Vajiram & Ravi

G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration – Sense of the consensus

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What's in today's article?

- **Why in news?**
- **G20 New Delhi Declaration: Key highlights**

Why in news?

- The leaders at India's G20 Summit 2023 arrived at a joint communique — called the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration.
- This is a significant victory for India's G20 presidency that came amid increasing tensions and divergent views over the Ukraine conflict.

G20 New Delhi Declaration: Key highlights

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THE NEW DELHI DECLARATION

ON UKRAINE WAR

ALL STATES must act in a manner consistent with purposes and principles of UN charter in its entirety.

THEY MUST REFRAIN from threat or use of force to seek territorial acquisition against territorial integrity and sovereignty or political independence of any state; also from use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible.

PEACEFUL RESOLUTION of conflicts, and efforts to address crises as well as diplomacy and dialogue are critical.

"THERE WERE different views and assessments of the situation."

"TODAY'S ERA must not be of war."

ON GRAIN/FOOD/ENERGY SECURITY

CALLS ON Russia and Ukraine to ensure immediate and unimpeded deliveries of grain, foodstuffs, and fertilizers/inputs from Russia and Ukraine.

EMPHASISING importance of sustaining food and energy security, called for cessation of military destruction or other attacks on relevant infrastructure.

POTENTIAL FOR high levels of volatility in food and energy markets remains.

ON ECONOMIES & FINANCIAL MARKETS

"WILL PROTECT the vulnerable, through equitable growth and enhancing macroeconomic and financial stability."

REAFFIRM April 2021 exchange rate commitment made by G20 finance ministers and central bank governors.

ENDORSE financial stability board's high-level recommendations for regulation, supervision and oversight of crypto-assets, activities.

FINANCE MINISTERS and central bank governors will discuss taking forward the cryptocurrency roadmap at their meeting in October.

RENEW our commitment to ensure a level-playing field and fair competition by discouraging protectionism, market distorting practices.

ON CLIMATE CHANGE

NEED TO ACCELERATE efforts to phase down unabated coal power, in line with national circumstances.

WILL WORK towards facilitating low-cost financing for developing countries to support their transition to low carbon.

WILL PURSUE and encourage efforts to triple renewable energy capacity globally through existing targets and policies, in line with national circumstances by 2030.

REITERATE our commitment to take action to scale up sustainable finance.

REITERATE use of carbon pricing and non-pricing mechanisms and incentives toward carbon neutrality and net zero.

RECOGNISE need for increased global investments to meet our climate goals of the Paris agreement.

NOTE NEED OF \$5.8-5.9 trillion in pre-2030 period required for developing countries, in particular for their needs to implement their emission targets.

CALLS ON parties to set an ambitious, transparent, and trackable New Collective Quantified Goal of climate finance in 2024, from a floor of \$100 billion a year.

ON GLOBAL DEBT VULNERABILITIES

COMMIT TO promoting resilient growth by urgently and effectively addressing debt vulnerabilities in developing countries.

CALL FOR swift conclusion of the debt treatment for Ethiopia.

ON HEALTH

REMAIN COMMITTED to strengthening global health architecture.

WILL ENHANCE resilience of health systems and support development of climate-resilient and low-carbon health systems in collaboration with multilateral banks.

- **Uniqueness of the Declaration**
  - The communique is filled with deliverables on a range of issues. It is also crafted in a different way — not the usual paragraphs that are structured in a joint declaration.
  - Instead, it starts with a preamble, and then has 10 chapters, and ends with a conclusion.
- **On Ukraine**
  - The big sticking point was the Ukraine-Russia conflict, which was addressed in detail in seven paragraphs.
    - This is much more elaborate than the Bali Declaration, which had just two paragraphs.
  - The Russia-Ukraine paragraphs did not condemn Russia for its actions, nor did it call it an aggression. But the West also got what it wanted.
- **Strong, Sustainable, Balanced, and Inclusive Growth**

    - It talks about the global economic situation, advancing financial inclusion, and fighting corruption.
    - It vows to implement the **Action Plan against Fugitive Economic Offenders** that will help strengthen international cooperation and information sharing.
- **Accelerating Progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
    - This is about eliminating hunger and malnutrition, health collaboration and delivering quality education among others.
    - One of the important elements is on how **future pandemics can impact** the economy, which also brings out the gaps in the existing pandemic response mechanism, including institutional and funding arrangements.
    - **On education**, it talks about enhancing teachers' capacity, improved curricula, content in local language, and access to digital resources.
        - This will ensure that all children, including the most marginalised, are provided with the essential building blocks for all future learning.
- **Green Development Pact for a Sustainable Future**
    - It stresses the need to implement clean, sustainable, just, affordable, and inclusive energy transitions.
    - One important element is the mention of the need to build reliable, diverse, responsible, and sustainable value chains of critical minerals, semiconductors, and related technologies.
- **Multilateral Institutions for the 21st Century**
    - It speaks of reforming international financial institutions.
    - One of the most important elements is that:
        - reform of the UN Security Council was agreed to for the first time in the G20; and
        - there was a strong push towards reforms for better, bigger, and more effective Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).
    - They also called for **managing debt vulnerabilities** of low and middle-income countries and the start of exchange of tax-relevant information on crypto assets by 2027.
- **Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure**
    - This chapter contains elements of building digital public infrastructure, crypto-assets, and harnessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) responsibly.
    - On AI, they agreed to pursue a pro-innovation regulatory/governance approach that maximises the benefits and takes into account the risks associated with the use of AI.
    - The G20 leaders agreed on a **G20 framework for digital public infrastructure** and **Global Digital Public Infrastructure Repository (GDPIR)**.
        - The framework calls for building interoperable solutions and formulating laws that can ensure that DPIs are safe, secure, trusted, and governed transparently.
    - It also talks about a comprehensive toolkit which is aimed at improving cyber education and cyber awareness for the protection and empowerment of children and youth.
    - Another key win for the India's G20 presidency was to gather consensus around creating a global regulatory framework for crypto-assets.
        - They endorsed the Financial Stability Board's (FSB's) high-level recommendations for the regulation, supervision and oversight of crypto-assets activities.
- **Gender Equality and Empowering all Women and Girls**

    - It promotes equal rights to economic resources, property ownership, financial services, and inheritance for women.
    - It also supports women’s organisations and networks, and closing gender gaps in agricultural access.
    - Under India’s G20 Presidency, a decision to create a **full-fledged working group on women’s empowerment** has been made.
    - The group will prioritise gender equality, women’s empowerment, and leadership, and bring convergence across sectors at all levels.
- **On Countering Terrorism and Money Laundering**
    - It contains a strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and a positive message towards international peace and security.
- **Creating a More Inclusive World**
    - India’s G20 Presidency has paved the way for the **African Union’s permanent membership in the G20**.
        - This will make G20 more inclusive, deepen cooperation with Africa, and help realise its developmental aspirations.
    - Also, there is a commitment to promote respect for religious and cultural diversity,
    - It deplores all acts of religious hatred, including against religious symbols and holy books.
- **From Delhi, a vision for Brazil, South Africa, US**
    - In conclusion, there were a few broader takeaways that this Summit projected:
        - a strong commitment for future Presidencies including for the new cycle beginning in 2026 — Brazil in 2024, South Africa in 2025, and the US in 2026.
    - There was recognition of all Engagement Groups and Initiatives of India’s G20 Presidency.
    - By conducting over 200 meetings in 60 cities across India, New Delhi has set a new template — and a high bar — of taking G20 to the people.
    - The democratisation of diplomacy is a key takeaway from this successful exercise.

Q1) What is African Union?

The African Union (AU) is a continental union of 55 African states. It was established in 2002 to replace the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The AU’s goals are to promote unity and solidarity among African states, encourage economic development, and foster international cooperation.

Q2) What is Digital Public Infrastructure?

Digital public infrastructure (DPI) is a digital network that allows countries to provide essential services to their citizens. DPI includes platforms such as digital identification, payment infrastructure, and data exchange solutions. These platforms help countries deliver services, such as economic opportunities and social services, safely and efficiently.

Source: G20 New Delhi Leaders’ Declaration: Sense of the consensus | MEA | Indian Express | The Hindu | Indian Express