

IDUTRAIN'26

Group of Twenty (G-20)

Study Guide

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Welcoming Part

- A. Letter from the Secretary General**

Dear Delegates and Members of the Academic Team,

When we first started discussing the idea for IDUTRAIN'26 back in October, we had a very specific goal in mind. We felt that İzmir's university scene needed a more professional and

dedicated platform for high-level debate—a place where students could truly challenge themselves. Today, seeing that idea turn into our first annual session is an incredibly proud moment for all of us.

Building a conference from the ground up is a long and demanding journey. It requires more than just planning; it takes a team that truly cares about the outcome. While every member of our team has given their best, I want to personally acknowledge one of our Directors-General, Umutcan Altunok. I have seen firsthand the immense effort and the countless hours he has put into this project since day one. His dedication has been the driving force behind making this vision a reality.

Our mission for this session is simple: we want to provide you with a space for real personal growth and innovative thinking. This is not just about following a procedure; it is about finding creative solutions to global challenges and engaging in debates that actually matter. I encourage you to push your boundaries, share your unique perspectives, and make the most of this experience.

I am genuinely looking forward to seeing the results of your hard work and meeting you all in person. Let's make this inaugural session of IDUTRAIN'26 a meaningful start for everyone involved.

See you all there, and I hope to continue this journey with you at IDUMUN'26.

Sincerely,

**Yusuf Say
Secretary-General, IDUTRAIN'26**

B. Letter from the Under Secretary General

Dear Delegates of the G-20,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to IDUTRAIN'26 and to your committee, Group of Twenty. My name is Cem Deniz, and I have the honor of serving as your Under Secretary General for our committee.

Throughout this committee, you will not only debate global issues but also elevate your skills in diplomacy, compromise, and strategic thinking. While this study guide provides the essential foundation for your arguments, true success lies in your independent research and how deeply you embrace your assigned perspective. Remember, MUN is more than just public speaking; it is the art of empathy, problem solving, and building bridges between opposing views. I am eager to witness the creative solutions you will bring to the floor and hope that, beyond academic achievement, you forge lasting friendships and a deeper understanding of our world.

**Great regards,
Cem Deniz
Under Secretary General**

Introduction of the Committee

a. What is Group of Twenty?

The Group of Twenty (G20) is an international forum composed of 19 countries along with the European Union, and more recently the African Union, which collaborates to address major global economic and political challenges. Established in 1999 in response to a series of international financial crises, the G20 aims to enhance global financial stability and foster sustainable economic growth through multilateral cooperation .

Representing approximately 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and around two-thirds of the world's population, the G20 holds significant influence over global economic governance . Its leaders convene annually at the G20 Leaders' Summit, while finance ministers and central bank governors meet regularly to coordinate policies on issues such as economic development, trade, climate change, and crisis response. Although the G20 does not have binding legislative authority, it plays a crucial role in shaping global policy through dialogue, coordination, and consensus-building among its members.

b. Member States of Group of Twenty

Argentina

Australia

Brazil

Canada

China

France

Germany

India

Indonesia

Italy,

Japan

Mexico

Russia

Saudi Arabia

South Africa

South Korea

Türkiye

United Kingdom

United States

European Union

INTERPOL

WHO

IMF

IAEA

OECD

i. Information About the Member States

Argentina:

Argentina has a population of approximately 46 million people and a GDP of around \$600 billion. Its economy is heavily based on agriculture, making it one of the world's leading exporters of soybeans, beef, and corn. Despite its natural resource wealth, Argentina has faced recurring inflation and debt crises. Militarily, it has moderate regional capabilities, with defense spending relatively low compared to major global powers.

Australia:

Australia has a population of about 26 million and a GDP exceeding \$1.7 trillion. Its economy is highly developed, with strong sectors in mining, natural gas, and services. Australia is one of the world's largest exporters of iron ore and coal. It maintains a modern and technologically advanced military and is an active participant in regional security alliances in the Asia-Pacific.

Brazil:

Brazil, with over 215 million people, is the largest country in Latin America and has a GDP of approximately \$2.1 trillion. It is a global leader in agriculture, energy production, and natural resources. Brazil also possesses one of the largest military forces in the Southern Hemisphere, although its global military projection is limited.

Canada:

Canada has a population of about 40 million and a GDP of roughly \$2.1 trillion. Its economy is diversified, with strong energy, mining, and financial sectors. Canada is also a major exporter of oil, natural gas, and minerals. Its military is well-trained and integrated into NATO operations, though relatively smaller compared to major powers.

China:

China has a population exceeding 1.4 billion and a GDP of over \$17 trillion, making it the second-largest economy in the world. It is a global manufacturing powerhouse and a leading exporter. China also possesses one of the world's largest and most advanced militaries, with rapidly increasing defense spending and global influence.

France:

France has a population of around 68 million and a GDP of approximately \$3 trillion. It is a key economic and political power in Europe, with strengths in aerospace, luxury goods, and energy. France maintains a strong military presence globally and is one of the few countries with nuclear weapons.

Germany:

Germany, with a population of about 84 million, has a GDP of over \$4 trillion, making it Europe's largest economy. It is known for its advanced manufacturing, automotive industry, and export strength. Germany has a modern military and plays a central role in European security, though its defense spending has historically been moderate.

India:

India has a population of over 1.4 billion and a GDP of around \$3.5 trillion. It is one of the fastest-growing major economies, with strong sectors in information technology, services, and manufacturing. India has one of the largest militaries in the world and is a nuclear-armed state with growing geopolitical influence.

Indonesia:

Indonesia, with a population of approximately 280 million, is Southeast Asia's largest economy, with a GDP of about \$1.4 trillion. Its economy is driven by domestic

consumption, natural resources, and manufacturing. Indonesia maintains a moderately sized military focused on regional defense.

Italy:

Italy has a population of around 59 million and a GDP of approximately \$2 trillion. It has a diversified economy with strong manufacturing, fashion, and tourism sectors.

Italy is also a NATO member with a well-equipped military contributing to international missions.

Japan:

Japan has a population of about 125 million and a GDP of roughly \$4.2 trillion. It is one of the world's most technologically advanced economies, with strengths in electronics and automotive industries. Japan maintains a highly advanced Self-Defense Force and has significant regional security importance.

Mexico:

Mexico has a population of approximately 130 million and a GDP of around \$1.8 trillion. Its economy is closely tied to manufacturing and exports, particularly to the United States. Mexico's military is primarily focused on internal security and regional stability.

Russia:

Russia has a population of approximately 145 million and a GDP of around \$2 trillion. It is one of the world's largest producers of oil and natural gas, making energy exports a central part of its economy. Russia possesses one of the most powerful militaries globally and is a nuclear-armed state with significant geopolitical influence, particularly in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Saudi Arabia:

Saudi Arabia has a population of about 36 million and a GDP of roughly \$1.1 trillion. Its economy is heavily dependent on oil, as it holds one of the largest proven petroleum reserves in the world. The country is a leading member of OPEC and plays a key role in global energy markets. It also has one of the highest defense expenditures globally and a well-equipped military.

South Africa:

South Africa has a population of approximately 60 million and a GDP of around \$400 billion. It is the most industrialized economy in Africa, with strong mining, manufacturing, and financial sectors. The country serves as a gateway to African markets and plays an important diplomatic role on the continent. Its military is relatively modest but capable of regional operations.

South Korea:

South Korea has a population of about 52 million and a GDP exceeding \$1.7 trillion. It is a highly advanced, export-driven economy known for global brands in electronics, automotive, and shipbuilding industries. South Korea maintains a technologically advanced military and plays a crucial role in regional security, particularly due to tensions with North Korea.

Türkiye:

Türkiye has a population of around 85 million and a GDP of approximately \$1 trillion. It has a diversified economy spanning industry, agriculture, and services, and serves as a strategic bridge between Europe and Asia. Türkiye also has one of the largest and most capable militaries in NATO, with significant regional influence in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

United Kingdom:

The United Kingdom has a population of about 67 million and a GDP of roughly \$3.3 trillion. It is one of the world's leading financial centers, particularly through London.

The UK has a highly developed service-based economy and maintains strong global influence through diplomacy, trade, and defense. It also possesses nuclear weapons and a technologically advanced military.

United States:

The United States has a population of over 330 million and a GDP exceeding \$25 trillion, making it the largest economy in the world. It plays a dominant role in global finance, technology, and trade. The U.S. also has the most powerful military globally, with the highest defense budget and extensive international presence.

European Union

The European Union is a political and economic union of 27 European countries that work together to promote peace, stability, and economic integration. Established after World War II to prevent further conflicts, the EU has developed a single market that allows the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people among its member states. It also operates common policies in areas such as trade, agriculture, and regional development, and uses a shared currency, the euro, in many of its countries. As one of the world's largest economic blocs, the EU plays a significant role in global trade, diplomacy, and international cooperation.

International Monetary Fund

The International Monetary Fund is an international financial organization established in 1944 to ensure the stability of the global monetary system. Headquartered in

Washington, D.C., it currently has 190 member countries. The IMF works to promote global economic growth, financial stability, and international trade by monitoring economies, providing policy advice, and offering financial assistance to countries facing economic crises. It plays a key role in managing global financial disruptions and helping countries stabilize their economies through loans and reform programs.

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations founded in 1948 and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. Its main objective is to promote global health, prevent diseases, and coordinate international responses to health emergencies. WHO works with countries to improve healthcare systems, fight pandemics, and set global health standards. It became especially prominent during global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, where it coordinated international health guidelines and responses.

International Criminal Police Organization

INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization, established in 1923 and headquartered in Lyon, France. It facilitates cooperation between law enforcement agencies from 195 member countries to combat international crime, including terrorism, human trafficking, cybercrime, and organized crime. INTERPOL does not have its own police force; instead, it provides a platform for information sharing, databases, and coordinated operations among national police agencies to improve global security.

International Atomic Energy Agency

The International Atomic Energy Agency is an international organization that promotes the peaceful use of nuclear energy and works to prevent its use for military purposes. Established in 1957 and headquartered in Vienna, the IAEA supports countries in developing nuclear technology for energy, medicine, and agriculture while ensuring safety and security standards. It also conducts inspections to verify that nuclear materials are not diverted to weapons programs.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is an international organization founded in 1961 that aims to promote economic growth, prosperity, and sustainable development. It provides a platform for governments to share experiences and develop policies on issues such as trade, education, employment, and innovation. The OECD also publishes reports and data that guide global economic decision-making and encourage cooperation among member countries.

ii. Historical Background of G-20

The Group of Twenty (G20) was created in 1999 in response to a series of financial crises in the late 1990s, particularly the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997–1998, which exposed weaknesses in the global financial system and the limitations of existing institutions such as the G7. At that time, it became clear that major emerging economies like China, India, and Brazil needed to be included in global economic decision-making.

Initially, the G20 functioned as a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors, focusing on promoting international financial stability, coordinating economic policies, and preventing future crises.

The role of the G20 significantly expanded during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, when leaders of member countries began meeting at the highest political level for the first time at the Washington Summit. This marked a turning point, as the G20 was elevated to the primary forum for international economic cooperation, replacing the G7 in terms of global economic coordination. Subsequent summits in cities such as London and Pittsburgh further strengthened its role by introducing coordinated stimulus measures, financial regulations, and long-term strategies for global economic recovery.

Over time, the G20's agenda broadened beyond financial stability to include issues such as sustainable development, climate change, digital transformation, global health, and geopolitical challenges. The inclusion of the African Union as a permanent member in 2023 further increased its representativeness, especially for the Global South. Today, the G20 stands as one of the most influential platforms for global governance, bringing together advanced and emerging economies to address complex international challenges through dialogue and cooperation.

iii. The Transition From the G-7 to the G-20

The transition from Group of Seven (G7) to Group of Twenty (G20) was not a formal replacement but rather a gradual shift in global economic governance driven by changing economic realities.

Initially, the G7 composed of the world's most advanced economies such as the United States, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Canada served as the main platform for coordinating global economic policies. However, by the late 1990s, especially after the Asian Financial Crisis (1997–1998), it became clear that the G7 no longer represented the full scope of the global economy. Major emerging economies like

China, India, Brazil, and others were becoming increasingly influential, yet they were excluded from decision-making processes.

As a result, the G20 was established in 1999 to include both advanced and emerging economies, initially at the level of finance ministers and central bank governors. The real turning point came during the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, when the scale of the crisis required broader international coordination. In response, G20 leaders held their first summit in Washington, D.C., and the forum was elevated to the primary platform for global economic cooperation, effectively overshadowing the G7.

From that point onward, the G20 became more relevant than the G7 in addressing global challenges, as it better reflected the realities of the global economy by including countries responsible for the majority of global GDP and population. While the G7 still exists and focuses on political and strategic issues among advanced economies, the G20 has taken the lead in global economic governance, crisis management, and international policy coordination.

Key Events in G-20 History

i. Past Summits of G-20

2008 – Washington, D.C., USA

The first G20 Leaders' Summit was convened at the height of the global financial crisis, with the primary objective of restoring stability in international financial markets, rebuilding investor confidence, and initiating coordinated policy responses among major economies to prevent further economic collapse.

2009 – London, United Kingdom

At the London Summit, leaders agreed on extensive fiscal stimulus measures and committed to strengthening financial regulation, while also enhancing the role of international financial institutions to support global economic recovery.

2009 – Pittsburgh, USA

The Pittsburgh Summit marked a significant turning point as the G20 was officially recognized as the premier forum for international economic cooperation, with an increased focus on long-term structural reforms and sustainable growth strategies.

2010 – Toronto, Canada

Leaders at the Toronto Summit emphasized the importance of fiscal responsibility, aiming to balance ongoing economic recovery efforts with credible plans to reduce public deficits and stabilize national debt levels.

2010 – Seoul, South Korea

The Seoul Summit introduced the Seoul Development Consensus, which aimed to promote inclusive and sustainable development by addressing the needs of emerging and developing economies within the global system.

2011 – Cannes, France

During the Cannes Summit, leaders concentrated on managing the European sovereign debt crisis while reinforcing global financial stability through coordinated international policy actions.

2012 – Los Cabos, Mexico

The summit in Los Cabos focused on strengthening global growth and employment, while also addressing the continuing challenges posed by the Eurozone crisis and financial market uncertainties.

2013 – St. Petersburg, Russia

Leaders discussed global economic recovery, trade liberalization, and geopolitical tensions, particularly the Syrian conflict, highlighting the intersection of economic and political challenges.

2014 – Brisbane, Australia

At the Brisbane Summit, members committed to implementing structural reforms and investment strategies aimed at increasing global GDP growth by more than 2 percent over the following years.

2015 – Antalya, Türkiye

The Antalya Summit addressed a broad range of issues, including inclusive economic growth, counter-terrorism efforts, and the global refugee crisis, reflecting the expanding agenda of the G20.

2016 – Hangzhou, China

Leaders in Hangzhou emphasized innovation-driven growth, digital transformation, and structural reforms designed to support long-term economic stability and competitiveness.

2017 – Hamburg, Germany

The Hamburg Summit was marked by intense debates on climate change, trade protectionism, and global governance, illustrating growing divergences among member states.

2018 – Buenos Aires, Argentina

At this summit, leaders focused on managing trade tensions, particularly between major economies, while also addressing broader risks to global economic stability.

2019 – Osaka, Japan

The Osaka Summit highlighted the importance of digital economy governance, cross-border data flows, and adapting international frameworks to technological change.

2020 – Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Riyadh Summit concentrated on coordinating global health responses and implementing measures to support economic recovery.

2021 – Rome, Italy

The Rome Summit focused on post-pandemic recovery, climate action commitments, and the introduction of a global minimum corporate tax framework.

2022 – Bali, Indonesia

Leaders addressed pressing global issues such as food and energy security, as well as geopolitical tensions, particularly the war in Ukraine, which had widespread economic implications.

2023 – New Delhi, India

The New Delhi Summit emphasized sustainable development, digital public infrastructure, and inclusivity, highlighted by the admission of the African Union as a permanent member.

2024 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The summit focused on reducing inequality, promoting social inclusion, advancing sustainable development goals, and reforming global governance institutions to better reflect current global realities.

ii. Important Events That Have Influenced the G-20

1. Asian Financial Crisis (1997–1998)

The Asian Financial Crisis exposed serious weaknesses in the global financial system and demonstrated that economic instability in one region could quickly spread worldwide. This crisis highlighted the limitations of existing institutions like the G7 and led directly to the creation of the G20 in 1999, with the aim of including emerging economies in global financial discussions.

2. Establishment of the G20 (1999)

The G20 was officially founded as a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors to promote international financial stability, marking a shift toward more inclusive global economic governance by incorporating both advanced and emerging economies.

3. Global Financial Crisis (2008)

The 2008 financial crisis was the most significant turning point in the history of the G20, as it led to the first Leaders' Summit in Washington, D.C. The G20 was elevated to the primary forum for international economic cooperation, replacing the G7 in terms of global economic coordination.

4. Eurozone Debt Crisis (2010–2012)

The sovereign debt crisis in Europe influenced the G20 agenda by emphasizing financial stability, fiscal discipline, and the need for stronger international economic coordination to prevent regional crises from becoming global threats.

5. Rise of Emerging Economies (2010s)

The rapid economic growth of countries such as China, India, and Brazil increased their global influence, reinforcing the importance of the G20 as a platform that better represents the global economy compared to smaller groups like the G7.

6. Global Trade Tensions (2018–2019)

Trade conflicts, particularly between the United States and China, brought issues such as protectionism, tariffs, and global trade rules to the forefront of G20 discussions, highlighting the forum's role in managing economic disputes.

7. COVID-19 Pandemic (2020)

The global pandemic significantly expanded the G20's role beyond economic issues to include global health coordination, vaccine access, and economic recovery strategies, demonstrating the need for collective crisis management.

8. Climate Change and Sustainability Agenda

Increasing concerns over climate change have pushed the G20 to prioritize sustainable development, green energy transitions, and environmental policies, making climate action a central theme in recent summits.

9. Russia–Ukraine War (2022–Present)

The war created major disruptions in global energy and food markets, forcing the G20 to address geopolitical tensions alongside economic stability, and highlighting divisions among member states.

10. Inclusion of the African Union (2023)

The admission of the African Union as a permanent member marked a significant step toward greater global representation, strengthening the voice of developing nations within the G20 framework.

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