

# CUTS International *Global Affairs*

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## **Margins to the Main Stage: The African Union's Journey to G20 Membership**

### ***The AU at the G20***

The African Union's (AU) inclusion in the G20 marks a pivotal shift in global governance, offering Africa a prominent voice in shaping crucial issues like energy transition and sustainable development. As Ambassador Anil Sooklal of South Africa stated, the upcoming G20 presidency in 2025 presents a unique opportunity for Africa to lead with values of solidarity, equality, and sustainability. This momentous event, complemented by South Africa's role, underscores the continent's growing influence.

At a CUTS International event on [the future of Africa and G20](#), the African philosophy of Ubuntu, reinforcing Africa's interconnectedness with the world was highlighted. The discussions emphasised the need for systemic change and cooperation, with digital public infrastructure seen as a key driver for Africa's development. As South Africa assumes the presidency, it aims to integrate Africa into global governance, ensuring its priorities are addressed and fostering an inclusive, equitable world order for all.

This edition of CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) provides a comprehensive overview of the African Union in G20, covering articles and news from both print and electronic media.

| Op-eds                                                                                                                                                                                                | Key Takeaways                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
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| <b>Why the social and solidarity economy is key to South Africa's G20 Presidency and Africa's sustainable growth</b><br><i>World Economic Forum</i><br><i>January 15, 2025</i>                        | <p>Africa faces critical challenges, including poverty, inequality, youth unemployment, and climate change, but its growing youth population and thriving social and solidarity economy (SSE) offer transformative potential. <a href="#">South Africa's 2025 G20 Presidency</a> presents an opportunity to champion inclusive growth, mobilise investments, and scale SSE initiatives for sustainable and equitable development.</p>                              |
| <b>A Step Towards Inclusive Global Governance: South Africa's G20 Presidency 2025: A Vision for Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability</b><br><i>The Economic Times</i><br><i>December 18, 2024</i> | <p>The South African Presidency will not only reflect Africa's priorities but will also strengthen the G20's role in fostering an equitable, sustainable, and inclusive world, remarked Ambassador Anil Sooklal, South Africa's High Commissioner to India.</p> <p>At a CUTS International event in New Delhi on '<a href="#">The Future of G20 and Africa</a>,' Ambassador Anil Sooklal highlighted South Africa's 2025 G20 Presidency as pivotal for Africa.</p> |
| <b>Brazil Puts Reform of UN at Heart of Its G20 Presidency</b><br><i>The Guardian</i><br><i>December 17, 2024</i>                                                                                     | <p>Brazil has put the Bermuda triangle of international diplomacy – reform of the <a href="#">United Nations</a> and other multilateral bodies – at the heart of its presidency of the G20, arguing that the war in Gaza and shifts in the economic power balance finally make change possible.</p>                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>SA will use G20 to look ahead to the African Union's 2063 agenda</b><br><i>G20</i><br><i>December 09, 2024</i>                                                                                     | <p>South Africa's G20 Presidency prioritises Africa's <a href="#">Agenda 2063</a>, a blueprint for transforming the continent into a global powerhouse. Minister Ronald Lamola emphasised addressing poverty, food security, high debt, and post-COVID-19 recovery while advocating for fair, inclusive multilateralism amidst global challenges like climate change, weak economic growth, and divisive geopolitics.</p>                                          |
| <b>South Africa Sets Climate Finance and Debt Relief as G20 Presidency Focus</b><br><i>Reuters</i><br><i>December 03, 2024</i>                                                                        | <p>South Africa, set to lead the G20 in 2025, plans to prioritise mobilising finance for climate disaster-stricken nations and extending debt relief for developing countries. <a href="#">President Cyril Ramaphosa</a> emphasised the importance of disaster resilience and global cooperation.</p>                                                                                                                                                              |

| Op-eds                                                                                                                                            | Key Takeaways                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>The G20 Has 'Shock Absorbers' to Deal with Trump's Return as US President, South Africa Says</b><br><i>AP News</i><br><i>December 03, 2024</i> | President Cyril Ramaphosa expressed confidence that the G20 can function effectively <a href="#">despite potential challenges</a> posed by the incoming U.S. administration under Donald Trump. He highlighted the need for addressing climate change impacts on developing nations during South Africa's G20 presidency.                                                                                                                      |
| <b>South Africa Takes G20 Helm as Polarisation Complicates Agenda</b><br><i>Reuters</i><br><i>November 29, 2024</i>                               | South Africa assumed the G20 presidency, focusing on inclusive growth, <a href="#">food security</a> , climate change, and artificial intelligence. However, global tensions, including trade wars and geopolitical conflicts, pose challenges to the agenda.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Africa Aware: What the African Union's G20 membership means for Africa</b><br><i>Chatham House</i><br><i>November 21, 2024</i>                 | The African Union's full G20 membership, achieved at the 2023 New Delhi summit, enhances Africa's global voice. As the <a href="#">G20 meets in Rio</a> , the AU must unify its diverse members to address key challenges like debt relief, climate adaptation, and sustainable development, ensuring tangible outcomes from global economic discussions.                                                                                      |
| <b>China's Xi Announces Steps to Support 'Global South' at G20 Summit</b><br><i>Reuters</i><br><i>November 19, 2024</i>                           | At the G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced initiatives to support the Global South, including enhancing the <a href="#">Belt and Road Initiative</a> and launching an "Open Science International Cooperation Initiative" with Brasil, South Africa, and the African Union.                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>South Africa's G20 Presidency in 2025: A pivotal moment for the country and Africa</b><br><i>UN Africa Renewal</i><br><i>November 04, 2024</i> | South Africa's G20 presidency in 2025, themed " <a href="#">Fostering Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainable Development</a> ," prioritises Africa's development, addressing poverty, inequality, climate challenges, debt reform, and regional integration. Leveraging the AU's G20 membership, it aims to advance Agenda 2063, SDGs, global governance reform, and sustainable development, promoting African priorities on the global stage. |