



## Issue Brief

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# G-20 Summit 2017: Shaping an Interconnected World

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The 12th G20 summit was held from July 7-8, 2017 in Hamburg. In the Messehallen convention centre more than 20 heads of states including eight<sup>1</sup> representatives of the international organisations were also present.<sup>2</sup> The leitmotif of this year's summit was "Shaping an Inter-connected World."<sup>3</sup> The core issues of G20 summit included counter-terrorism, climate-change, economic connectivity, trade and migration. Apart from this "Compact with Africa" was slated as being the summit's big initiatives; also Trump's policies were high on radar in this summit. The summit was hosted by the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel. Prominent leaders and government officials present at the summit include Xi Jinping, Donald Trump, Vladimir Putin, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Justin Trudeau, Emmanuel Macaron, Donald Tusk, Narendra Modi and President of European Council, Jean Claude Juncker.<sup>4</sup>

A declaration adopted by the leaders was chiefly focused on sharing the benefits of globalisation, building flexibility, improving sustainable livelihood and also assuming responsibility.<sup>5</sup> Apart from this,

<sup>1</sup> "G20 Summit 2017 Hamburg," Hamburg.de.

<sup>2</sup> "G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, 07-08/07/2017," European Council - Council of the European Union.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> "G20germany," G20germany | G20.

<sup>5</sup> Joe Tambini, "G20 2017 countries: Who are the members of the G20?" *Express*, July 07, 2017.

an action-plan was also approved to boost counter-terrorism cooperation. The issue of terrorism was also brought forward by the European Council and European Commission.

On energy and climate issues, leaders from all the participating nations took note of the US pulling out from the Paris Agreement. The leaders of the G20 said that the Paris Agreement is irreversible; also they recognised the G20 climate and energy action plan for growth. Vladimir Putin said that Russia views the Paris Agreement as an international legal foundation for a long-term joint work on climate related regulations. Donald Tusk and Jean Claude also stressed upon the economic benefits of climate action and how digital technologies can revolutionise everything.

Leaders present at the summit stressed the need for facilitating people to grasp the opportunities and benefits of economic globalisation. Moreover, issues like increased taxation, cooperation and transparency in finance, the excess steel capacities were also addressed.

The migration and refugee crisis were also taken note of. ‘Step up’ coordination was brought forward and most of the leaders agreed upon it. This synchronisation is considered as an act against smugglers and traffickers. The core causes of migration and supporting countries of origin and transit were taken as priorities by all the leaders. On July 7, President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, said that migrant smuggling is an organised business. Last year it generated US \$1.6 billion in Libya alone. These profits allow the smugglers to control some parts of the country. They also cooperate with terrorists and further undermine the stabilisation of Libya.”<sup>6</sup>

Apart from these issues, Africa’s development was one of the major areas of concern in the G20 summit. In light of this, the G20 Africa partnership was launched to boost growth and jobs in the continent. This also included the G20 rural youth employment, which will contribute to create 1.1 million<sup>7</sup> jobs by 2022. Attaching digitalisation to achieve growth was also stressed upon. And it was said that promoting digital literacy and skills is important for a good output by people.

Issues like gender equality and health cooperation were also presented in a comprehensive manner and the leaders agreed to take initiatives for the betterment of these areas.

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<sup>6</sup> “BPAG20 BPAG20Homepage - g20.org.”

<sup>7</sup> “G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, 07-08/07/2017,” European Council - Council of the European Union.

The letter<sup>8</sup> presented by President of European council Donald Tusk and the President of European Commission, Jean Claude, focused upon various things including fair rules based on multi trading system and international monetary and financial system. Apart from this tax avoidance and evasion was also addressed. Along with this many other documents were agreed upon during the G20 summit. The major ones include the Action Plan of Hamburg, Annual Progress Report 2017, Hamburg update on the G20 Action Plan, the 2030 Agenda and high level principles on battling corruption related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

The G-20 summit 2017 has been hailed as a success. It has opened up a gateway for multilateral achievements in the future. Most of the leaders have praised Chancellor Merkel for her tireless efforts and strength of purpose. Trump also declared the summit as a “wonderful success,”<sup>9</sup> despite the US’s isolated position on the climate change.

It also provided room for backdoor diplomacy, and gave Trump and Putin the chance to announce a “ceasefire agreement” regarding southwest Syria. Though Chinese president Xi Jinping avoided being in the spotlight during the summit, he reaffirmed his commitment to the Paris Agreement and to an open global economy.

In a nutshell, even though there was no substantive progress on the issue of climate change, the G-20 summit 2017 can be hailed as an overall success for Africa. Science was supported, digitalisation was emphasised, financial equality was brought forward and dream for a prosperous Africa were some of the key issues brought to the table. Thus, apart from the climate-change G-20 summit was considered a world-wide success, with hope that next year’s summit would be even better.

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<sup>8</sup> G20 summit.

<sup>9</sup> “G20: Trump hails talks as ‘success’ despite divisions,” *BBC News*, July 09, 2017.