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Africa@G20: Driving Global Progress

In 2025, South Africa's G20 presidency marks a historic first for the African continent, steering the global agenda with a focus on "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability." Key priorities include debt relief for low-income nations, climate finance, food security, and harnessing critical minerals for inclusive growth. The African Union's full G20 membership amplifies Africa's voice in global governance. Additionally, UNESCO's expanded role emphasises ethical artificial intelligence to bridge digital divides and foster innovation across Africa. These initiatives aim to align global economic strategies with Africa's development goals.

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
South Africa Hosts G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting in Brasília <i>The Public Servant</i> June 09, 2025	South African Ambassador to Brazil, H.E. Vusimuzi Wellington Mavimbela, delivered opening remarks for the second meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) Technical Meeting, which got underway in Brasília, Brazil, on June 09, 2025. With the theme "Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability," South Africa hopes to promote sustainable development and equitable global economic growth.
AU to Chair Heads of State-Level Infrastructure Financing Summit in Luanda <i>African Union</i> June 09, 2025	Under South Africa's G20 Presidency in 2025, Africa has a unique opportunity to elevate infrastructure financing and energy access as global priorities. The Summit in Luanda will serve as a key African platform feeding into global dialogues and reaffirming Africa's leadership in proposing solutions that work for the continent and for the world.
Africa's Power Pools: How G20 Can Assist Nations in Electricity Sharing <i>Allafrica.com</i> June 09, 2025	South Africa holds the presidency of the G20 this year. The group is made up of 19 of the world's largest economies, the European Union and the African Union. A priority of South Africa's G20 presidency is African connectivity: promoting cross-border energy trade and regional power pools as a way to share electricity across borders on the continent.
Trump to Meet South African President Amid Deteriorating Relations <i>NPR</i> May 15, 2025	South African President Ramaphosa will meet U.S. President Trump in Washington to address strained relations following controversial refugee resettlements of Afrikaners and U.S. aid cuts. Ramaphosa dismissed Trump's claims of persecution in South Africa and aims to reset bilateral ties amid growing tensions over race, diplomacy, and geopolitical disagreements.
G20 Backs Our Agenda: South African <i>The Week</i> May 14, 2025	South Africa's Foreign Minister Ronald Lamola highlighted strong support for the country's G20 presidency priorities, including inclusive growth, food security, AI, and multilateral reform. Emphasising cooperation amid global tensions, Lamola underscored preparations for the November 2025 Leaders' Summit and reaffirmed South Africa's commitment to equity, sustainability, and global solidarity.

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UNESCO and G20: Powering Public Sector AI for a Prosperous Future <i>UNESCO</i> May 12, 2025	With digital transformation being now a cornerstone of modern governance, UNESCO’s workshop tackled the urgent need to equip civil servants with the skills and ethical grounding to deploy AI in line with human rights. The event spotlighted best practices from G20 countries, showcased UNESCO’s AI and Digital Transformation Competency Framework, and mapped new avenues for international collaboration.
Nuclear Tech Key to Ensure Countries Achieve Energy Security <i>ABP</i> May 02, 2025	At the G20 Energy Transitions meeting, South Africa's Energy Minister backed nuclear power as vital for energy security, sovereignty, and a just transition. Reviving the nuclear programme faces funding challenges, but international interest exists. The IAEA supports Africa’s nuclear ambitions, with Egypt, Ghana, and Kenya also advancing nuclear infrastructure.
Symbolism to Transformation: An Analytical Stocktake of the AU’s G20 Membership <i>Africa Policy Research Institute</i> April 22, 2025	In a period when the AU hoped to leverage the first G20 Summit in Africa to enhance the region’s unique opportunity to shape the global agenda, the Trump Administration’s ‘America First’ agenda and hostility to multilateralism, the United Nations and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) pose existential threats to the AU’s capacity to be effective at the G20 level.
FM to Participate in G20, IMF-World Bank Meetings <i>The Hindu</i> April 20, 2025	Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is on an 11-day official visit to the U.S. and Peru to attend G20 and IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings, engage with global CEOs and Indian diaspora, and strengthen bilateral ties — particularly in trade and mining — through high-level meetings and the India-Peru Business Forum.
How India Scaled Mt G20 Gives an Insider’s View of Summit’s Tense Negotiations <i>The Indian Express</i> April 19, 2025	In <i>How India Scaled Mt G20</i>, Amitabh Kant reflects on his G20 Sherpa role, revealing intense negotiations amid global rifts and light moments — like suggesting a Cricket World Cup nod to balance France’s Olympic push. Pradeep S Mehta (<i>in Deccan Chronicle on March 08, 2025</i>) notes that this compelling book captures Amitabh’s skilled leadership in G-20 diplomacy, where strategic focus and Global South support helped secure consensus on the historic New Delhi declaration despite major geopolitical hurdles.

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Inclusive Leadership Needed for African Growth and Development <i>Mail Guardian</i> <i>April 09, 2025</i>	South Africa's G20 presidency is a vital opportunity to champion inclusive leadership, addressing global challenges through dialogue, collaboration and consensus. Drawing lessons from Brazil, it prioritises disaster resilience, debt sustainability, green finance and critical minerals, urging multi-sectoral engagement to shape equitable, sustainable global governance and strengthen multilateral cooperation.

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