

## Canada and the G20

The Group of Twenty (G20), made up of 19 countries and the European Union, is the primary forum for international economic cooperation among its members. G20 members collectively represent the world's major economies, all continents, different levels of development totalling 85% of global economic output, two thirds of the world's population, and 75% of international trade. By providing a forum for dialogue, the G20 can help foster global consensus on macroeconomic policies, trade and structural policies, and major challenges, such as climate and health, affecting sustainable economic growth.

The G20 members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the EU, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. Chairmanship and hosting of an annual summit event rotates annually.

G20 policy-making is enriched by the participation of key international organizations, such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Labour Organization, World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations. Participants also include guest countries, invited at the G20 presidency's discretion, and engagement groups composed of different sectors of civil society.

Canada played a leading role in the creation of the G20 in 1999 and was instrumental in setting up the first meeting of G20 leaders in 2008, at the height of the international financial crisis. The G20 has demonstrated its critical role on multiple occasions. Three of its greatest successes are the adoption of the "Montréal consensus" on globalization in 2000, the agreement on IMF quota reform in 2008, and the creation of the Financial Stability Board in 2009.

### Argentina's 2018 G20 presidency

Argentina has been working to refocus the G20 agenda on the organization's core economic mandate while continuing dialogue on matters that may affect global economic growth in the future. Argentina has pursued a progressive agenda with three main pillars: The Future of Work, Infrastructure for Development and A Sustainable Food Future.

### Canada's G20 priorities

Argentina's G20 areas of focus align well with Canada's own priorities, which are to invest in economic growth that benefits everyone and to prepare people for jobs of the future. These priorities were also reflected in Canada's 2018 G7 presidency and at the annual G7 summit in Charlevoix, Quebec.

#### **Technological advancements**

For Canada, innovative technological advancements, which are having a transformative effect on the way Canadians work, are a key driver of growth and productivity. Canada seeks to ensure that our people can adapt to, and benefit from, technological change. To this end, Canada is focusing on skills development, education, the strengthening of social safety nets, and ensuring the availability of decent work, with particular emphasis on gender equality and women's empowerment. In the G20, Canada co-chairs the Framework Working Group, which assesses the macroeconomic impact of technological change on productivity, growth, employment and inequality.

## **Investment in infrastructure**

Canada views investment in infrastructure as helping to foster sustainable economic growth that benefits all. Canada has placed infrastructure investments at the core of its domestic economic agenda with the establishment of the new Canada Infrastructure Bank. In 2017, Canada also confirmed the creation of a new development finance institution to seek innovative financing approaches to support sustainable development abroad. This includes pledging \$60 million to the World Bank to help Small Island Developing States build resilient infrastructure and reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels.

## **Education for women and girls**

Canada will continue advocating for quality education for women and girls around the world. Alongside the nearly \$3.8 billion pledged during the G7 Summit, an additional \$527 million was pledged from partners at the United Nations General Assembly to help developing countries provide every child with access to quality education and modern skills training. Canada put gender equality at the centre of its G7 presidency and supports Argentina's work to integrate the empowerment of women and girls throughout its G20 agenda.

## **Climate action**

The world needs climate action now, and these are exciting times to create more opportunities for middle-class Canadians. Canada is taking a leadership role both at home and internationally to address climate change by moving to a more sustainable clean-growth economy. Building on the momentum of its G7 presidency, Canada is continuing to show leadership to fight climate change, build the resilience of vulnerable coasts and communities, and protect and promote the health of our oceans, by, among other things, addressing the issue of marine plastic pollution.

## **Progressive trade**

With 20 of the world's largest economies at the table, the 2018 G20 summit will be an opportunity for Canada to promote international trade that helps businesses and people succeed. Advancing the benefits of free trade along with reform of the multilateral trading system is important to ensure the benefits of global trade can be shared by all. This is why Canada brought together a small, representative group of WTO members in October 2018 to discuss ways to support and strengthen the multilateral trading system. These discussions will help inform the G20 on ways to improve the WTO over the short, medium and long term.

## **Sustainable food production**

On sustainable food production, Canada's top priorities will not only be to highlight the importance of better soil management but to find ways to support food security and health in a development context; to help the agricultural sector adapt to climate change; and to better address water and soil conservation issues. A well-functioning agricultural and agri-food value chain facilitates trade and investment in a sector that is a key area of economic growth and job creation.