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## Think-20 (T20): To empower people, protect the planet, and achieve prosperity



The Summit brings together policy makers and experts to discuss the multilateral challenges facing the G20 countries and other multilateral fora: Vaccines and health, climate and growth, international finance, trade and investment, digitalization, poverty, and inequality. The conference is held in Milan via the Internet and lasts 3 days. It is co-hosted by the Italian Institute for International Political Studies with the National Coordinator and Chair of the T20 Thought Group and Bocconi University as the co-chair of the T20 Summit.

## Our Views

- The G20 is an international forum that brings together major economies in the world; its members represent more than 80% of the global GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of the population of the planet. The Group includes the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the European Union. Spain was invited as a permanent member.
- Each of these countries takes over the presidency of the group in succession, and becomes responsible for its activities throughout the year. Among the countries that assumed the presidency of the group: Japan, Argentina and Saudi Arabia; which headed the group in 2020 for the first time, and it is the only Arab country in the group. Italy currently holds the presidency of the group (in 2021).
- The G-20 does not have a permanent secretariat: Its agenda and activities are determined by the rotating presidency, in cooperation with the members. The "Troika,<sup>1</sup>" represented by the country holding the presidency, its predecessor and successor, ensures continuity within the

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<sup>1</sup> The troika is a light Russian chariot drawn by three horses. The term troika came to denote a committee consisting of three parties. In politics, the term refers to the meeting of three countries over a political opinion regarding a particular issue. The system was officially adopted in the G20 during the Cannes Summit in 2011 as a framework for guiding the G20 process, after it was approved by Seoul in 2010.

G-20. Currently, the Troika countries are Saudi Arabia, Italy and Indonesia.

- From the G20 emerge other summits related to specific topics, such as: The thought summit (T20), the business summit (B20), the women summit (W20), the youth summit (Y20), the workers summit (L20), the urban community summit (U20), Civil Society summit (C20), and Science summit (S20).
- The T20 summit includes leading think tanks and research centers around the world. It serves as an “idea bank” for countries and aims to provide its leaders with recommendations and policy proposals drawn from research. The Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) is the main coordinator of all events held this year, including seminars, conferences, and round tables; in addition to organizing a competition through which researchers present policy briefs in many fields.
- The news story is about the summit held by the T20 Group from 4 to 6 October 2021 entitled "To Empower Man, Protect the Planet and Achieve Prosperity." This summit mainly focuses on three main issues:
  - Enabling people to benefit from the various resources available and to overcome the crises the world is going through in general, especially the economic and health crises.
  - Protecting the planet by working to preserve the climate, preserve the environment, and combat pollution of all kinds, in light of the growing trend towards realizing the idea of a green society on the ground.

- Achieving prosperity by ensuring justice in the distribution of resources, facilitating the process of trade and investment between countries, and disseminating the latest technological methods and digitization.

During the summit, policy makers and experts discussed the challenges facing the G20, chief among which are the health sector and vaccines, climate, development, international finance, trade, investments, digitization, poverty and inequality.

- Although this summit represents one of the most important events held by the T20 and G20 throughout the year, it does not receive due focus in Egypt.
- Given the effective role of the T20 group at the global level, Egypt must be better represented through the participation of Egyptian think tanks and research centers in its activities throughout the year. The winning policy briefs in the competition should be drawn upon for the benefit of Egypt.
- Below is a link through which past winning policy briefs can be viewed.

<https://www.t20italy.org/publications/>

Worthy of Note:

- The rise of the G20 has gone through several phases: In 1999, in the wake of the 1997 economic crisis, the G7 finance ministers announced the creation of the “Group of Twenty,” which aims to involve other countries in their discussions of the global economy and finance. The first formal meeting of the G-20 was held in Berlin in December of the same year.

- In the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, the United States proposed upgrading the level of participation of the Group of Twenty (G20) to heads of state and government. At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, heads of state and government decided to institutionalize the G-20 as the primary forum for global economic and financial cooperation. The G20 leaders have met annually since 2010.
- The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies participated by attending many of the activities held by the T20 group, in addition to participating in heading the competition committee selecting the winning policy briefs in the field of trade, investment and development this year (2021). ECES also represented Egypt during the activities of the past year as well, which was chaired by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The policy brief prepared by ECES entitled “Adequately Addressing the Issue of Informality in the Arab World: Nature, Intensity and Possible Solutions” was selected by one of the working groups, which focused on “Economy, Employment, and Education in the Digital Age.” ECES also co-chaired the fourth working group, which focused on "social cohesion and the state," and aimed to encourage discussion of innovative policies to deal with multiple forms of income or gender inequality, and generational gaps. It also discussed innovative ways to measure wealth away from GDP, as well as ways to improve governance, legitimacy, accountability, and trust in state institutions.



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