOPLE-CENTRED ENERGY FUTURE!

Biodiversity, land degradation, drought and water sustainability, chemicals and waste management, as well as climate change, air quality and oceans were discussed by a group of small-scale fishers, community activists in The Green Connection, Extinction Rebellion, Project90By2030 and SboNdaba Dance, on 16 October.

The group aimed to send a clear message that citizens are watching and expect these ministers to uphold good governance, deliver justice and equity, and put people and the planet before profit.

"This year marks ten years since the Paris Agreement was adopted, yet we're still struggling to secure the commitments needed to meet its targets. Meanwhile, Africa and the Global South continues to suffer this injustice, bearing the brunt of a crisis we did not cause," says The Green Connection's Community Outreach Coordinator, Neville van Rooy. "The G20 exists to foster international cooperation on the world's most pressing economic and

environmental challenges. Africa therefore expects genuine commitments to good governance, inclusive participation, and a just energy transition that protects livelihoods and restores harmony with nature."

Country	GDP PPP 2022	Emissions/GDP PPP 2022
World	139438	0.386
China	25685	0.611
United States	21565	0.279
EU27	20479	0.175
India	10057	0.392
Japan	5210	0.227
Russia	4027	0.641
Indonesia	3419	0.363
Brazil	3250	0.403
United Kingdom	3136	0.136
Türkiye	2816	0.244
Mexico	2492	0.329
South Korea	2347	0.309
Canada	1906	0.397
Saudi Arabia	1821	0.445
Australia	1325	0.431
Argentina	1038	0.369
South Africa	807	0.663

Small-scale fishers from Elands Bay in Western Cape, Max Kwatsha says, “I do not support what these oil and gas companies want to do in our waters. Yesterday was also World Food Day, which is about “building a more sustainable and equitable food system for everyone”. But how can we do that when oil and gas exploration could destroy our fishing grounds? And if the oceans are destroyed, how will we feed our children? We depend on the ocean to live, not on empty promises from people who only want to take. The G20 ministers must remember this when making their decisions.”

The performance – a dramatic illustration of the ongoing struggle between those defending Africa’s people and ecosystems, and the oil and gas interests that may be pulling the continent deeper into extractive dependency – forms part of the build-up to the final G20 Summit on 22 November 2025, where civil society will present its collective demands for a just and sustainable African future.

Strategic Lead at The Green Connection, Liziwe McDaid says, “Africa’s future cannot be built on debt, pollution, and broken promises. Across our coasts, communities are already living with the impacts of climate change and the constant threat of oil pollution. We are of the opinion that what is needed is renewable energy that delivers true economic empowerment and dignity not more empty promises from governments and extractive industries.”

The Green Connection, Extinction Rebellion and Project90By2030 are members of the Africa CSO G20 Climate, Energy and Sustainable Finance Group (ACG20) a growing coalition of more than 80 African civil society organisations working across financial, climate, health and energy justice. Rooted in the lived experiences of communities across South Africa and the continent, ACG20 calls on the G20 to advance a people-centred and just energy transition that safeguards livelihoods especially those of coastal communities – and restores balance with nature. The coalition has submitted a comprehensive position paper to South Africa’s G20 Presidency.

Community activist from Doorn Bay, Laurenchia Engelbrecht says, “I am here to speak out against oil and gas drilling in our ocean because our families depend on the sea for survival. If all these projects being proposed go ahead, it could harm the marine environment and devastate our livelihoods, and our way of life. This could be a disaster for my coastal community, as our very survival is determined by the sea. We really hope that the G20 decision-makers will take this all into account.”

Project90By2030’s Gabriel Klaasen adds, “As young people, we are tired of waiting for promises while the planet burns. South Africa’s G20 Presidency is our chance to show real leadership, by listening to communities, not corporations. Climate finance and energy decisions made here must uplift people, protect livelihoods, and open doors to a cleaner, more equitable African future.”

Advocacy Officer at The Green Connection, Lisa Makaula says, “We reject the false narrative that civil society is anti-development. What we stand for is real, people-centred progress, transparent governance that prioritises clean oceans, renewable energy, and community wellbeing over profit. As South Africa assumes the G20 Presidency, we call on leaders to end fossil fuel subsidies, deliver fair climate finance as grants not more debt and ensure that no African is left behind in the just transition. It’s time for the G20 to deliver justice.”

Another small-scale fisher from Elands Bay, Andries Booysen adds, “We came to Cape Town, as the G20 meets, to say no to oil and gas drilling in our ocean. These projects can destroy marine life and deepen poverty and hunger in coastal communities. Enough is enough our oceans are our livelihoods. We are happy that civil society continues to stand with small-scale fishers, helping us ensure that our voices are heard, locally and internationally. Power to the people!” Meanwhile, across the country, coastal and inland communities will hold parallel protests from 16 October to 22 November, calling on world leaders to end fossil fuel subsidies and redirect funding towards community-owned renewable energy projects.

## Ramaphosa, the G20 and empty promises of a just transition

By CHARLIZE TOMASELLI - Business Day, 12 Nov 2025

Can a man who once urged police repression against striking mineworkers now claim to lead Africa towards a people-centered, justice-driven future for its minerals? This is the question hanging over SA’s G20 presidency. In November, the world’s most powerful economies will gather in Johannesburg, with President Cyril Ramaphosa as host. SA has billed the summit as a chance to reshape global debates on energy, minerals

and development. The themes are noble: solidarity, equality and sustainability. Ramaphosa himself has spoken about breaking Africa free from resource colonialism, building industries that add value locally and creating green jobs for the future.

On the surface it sounds transformative. Yet scratch the veneer and the contradictions quickly emerge. SA remains locked into the same extractive

model that defined the apartheid era: a minerals-energy complex built on exporting raw materials while communities are left with poisoned rivers, broken land and little in return. The Just Energy Transition Investment Plan, celebrated internationally, is already unravelling. The Komati coal-to-renewables project collapsed, workers and communities have been sidelined, and coal is still being championed as a “critical mineral” by the president’s mineral resources minister, Gwede Mantashe.

This is not simply incoherence. It reflects a political economy in which elites benefit from extraction while ordinary people pay the costs. Ramaphosa himself embodies this. He is not only a president but also a business person whose fortune was built on mining. His family ties run deep: his brother-in-law, Patrice Motsepe, is a mining billionaire now moving into green hydrogen and renewables. Ramaphosa sat on Lonmin’s board during the 2012 Marikana massacre, when 34 striking miners were gunned down by police. His own emails described their protest as “dastardly criminal” and called for “concomitant action”. For many South Africans those words will forever mark him as complicit in the bloodshed.

Now, as G20 president, Ramaphosa positions himself as the voice of Africa’s mineral sovereignty. But his message of justice contradicts his legacy of repeatedly siding with capital against workers and communities. Across the continent, the reality of the so-called green transition tells its own story. In Buhera, Zimbabwe, villagers face eviction to make way for lithium mines that will supply European electric cars. “Land is everything to us,” one community member told researchers. In Ulanga, Tanzania, farmers displaced by graphite mining say, “we cannot eat graphite; we cannot drink graphite”.

In the DRC’s Ruashi district, cobalt extraction has left water contaminated and children sick, as the mineral powers the world’s batteries.

These are the communities that should be centred in G20 debates. Yet they remain invisible, while leaders and corporations negotiate supply chains and “investment opportunities” in their name.

Ramaphosa speaks often of beneficiation, of Africa building its own processing industries. But there is no evidence that his government is serious about this. The just energy transition has already been captured by elites, structured around loans that deepen debt and contracts that enrich politically connected firms.

Motsepe’s African Rainbow Energy & Power is positioning itself as a key player in the renewable sector and is deeply invested in manganese mining in the Northern Cape. Once again, the people are asked to sacrifice land and livelihoods so that elites can profit and foreign capitals can secure their “clean” energy future.

The G20 moment could be an opportunity to confront these patterns, to insist on free and informed consent for communities to demand reparations for ecological destruction, and to build regional industrial capacity that serves African needs. But that would require a break with the logic of neoliberalism and elite accumulation. It would require leadership willing to put people before profit even if it meant confronting global capital and curbing domestic oligarchs. Ramaphosa has shown no sign of being that leader.

SA remains locked into the same extractive model that defined the apartheid era

-Tomaselli is research and learning facilitator at the Coalition for Human Rights in Development.

## The G20 fumbles food politics, pleasing agribusiness

By Patrick Bond, University of Johannesburg Centre for Social Change

The spirit of ‘solidarity-equality-sustainability’ was already infused into G20 rhetoric in 2024, in Rio de Janeiro. In a statement on 18 November 2024, Cyril Ramaphosa beseeched fellow leaders, that the G20 “must be capable of combating the use of hunger as a weapon of war, as we are now seeing in some parts of the world, including in Gaza and Sudan.”

That’s the *rhetoric*, to be sure. But a class war is underway in South Africa, the world’s most unequal country by income and wealth. And Ramaphosa knows the food weapon well, just as his brother-in-law Patrice Motsepe must know how electricity produced by coal that he has for nearly two decades supplied to the furnaces that fuel the Israel Defense Forces, gives their soldiers the energy required to

impose the current process of mass starvation on Gaza. (Notwithstanding several protests at Motsepe’s offices and those of his former Glencore partners, Cyril Ramaphosa will say and do nothing about this specific South African contribution to the worsening genocide in Gaza, of course.)

A few days before Ramaphosa’s remarks in Rio, on 13 November 2024, the lead minister within his Presidency – Khumbudzo Ntshavheni – vocally advocated starvation as a tactic against thousands of underground informal-sector miners about two hours’ drive southwest of Johannesburg: “We are not sending help to criminals. We are going to smoke them out.” Ntshavheni knew the consequences, because on the SA Police Service (SAPS) worked with

the SA National Defense Force (SANDF) to starve those same mineworkers, and on November 2 had bragged to the media, “SAPS and members of the SANDF blocked communities in and around these abandoned mining shifts in Orkney from delivering food parcels, water and necessities to these illegal miners.”

That meant the mineworkers were forced to eat cockroaches and human flesh. It is likely that, by mid-January when courts ruled the practice had to stop, from dozens to hundreds of mineworkers had died either of starvation or desperately trying to escape by climbing up extremely steep mineshafts and falling to their deaths.

### **G20 starves us of food sovereignty**

The host country’s appalling record of starving workers in the extractive industry class war dare not be mentioned. What else is off the agenda? Words like “profit” and “multinational corporation” and “intellectual property” and “genetic engineering” and “carnivore” are not to be found, because they are assumed to be a natural part of the food process – although all undermine food sovereignty and climate sanity. Reforms like “land redistribution” and “agro-ecology” and genuine black empowerment would, after all, violate the G20 commitment to “pursuing actions that are in compliance with WTO rules and obligations,” as seen below.

The G20 statement is intent on ignoring these concerns, and instead retains ‘food security’ phraseology without any concession to the *food sovereignty movement*. That movement, according to London-based Global Justice Now (in a 2019 report) has these components:

1. Focuses on food for people: The right to food which is healthy and culturally appropriate is the basic legal demand underpinning food sovereignty. Guaranteeing it requires policies which support diversified food production in each region and country. Food is not simply another commodity to be traded or speculated on for profit.
2. Values food providers: Many smallholder farmers suffer violence, marginalisation and racism from corporate landowners and governments. People are often pushed off their land by mining concerns or agribusiness. Agricultural workers can face severe exploitation and even bonded labour. Although women produce most of the food in the global south, their role and knowledge are often ignored, and their rights to resources and as workers are violated. Food sovereignty asserts

food providers’ right to live and work in dignity.

3. Localises food systems: Food must be seen primarily as sustenance for the community and only secondarily as something to be traded. Under food sovereignty, local and regional provision takes precedence over supplying distant markets, and export-orientated agriculture is rejected. The ‘free trade’ policies which prevent developing countries from protecting their own agriculture, for example through subsidies and tariffs, are also inimical to food sovereignty.
4. Puts control locally: Food sovereignty places control over territory, land, grazing, water, seeds, livestock and fish populations on local food providers and respects their rights. They can use and share them in socially and environmentally sustainable ways which conserve diversity. Privatisation of such resources, for example through intellectual property rights regimes or commercial contracts, is explicitly rejected.
5. Builds knowledge and skills: Technologies, such as genetic engineering, that undermine food providers’ ability to develop and pass on knowledge and skills needed for localised food systems are rejected. Instead, food sovereignty calls for appropriate research systems to support the development of agricultural knowledge and skills.
6. Works with nature: Food sovereignty requires production and distribution systems that protect natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, avoiding energy-intensive industrial methods that damage the environment and the health of those that inhabit it.

In addition to ignoring these principles, the most important part of any G20 official statement is silence about – and thus disrespect for – civil society. The G20 statement on food has nothing to say about the courageous movements around the world, e.g. the Via Campesina network, whose members have struggled valiantly for land redistribution and pro-peasant policies.

These civil society groups should have no expectation of being taken seriously by the G20 in Johannesburg, within a country where more than 12 million of the 62 million population is considered to be food insecure, led by a hedonistic ruling class that exudes subimperial obeisance to agricultural imperialism. The G20 Food Security Task Force is a case in point.



# South Africa's G20 Leadership: A Mixed Bag for the Global South

**Ashraf Patel**

South Africa's G20 leadership concludes with the apex G20 Leadership Summit taking place on 22-23 November in Johannesburg.

It has been a roller coaster ride from the get-go with the Trump 2.0 trade shocks, bullying SA and Nigeria in Africa's G20 year, with the US downgrading its G20 commitments. This period was also marked by the intensification of civil wars and electoral violence on the African continent.

Media narratives and coverage of G20 and reporting of G20 events have failed to connect their relevance to everyday struggles- from the high cost of living or need for AI regulation against social media harms, or climate finance and energy access.

Brazil's 2024 G20 agenda was bold and managed to secure solid commitments on ultra-rich tax commitment and a Global Compact on Hunger and inequality. The appointment of two noteworthy Expert groups on Finance, chaired by Trevor Manuel, and Inequality, chaired by Dr Joseph Stiglitz, in addition to the dozens of meetings held by ministers to craft communiques.

## G20 Finance Track

Global finance reform is the genesis of the G20's DNA - and this is the great test for the forum. Despite numerous finance and central bank meetings, there are no concrete commitments on core issues such as IMF reforms and the actual write-off of the debts in the poorest African nations.

The Cost of Capital commission, a most promising initiative of this year's G20 Presidency, has sadly been downgraded. Here, South Africa and the African Union (AU) could have been bolder in pushing for a global UN Tax treaty and Debt write-offs, where resources could be mobilised for meeting the UN SDG goals.

Given the current geopolitical contestations and US disengagement from UN platforms, commitment to climate finance at the UN Seville Finance for Development conference will be difficult to implement. Overall, the G20 Finance track has been muddled in diplomatic rhetoric, and yet another Expert Group on Finance, chaired by Manuel, has not made any concrete recommendations. Old wine in new bottles is what South Africa gives to the world.

## Inequality Reports

This week, the G20 under President Ramaphosa released the G20 Inequality Report, co-chaired by Dr Joseph Stiglitz. The report has done very good work with actionable plans, building on the UN Panel on Inequality, and already reaffirming the deepening inequalities within and between regions in the global economy in the post-COVID world. The report is comprehensive, recommending an International Panel on Inequality IPI ), which is laudable.

The key challenge is what core agreements on reducing inequality will be agreed upon. But with 'all things G20', the sobering reality is that nations are not obliged to implement any G20 recommendations.

## WHO Pandemic Fund and the Pandemic Treaty

Notable progress in global public health was the South African National Department of Health (NDoH), in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), launching the Pandemic Fund Project under the One Health approach.

The Fund is the first multilateral financing mechanism dedicated to helping low- and middle-income countries bolster their capacity to contain disease outbreaks and prevent pandemics, and the modest funding that SA secured is a good start to scaling resources for pandemic preparedness in 2025, with the BRICS Pandemic platform already scaling in terms of technology transfer, etc.

## A docile civil society

Finally, the people.

South Africa was once the most vibrant civil society and social justice movement. From the UN Aids Summit and the World Conference on Sustainable Development WSSD in the 2000s, we had a vibrant, robust, and independent civil society that was an inspiration for the Global South.

While at previous G20 summits in the Northern capitals where social justice activists from Canada to Germany were a prominent voice and force in pushing for a radical agenda, South Africa's Civil and Social 20, Labour 20 et al, were at most reduced to a talk shop in comfortable urban settings. This civil society demobilisation is a scar on

South Africans, where a once vibrant and robust civil society movement has been reduced to a shadow of its former self.

Perhaps decades of donor dependency may have had an impact? South African civil society needs to go back to the drawing board and undergo the critical reflection required. There was a time when we led; today we are led.

Despite laudable efforts by South Africa and the AU to push for a progressive development agenda, it has been muddled in ‘talks about talks’ with the need ‘to find consensus, the default position on all things G20.

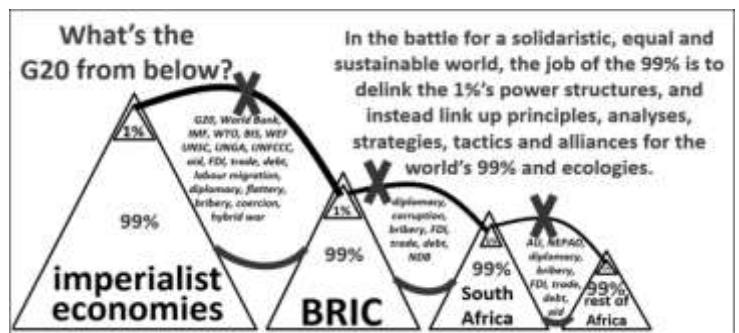
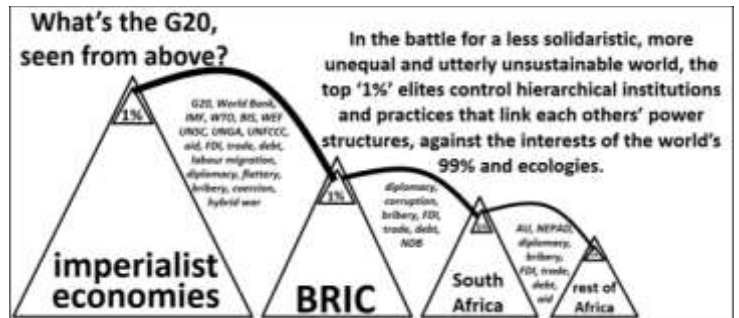
As the US under Trump takes over the G20 in 2026, and downgrades most of our G20 development agenda, South Africans and Africans, would have to ask sobering questions if hosting it was really worth it.

\* Ashraf Patel is a Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Global Dialogue, UNISA.

### **The G20 claims to promote ‘Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability’**

**... but this is just rhetoric, to hide what SA + world rulers and their corporates are doing to us all:**

- *Johannesburg water and electricity crises*
- *profiting from Israel’s genocide in Gaza*
  - *wars and violations of sovereignty*
  - *Overseas Development Aid cuts*
  - *looting Third World resources*
  - *worsening inequality, poverty*
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  - *austerity, neoliberalism*
  - *human rights abuses*
    - *LGBTQI+ repression*
    - *venal corruption*
    - *tyrannies*



## **Can the G20 do more than serve markets and investors?**

**Sarah Anderson, CounterPunch, 12 November 2025 – Global Economy Project, Institute for Policy Studies**

Multilateralism is in tatters. Instead of rules-based, consensus agreements, global economic relations have largely devolved into one-on-one arm-twisting and name-calling — alternating with fawning sycophancy and lavish personal gifts to curry favor with President Trump, from private jets to gold-covered golf balls, crowns, and desserts.

In a world already divided by extreme inequalities, the collapse of multilateralism makes it even more likely that the most powerful players — the largest economies and the wealthiest corporations and individuals — will score the best deals. Small countries and ordinary people, from Iowa soybean farmers and Mexican factory workers to digital service consumers in Cambodia, are even more likely to get the shaft. The G20 is a space that was intended to catalyze multilateral action. In fact, it touts itself as the “the premier forum for international economic cooperation,” and it is the one place where leaders of the world’s largest economies sit down together at least once a year for face-to-face dialogue.

South Africa will host this year’s G20 summit from November 22 to 23, and the United States will host the next one in December 2026. Do we have any reason to think this forum holds potential for not only restoring multilateralism but also advancing a more equitable global economy? This is a question I’ve grappled with over the past several months as part of a team of analysts from the UK, Brazil, South Africa, and other countries. In our new joint report, *The G20 at a Crossroads*, we document a few examples of decisive actions this body has taken during its nearly two decades of existence. In the midst of the financial crisis that erupted in 2008, for instance, labor unions and others successfully lobbied G20 leaders to adopt coordinated stimulus measures that helped avoid a depression-level global collapse.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the G20 approved of at least some debt relief for low-income countries and authorized \$650 billion in financial aid in the form of “special drawing rights,” the largest-ever allocation of this IMF-created international reserve asset. These actions were far from perfect.



Governments prematurely aborted stimulus programs adopted after the 2008 crash in favor of austerity budgets that deepened and economic crises.

Pandemic support programs were woefully insufficient for the poorest countries and failed to prevent many of them from sinking even further into debt. Between 2019 and 2023, Sub-Saharan Africa's total external debts increased from \$747 billion to \$864 billion while the number of global billionaires grew from 2,153 to 2,640. Overall, 3.4 billion of the world's people live in countries that spent more money in the years 2021-2023 servicing their foreign debts than on public education or health.

G20 leaders obviously have the power to mobilize vast resources, but the few times they've used this power, the focus has largely been on containing market crises to protect the interests of the wealthiest creditors and investors rather than improving the lives of the most vulnerable. And so while we need to push for renewed multilateralism, we cannot be satisfied with a return to old models. We need new approaches that go beyond crisis management to build a more resilient, sustainable, and just global economy.

To achieve this, the G20 must tackle what we describe in our report as the "lived crises of our time" — the daily realities of extreme droughts, food insecurity, unaffordable housing, precarious work, debt traps, and forced displacement.

Decades of neglecting these threats to global stability has undercut the welfare of people in both the Global North and South. High levels of poverty and unemployment in the developing world, for example, weaken the bargaining power of U.S. workers who are competing in a global labor pool.

Climate change, obviously, knows no boundaries. And skyrocketing inequality is fueling political polarization, authoritarianism, and xenophobia around the world, as elites deflect blame onto migrants and other convenient scapegoats instead of confronting structural failures.

Last year, the Brazilian presidency took important steps towards broadening the G20 agenda. They elevated critical proposals for clean energy financing, taxing extreme wealth, and valuing care work. And while they did not secure G20-wide cooperation on these fronts, their efforts gave a boost to campaigns in numerous countries for increasing taxes on billionaires and ensuring decent pay for caregivers and affordable care for those who need it.

"Wherever we live, we all want the same things — a secure place to live, a healthy environment, the ability to care for our loved ones, and the chance to plan for our future," notes our lead report author, Fernanda Balata, of the New Economics Foundation. With political will and a commitment to cooperation, G20 leaders have the power to deliver these basic elements of a dignified life to billions of people.