



**Argentina's G20 Presidency
Implications for the G20 - Africa Partnership**

Burgers Park Hotel, Pretoria
03 July 2018

Published in October 2017 by the Institute for Global Dialogue
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ISBN: 978-1-920216-62-7

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Cover image: http://logos.wikia.com/wiki/File:G20_2018_logo.png



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Design

Mr. Wayne Jumat

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AU	- African Union
BAPA	- Buenos Aires Plan of Action
BRICS	- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
DIRCO	- Department of International Relations and Cooperation
EU	- European Union
FES	- Frederich Ebert Stiftung
G20	- Group of 20
IORA	- Indian Ocean Rim Association
MIKTA	- Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia
NDP	- National Development Plan
NEPAD	- New Economic Partnership for Development
SADC	- Southern African Development Community
SDG	- Sustainable Development Goals
UN	- United Nations

Background

The Institute for Global Dialogue, in partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) hosted a seminar at the Burgers Park Hotel in Pretoria on July 3, 2018, on the theme ***Argentina's G20 Presidency: implications for the Africa-G20 Partnership***. The seminar sought to situate Argentina's G20 presidency in the context of Latin America, and specifically its relations with the African continent. How will Argentina's presidency frame Latin American-African relations in the context of the G20 partnership with Africa? How can African stakeholders utilise Argentinian priorities to achieve their own development priorities? Will Argentina position itself as a key actor in bringing a cohesive Latin American perspective to the G20? In light of Buenos Aires' significance for South-South cooperation, what opportunities exist for advancing the interests of the Global South?

Seminar objectives

With a focus on the benefits for Africa and the general key focus areas of the Argentine Presidency of the G20, the seminar brought together wide-ranging participants including scholars, academics, diplomats, government representatives, media and civil society. The seminar sought to achieve the following objectives:

1. Highlight linkages between Argentine priorities and African priorities and the implications for the G20-Africa partnership
2. Consider how African stakeholders can effectively align Argentina's priorities with African developmental interests and priorities pertinent to sustaining and institutionalising the African agenda within the G20
3. Situate Argentina's G20 presidency as a conduit for LAC and Global South perspectives in the G20.
4. Explore prospects for strengthening of LAC-African interregional cooperation in tandem with the G20 agenda and beyond.

This proceedings report presents a synthesis of the discussions at the seminar and summarizes key policy recommendations and implications.

Introduction

Argentina's hosting of the G20 summit in 2018 presents a significant opportunity for it to represent the needs and expectations of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) as a whole, as well as advancing a cohesive regional strategy of the Latin American bloc within the G20 (Argentina, Brazil, and Mexico). Historically, Latin American regional priorities have often



been marginalised in G20 debates as a result of the failure of the Latin American bloc to present a well-articulated, cohesive position on key issues on the G20 agenda.

This seminar focusing on Argentina's presidency of the G20 and its implications for Africa, took place on July 3, 2018 in Pretoria, South Africa. With the presence and the participation of a variety of stakeholders from government departments, academic institutions, and civil society organisations the aim was to gain insight on what to expect from the 2018 G20 summit in Buenos Aires and also to reflect briefly on the work of the G20 up to the present day.



Input was made on the approach of South Africa at the G20, noting its foreign policy strategy as a guiding document. Input was also given on the nature of the G20 and how its work has been aligned with the agendas of the SDGs, and with the AU Agenda 2063. There was also a discussion highlighting the Argentine presidency of the G20 and how it is expected to address African concerns.

Panel Discussion

Mr. Cedrick Crowley – Director: Economic Development, DIRCO



Mr. Crowley commenced by highlighting the importance of the 2018 G20 Summit, indicating that the G20 group has been established now for 20 years, and that it has hosted summits for 10 years. He noted that 2018 will be a difficult year for the G20 due to the variety of geopolitical

and geostrategic issues that are prevalent. He lamented about the cohesiveness of the G20 stating that the cohesiveness is not what it should be because of the growing sentiments of unilateralism, anti-globalisation, anti-migration and trade disputes. In facing these threats the G20 countries should seek to galvanise the work of the G20 and reinvigorate the group with a desire to seek increased cooperation and multilateralism.

Mr. Crowley highlighted the priorities of Argentina's G20 presidency namely: the future of work, infrastructure development and a sustainable food future. He proposed that the work that needs to be done for this year should be built on consensus due to the diversity of challenges that exist. The issues of fair trade and sustainable development will be important during the Argentine presidency in order to break with perpetual inequalities that exist. This will also be important for the global South. The sentiment remains that Africa broadly has not benefitted from globalisation as it should have. Of key importance for Africa remain considerations of food security, the improvement and sustenance of soil quality and

mitigating the effects of climate change. If these considerations are not effectively addressed it will mean that Africa's food production will be inhibited and in return the progression towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) will suffer. Another important pillar of Africa's concerns that will be addressed during the summit revolves around energy transitions and energy sustainability. He noted Argentina has also demonstrated their inclusivity, as the Argentinian Sherpa was present in South Africa and at the AU in Addis Ababa, and in other regions. Therefore, the Argentinian presidency can be noted as an inclusive approach, considerate of African concerns and the broader global South.

Mr. Crowley then highlighted the role of South Africa as the only African country in the G20 and the role of NEPAD (represented by Senegal) and the AU (represented by its chair Rwanda) as invited guests to the G20. He indicated that South Africa's approach to the G20 summit is informed by its foreign policy which is keenly focused on addressing domestic, regional and continental challenges. In this regard, he indicated that South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP) is closely linked to, and mutually reinforcing of, the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 and the SDG's.

Mr. Crowley then posed the question, what is in it for Africa? He put forward that within the G20 there is continuous work being carried out on industrialisation, curbing of illicit financial flows, tax avoidance and trade mispricing, which have been key concerns within the continent. He expressed his content with the support that the European Union (EU) has offered in curbing illicit financial flows. He then expressed the desire of South Africa and Africa to see the inclusion of more regional projects, especially as Africa has already identified projects suitable for its development needs. In this regard, Mr. Crowley noted that the G20 does not need to be reinvented or to redevelop anything, especially in relation to Africa, as the blueprints already exist in the form of the AU Agenda 2063 and the SDG's.

He concluded by indicating that the G20 remains a forum for dialogue, interaction and debate despite the differences that exist among the members. Additionally it will be important to

reaffirm the principles of South-South Cooperation such as solidarity and cooperation at the Summit in Buenos Aires.

Ms. Sanusha Naidu – Senior Research Fellow, Institute for Global Dialogue



Ms. Naidu commenced by stating that we have to remind ourselves as to how and why the G20 was formed in order for us to achieve the consistency and continuity that is sought for the work of the G20. It was formed in reaction to a crisis that we are still grappling with. She

also highlighted the fact that within the G20 there are multiple sets of competing countries that all have their distinct set of challenges, interests and systemic dimensions. Furthermore, multiple challenges such as inequality, inclusive development and reformation of the global financial system and trade imbalances increases the complexity of the work for the G20 members. She indicated that one of the long-standing challenges of the G20 has been the after-effects of financial crises and the working of the global financial system that have done little to sufficiently improve the conditions of the marginalised and impoverished people of the world. Additionally, these challenges of the G20 and its members has meant that the G20 can also be viewed as a systemic meeting point of geo-strategic interests. This is demonstrated in the presence and confrontation of the China-United States of America (USA) confrontation, and the presence of members of the BRICS and MIKTA groupings.

Next, Ms. Naidu focused on Argentina's hosting of the G20 summit stating that the G20 is about a North-South dialogue and South-South cooperation and in this instance Argentina's

historic relations with countries of the North speaks to this dichotomy that is inherent in the G20. She indicated that the continuity of the G20 agenda will be important, in addition to the monitoring and evaluation of the G20's work. She added that it is important that the G20 consistently seeks to deliver the fairness and inclusiveness that is desired by many.

In terms of the African challenges in the G20, she proposed that the consistent inclusion of these challenges would improve the socio-economic standing of the Global South. The challenges of Africa should not be dealt with separately, particularly because of the intricate nature of global governance and the global economy. Furthermore, she highlighted the importance of resolving the challenges that plague youth and marginalised groups who are increasingly drawn towards populist movements. She highlighted that unemployment plays a big role in driving this trend, and it is imperative that these groups are able to find quality employment. The issue of sustainable food security or the insecurity and trade mispricing also adds to these dynamics, where unemployment, poverty and hunger mutually impact on each other.

Ms. Faith Tigere – Researcher, Tutwa Consulting Group



Ms. Tigere commenced her discussion by situating Africa in the G20, through its lack of representation. She proposed that this lack of representation in itself needs to be a catalyst that should see Africa fully utilising the opportunities that it is

presented with through the work of the G20. Despite the lack of African representation in

the G20, some of the African priorities have been expressed in the G20 agendas are: food security, regional integration, infrastructure financing, regional integration among others. This is due to South Africa's position as the sole African representative and also due to the explicit incorporation of the SDG's by the G20. Ms. Tigere proposed that African states need to develop an official mandate that can guide the actions of NEPAD and South Africa at the G20 summits. She did however take into consideration that this may place an unfair burden on South Africa, which has its own set of challenges to resolve.

Ms. Tigere indicated that Africa still needs to advance in key areas, and therefore it will be important to see African representation and cooperation in the following working groups of the G20 at the Argentine summit: employment, corruption, health and energy. She also brought to the attention of the audience some of the expected key priority areas of the Argentine G20 summit, namely: elimination of inequalities between and within countries, the future of work, increased agricultural production, improved food security and infrastructure development.

Ms. Tigere continued, advising that Africa must ensure active and consistent participation in these working groups, within the G20 summit and through other multilateral fora in order to ensure that there is continuity from previous summits and that none of the work that has been undertaken by the G20 previously is undermined. Fortunately, due to the nature of the SDG's and its incorporation within the work of the G20, it is foreseen that the G20 will have a positive impact in achieving the targets and desires of the AU's Agenda 2063.

Ms. Tigere then cautioned that there are gaps in the G20 agenda that do not address that which is at the core of the African development agenda. Firstly and importantly for Africa is the lack of centring of regional integration due to the variety of projects that are in the pipeline and the potential of regional integration to assist with the growth of African economies and unity among Africans. Secondly, migration is another element that should ideally be given attention within the G20, as migration requires a collective solution for the push factors that drive migrants and refugees from their countries.

Ms. Susana Caputi – Senior Associate: Latin America and the Caribbean, Institute for Global Dialogue



Ms. Caputi commenced her discussion by identifying some megatrends for the audience to bear in mind such as globalization, digitalization, increasingly complex and diverse societies, shifting patterns of interactions, and the building and sharing of information. These will be

key drivers during the Fourth Industrial Revolution which is characterized by the centrality of disruptive and emerging technologies fusing the physical, digital and biological realms. It is expected that this revolution will significantly impact on social inclusion particularly in job creation and job displacement. In turn this demands for a robust policy agenda in the field of education that will be able to equip people with the appropriate set of skills for work

She then turned her attention to the agenda of the T20 in Buenos Aires, and listed the issues that were up for discussion such as education, digital economy, employment, health, development, agriculture, trade and investment and energy and climate. She indicated that the focus of her discussion will be centralised around the issue of education. At the G-20 Hamburg Summit, G20 Leaders raised their commitment to shaping an interconnected world by harnessing digitalization, and it was stressed that digital transformation is a driving force of global, innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth that can contribute to reducing inequality and achieving the goals of the SDGs. The G-20 Leaders acknowledged the following: the need to bridge digital divides, to focus on closing the gender digital divide, to promote digital literacy, to promote digital skills in all forms of education and to promote

life-long learning. Additionally, the G20 leaders recognized the need to educate and train people with the necessary skills for future work.

Next she focused on the Argentine presidency, highlighting the first education ministerial meeting of the G20 and the scope of the meeting. Firstly emphasis will be placed on designing quality education strategies to equip citizens with the appropriate skills for life and work, in order to guarantee sustainable development on the verge of an uncertain future. Secondly it will be considered that active citizenship, social inclusion and wellbeing in future societies will require new abilities. Thirdly, to avoid and minimize the effects of skills disruptions, G20 Leaders should take action to identify key skills for life and work. Lastly, mechanisms will be proposed to integrate people through innovative educational policies, with a lifelong learning approach.

She then proposed that the G20 should consider:

- the development of a comprehensive set of skills from early childhood throughout adulthood, and the development of diverse abilities ranging from soft skills such as: creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and equipping people with digital skills necessary to face the challenges of emergent technologies.
- To negotiate means to promote innovation in teaching and learning practices, and increasing teaching competencies that will get people ready for the emergent digital era
- To design specific policies for vulnerable populations to support the acquisition of key skills required to thrive in the modern world and to promote social mobility, particularly in countries characterized by high levels of inequality.
- That the suggested strategies should embrace an inclusion perspective with a focus on gender inequalities, disabled people and low skilled individuals.
- To reaffirm and deepening the commitment to bridging the gender digital divide and embracing inclusion of disabled and low-skilled individuals

In conclusion, Ms. Caputi spoke on aspects of financing education and noted that there is a need to evaluate and improve the current strategies for efficient investment for inclusive and quality education. Additionally, there needs to be a revaluation of the international financing mechanisms in order to find a consensus that will be able to contribute to effective allocation and management of resources and funding for education and strategic planning. Finally, she indicated that as agreed at the Hamburg Summit, G20 Leaders should examine the UN Secretary-General's proposal to establish an International Finance Facility for education taking into account other existing initiatives, such as the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait with a view to making recommendations on it.



Discussion

During the discussion a few concerns arose such as what the government's view would be on a potential African mandate for the G20 and whether Africa is being used for domestic reasons by G20 hosting countries for mere tokenism? Another query that was put forward concerned the efforts being made to possibly increase the African representation in the G20. Lastly there was some interest as to whether or to what extent the developed countries are contributing towards resolving the prevalent challenges in Africa such as inequality, migration, the slow pace of development and curbing of illicit financial flows.



In response to the concerns about how Africa is being treated as the subject of paternalistic foreign aid, it was reiterated that Africa does not need a Marshall plan to dictate what its development agenda should be as it has agendas such as the AU Agenda 2063, SDGs, and various regional agendas. Additionally, when the SDGs were adopted by all the member states, there was already a compromise reached to align the agendas of regional and sub-regional organisations with the SDGs.



It was clarified that MIKTA is not a formal organisation but rather an informal consultative platform for dialogue, and even though MIKTA countries are part of the G20, the grouping is not institutionalised and outcomes have been limited to joint statements and communiqués. What has set the G20 apart from other global governance constructs such as BRICS was: the atmosphere in which it was created; its flexibility of agenda; and its relatively small numbers that allows for collective leadership, consultative processes and use of expertise. Additionally, the audience was informed that 2018 G20 summit will not explicitly focus on migration, particularly because during September 2017 the UN adopted a resolution that speaks to the challenges of migration and refugees and it is hoped that this resolution would guide the countries of the UN.



Lastly, an input was also made pertaining to the Fourth Industrial Revolution and South-South Cooperation. As the relationship between production, value chains and inequalities exist, innovation and creativity must be considerate of the context and material conditions that most developed countries in the world function within. Therefore, it is crucially important that the Fourth Industrial Revolution has to be carried out in such a manner that addresses the inequalities between and within countries that will result in a world where poverty, underdevelopment, marginalisation, unemployment, and under-skilled labour is significantly reduced.

Closing Remarks

In closing Prof. Lesiba Teffo remarked that there are two things that will remain important for Africa. Firstly, he emphasised education and the quality thereof that will remain crucial to Africa's development as this is the basis upon which skills are built and improved on. Secondly, he emphasised aspects of migration noting that migration has been a positive for certain countries if you look at their achievements in sports. On the other hand he emphasised that these migrants should ideally be in their countries of origin where they can be an integral part of taking their respective countries forward.



However they are prevented from taking up an important role as their countries are lacking in development in terms of the economy, infrastructure, education and social development. Additionally, the countries of origin of these migrants are often plagued by poor political leadership. If these aspects are not addressed Africa will continue to be a burden for the rest of the world and a hindrance to its own advancement. This is perhaps the biggest problem that Africa is facing; the drain of experienced, capable, driven Africans who aren't able to contribute to their countries and societies.

Acknowledgements

The Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD), in association with UNISA in Pretoria, South Africa, would like to thank the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) for their support.



Programme



PROGRAMME 03 July 2018	
<p>Argentina's G20 presidency: implications for the G20-Africa partnership</p> <p>Venue: Burgers Park Hotel, Corner of Lilian Ngoyi and Minnaar Street, Pretoria</p>	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:20	<p>Welcome and introduction</p> <p>Dr Philani Mthembu – Executive Director, IGD associated with UNISA</p> <p>Dr Heinz Bongartz -Resident Director, FES South Africa</p>
9:20 – 12:45	<p>Panel Discussion</p> <p><i>Chair- Ms Faith Mabera - Senior researcher, IGD associated with UNISA</i></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Cedrick Crowley - Director : Economic Development, DIRCO <i>Topic: South Africa's role in the G20</i> 2. Ms Sanusha Naidu – Senior Research Fellow, IGD associated with UNISA <i>Topic: Argentina's positioning as a promoter of the Global South in the G20, implications for South-South cooperation</i> 3. Ms Faith Tegere – Researcher, Tutwa Consulting Group <i>Topic: Aligning G20 initiative with Africa's development priorities</i> 4. Ms Susana Caputi - Senior Associate: LAC, IGD associated with UNISA <i>Topic: G-20 overview on education: to educate and train people with the necessary skills for the future work.</i> <p>Question and answer session</p>
12:45 - 12.55	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Ms Tamara Naidoo - Programme manager, FES South Africa</p>
13:00	Lunch & Networking

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