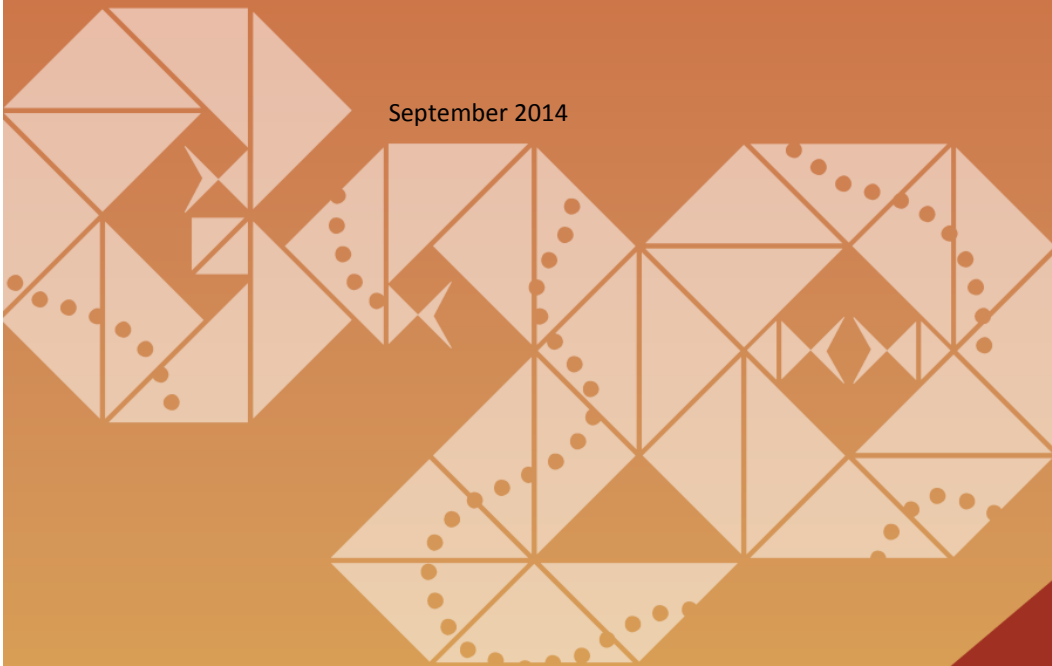


# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2014 G20 AGENDA

September 2014



# 2014 G20 AGENDA: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## ***The 2014 G20 Agenda***

### **What are Australia's priorities as G20 president in 2014?**

As G20 leaders [emphasised at St Petersburg](#) last year, the G20's immediate task is breaking the cycle of low growth and diminished business and consumer confidence. Building on the St Petersburg Summit, G20 members are well placed to do this in 2014.

As G20 chair in 2014, Australia is developing with members [an agenda](#) to structure Leaders' discussions at the Brisbane summit on practical outcomes around the key themes of:

- Promoting stronger economic growth and employment outcomes by empowering the private sector
- Making the global economy more resilient to deal with future shocks
- Strengthening global institutions to ensure their ongoing relevance to the global economy of the Twenty-First Century.

In doing this, Australia is looking for ways to strengthen the G20 as the forum continues the transition from crisis-response to dealing with longer-term issues affecting the global economy.

For more information visit [G20 Priorities](#)

## ***Promoting stronger economic growth and employment outcomes by empowering the private sector***

### **What is the G20 doing to address the global growth challenge? What is the 2 per cent growth ambition?**

Leaders agreed in St Petersburg that, to strengthen growth and create jobs, each G20 country would develop a comprehensive growth strategy for the Brisbane Summit.

In February, G20 [Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors](#) committed to developing new measures with the aim of raising the level of G20 output by at least 2 per cent above the level projected in October 2013 by 2018. Achieving this goal will make a significant difference to the global economy— a boost of over \$2 trillion to global GDP and millions of additional jobs.

For more information see the [G20 Agenda and the '2 per cent' policy note](#)

### **Where did the '2 per cent' come from?**

The IMF, OECD and World Bank worked together to identify gaps in current policies and identified ambitious and realistic actions that could lift growth. The policies assumed in their scenario would "raise world real GDP by about 2%



per cent (or 2¼ trillion U.S. dollars) in 2018 (relative to the October 2013 WEO baseline), implying 0.5 percentage point higher growth [per annum] over the next five years.”

Based on this advice, finance ministers and central bank governors committed, in February, to develop policies to lift our collective GDP by more than 2 per cent above the trajectory implied by current policies over the coming five years. Ministers and governors re-affirmed this commitment in their April meeting in Washington DC.

For more information see the [‘2 per cent’ policy note](#)

### What is a G20 comprehensive growth strategy?

As agreed by leaders in St Petersburg, each G20 member is developing a comprehensive growth strategy for the Brisbane summit containing measures appropriate for its own circumstances. These strategies are the key G20 mechanism for achieving stronger growth.

In February 2014 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors set in place the 2 per cent growth ambition to focus cooperation around these plans.

Collectively, the growth strategies will represent G20 members’ contribution to deliver better outcomes for their citizens, and will be ambitious plans to boost global growth.

In April 2014, members committed to identifying in their growth strategies new actions that:

- Build on previous G20 commitments and address identified gaps in policy settings;
- Lift and rebalance global demand and achieve exchange rate flexibility as well as
- Increase growth potential and create substantial positive spillovers to each other and the world economy.

Members are identifying tangible measures with the most potential for stimulating growth by looking at common challenges and common solutions, as well as the specific situation of their own economy. These will include macroeconomic policies to lift growth, and measures to increase investment in infrastructure, reduce barriers to trade, enhance competition and boost employment.

Each G20 member is assessing its domestic economic outlook and macroeconomic policies and considering the structural changes to improve their economies it will include in its growth strategy.

For more information visit [G20 Agenda](#)

### What is the Brisbane Action Plan? How do the G20 growth strategies fit in?

The Brisbane Action Plan will complement the leaders’ communiqué by providing greater detail on the G20’s agreed collective and individual actions to promote growth and jobs. It will refer to actions under the agreed themes in the growth strategies (investment, trade and competition and employment), as well as outline the accountability process.

For more information visit [G20 Agenda](#)



## How will/does Australia's G20 growth strategy relate to Australia's domestic priorities?

There is a direct link between the Government's reform agenda for Australia and the focus of the G20 – boosting growth, facilitating the building of infrastructure, increasing jobs and improving productivity.

Raising Australia's economic growth through market-oriented policies that promote open trade and investment flows will contribute to the achievement of the G20's objective of strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

The Government's reform agenda is also making it easier for business to invest, create jobs and participate in the global economy through trade. It is also creating new and better jobs and improving employment participation.

Australia is working to increase participation of older workers and combat underemployment.

Australia is looking at its taxation system to find ways it can better facilitate private sector activity.

The Australian Government has embarked on a comprehensive Economic Action Strategy to raise Australia's economic growth, create one million new jobs over five years, restore the structural integrity of government finances and support improvements in living standards.

Central to this strategy is transforming the role of government in the economy and providing equality of opportunity for all Australians. The Australian Government's 2014 Budget proposes measures to ensure Australia does its part in contributing to the G20 growth goal.

The Budget puts the Government's finances on a realistic path to surplus while protecting economic growth in the near-term.

This involves supporting near-term demand and beginning to reorient spending towards growth-enhancing investment and increasing participation.

For more information read the Prime Minister of Australia's [Address](#) to the Committee for Economic Development of Australia's 2014 State of the Nation Conference, Parliament House, 24 June 2014.

## What is the G20 investment and infrastructure agenda for 2014?

Investment, particularly in infrastructure and small and medium enterprises, is important for lifting economic growth, creating jobs and boosting productivity.

The World Bank estimates that we currently face an annual global infrastructure gap of more than \$1 trillion per year. Governments cannot fill this gap on their own. There is adequate global capital available for infrastructure investment, including in sovereign wealth funds. This needs to be mobilised.

Australia is working with other G20 members on a multi-year approach to get the settings right for business to invest in infrastructure. In their growth strategies, members are taking steps to cut transaction costs for business through better regulation, more transparent and predictable planning and more efficient public private partnerships.

As a group, the G20 is working on voluntary leading practices to better plan and prioritise projects, developing new instruments and ways to channel finance to infrastructure projects, and exploring the scope for a new mechanism to take the multi-year agenda forward. It is also working with the World Bank on its new Global Infrastructure Facility, which will draw in private capital to fund projects in developing countries.

For more information visit [Investment and Infrastructure](#)



## What is the G20's Global Infrastructure Initiative?

At their meeting in September, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors agreed to a multi-year Global Infrastructure Initiative to work with business and remove key barriers to more investment in infrastructure.

The Initiative will implement the G20's multi-year infrastructure agenda, including through developing a knowledge sharing platform, addressing data gaps and developing a consolidated database of infrastructure projects, connected to national databases, to help match potential investors with projects. The Initiative will also include key measures in member growth strategies to improve investment climates, central to efforts to attract private sector participation.

To support the Initiative, G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors agreed on a set of voluntary Leading Practices to promote and prioritise quality investment, particularly in infrastructure, and will develop effective approaches for their implementation, including through model documentation. This will complement the G20's work to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors.

For more information visit [Investment and Infrastructure](#)

## What is the G20 employment agenda for 2014?

While the global economy is growing stronger, high unemployment levels persist in many countries amid obstacles to employment growth.

The International Labour Organization estimates that, in 2013, 62 million fewer people were employed than would have been had pre-crisis trends in output continued. Young people continue to be particularly affected by the weak recovery, with over 74 million unemployed worldwide.

Analysis by international organisations show that the employment reforms with the greatest growth potential are those focused on increasing participation and productivity. These measures can include: reducing obstacles to participation, particularly for women, older workers, youth and low-skilled workers; reducing non-wage costs and reforming labour market regulations; increasing investment in skills and education; and addressing informality. For growth strategies, this means prioritising reforms that encourage people to participate and businesses to hire.

G20 members are considering measures to create the right conditions for private enterprise to grow, which is essential to boosting employment and lifting participation. This includes actions to strengthen female participation, address structural unemployment and informal employment and improve labour market outcomes for young people and vulnerable groups.

G20 Labour and Employment Ministers met in September 2014 and committed to strengthening their employment plans, with a focus on creating better jobs and boosting participation. They recommend that G20 leaders adopt the goal of reducing the current gap in participation between men and women in G20 economies by 25 per cent by 2025 as a reference for action, potentially bringing more than 100 million women into the labour force. Promoting greater participation by women in the labour market and improving the quality of their employment would contribute to stronger and more inclusive growth.

For more information visit [Employment](#)

## What is the G20 trade agenda for 2014?

As G20 president in 2014, Australia is focussing discussion on how trade contributes to economic growth and can be boosted.

Australia is encouraging G20 members to include in their G20 growth strategies measures that will ease the cost of trading across borders and facilitate participation by businesses in regional and global value chains.



The choice of actions will vary according to each member economy and could include reduced tariffs, deregulatory measures, enhanced logistics, faster customs procedures and upgrades to trade-related infrastructure.

Australia will also seek to reaffirm the G20 commitment to resist protectionism and will encourage countries to include in their growth strategies the removal of measures that restrict trade.

Discussions are also focussing on how the G20 can help strengthen the global trading system, which now comprises the World Trade Organization, over 400 bilateral and regional free trade agreements and sector-specific agreements.

For more information visit [Trade](#)

### Where does competition reform fit into the G20 agenda?

Trade and competition are closely linked. Competition reforms raise productivity growth, lead to higher investment and job creation, and support increased trade. Analysis by the IMF, OECD and World Bank shows that ambitious but realistic policies that enhance competition have the potential to contribute more than half of the two per cent growth goal.

Competition reforms will form part of members' growth strategies, and to date include measures to improve competition within industries (e.g. in agriculture and high-tech products), and tackle anticompetitive practices through reforming competition frameworks. Countries have also included measures to reform network industries such as utilities and telecommunications. Some strategies target barriers to competition in goods and services markets, or address the distortionary role of the state in specific sectors like education.

Many countries are also focused on boosting their competitiveness and the ease of doing business, for example by improving the incentives for innovation and the quality of judicial and administrative institutions.

For more information visit [G20 2014 Agenda](#)

### How are G20 members ensuring that growth lifts everyone's standard of living? What is the G20 doing about inequality?

Inequality is a serious issue facing many G20 members. Inequality is rising in a number of G20 countries and has featured in G20 discussions this year.

The IMF reported to G20 members in July on the serious implications inequality can have for growth, noting it is an issue that G20 members should be focussed on addressing as part of their strategies to boost growth.

Measures in our growth strategies that promote inclusive growth, reducing the development gap, lifting female participation and addressing unemployment among young people and vulnerable groups all work to reduce inequality.

For more information visit [G20 Agenda](#)





## Are development issues being discussed in the G20? Is the G20 discussing the global food security challenge?

Leaders established the G20 development agenda at the 2010 Toronto Summit when they stressed that reducing poverty is integral to the G20's objectives of achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth and ensuring a more robust and resilient global economy. Narrowing the global development gap is an important challenge for the group, including because two thirds of the world's poor live in G20 countries.

In 2014 the G20 is working to assist non-member countries and particularly low income countries, to share in the benefits of the growth and resilience agenda. Development policy is being integrated across the G20 agenda, with a special focus on increasing investment in infrastructure, improving international tax arrangements, and expanding access to formal financial services and facilitating remittance flows.

In St Petersburg G20 leaders acknowledged that food security and nutrition remains a top priority for the agenda. Two-thirds of the world's population who cannot meet their basic dietary requirements live in G20 countries. In 2014, the G20 is reviewing the links between jobs, growth and food security, including how to lift global agricultural productivity and improve access to food, which will help to guide future G20 work.

For more information visit [Development](#)

## What is the G20's approach to global development beyond the 2015 end to the Millennium Development Goals?

The G20 supports the Millennium Development Goals, and an outcome on the UN-led negotiations on the post-2015 development framework but recognises that it is the United Nations that must drive this work. The G20 is best placed to provide support through its work to boost global growth, create jobs and strengthen economic resilience. Officials and representatives of G20 engagement groups, discussed these issues at the G20 dialogue on supporting the post-2015 development framework, which was co-hosted by Australia and Turkey in Hobart in May 2014.

For more information visit [Development](#)

## ***Making the global economy more resilient to deal with future shocks***

### What is the G20 doing to build the resilience of the global economy?

Since 2008, the G20 has worked to manage global economic and financial risks, restore business and investor confidence and create conditions conducive to growth. In 2014, G20 members are building the resilience of the global economy by:

- delivering key aspects of the G20's financial regulation reforms
- modernising the international tax system to keep pace with the changing ways people and companies do business
- driving reform of global institutions to ensure economies whose emergence is reshaping the global economy have a greater voice and keep the institutions relevant
- strengthening energy market resilience and improving the operation of global energy markets for greater efficiency and transparency



- identifying how the G20 can help strengthen the global trading system, which now comprises the WTO, over 400 bilateral and regional free trade agreements and sector-specific agreements
- addressing corruption to reduce its corrosive impact on economic growth and tackling conditions that undermine growth and give rise to inequality.

Implementing these commitments will complement the G20's growth agenda to ensure growth is strong and sustainable in the long term.

For more information visit [G20 2014 Agenda](#)

### What is the G20 financial regulation agenda for 2014?

The 2008 financial crisis revealed major problems in the regulation and management of financial institutions across the world. Resilience in financial markets is integral to achieving the G20's goal of strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

Over the past five years, G20 members have agreed on, and are implementing, a broad range of policy reforms to promote financial stability and support strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

In 2014, the G20 will focus on delivering key aspects of the financial regulation reforms:

- *Building resilient financial institutions:* Implement the remaining parts of the Basel III standards to strengthen the regulation, supervision and risk management of the banking sector. These standards aim to reduce the likelihood and severity of future crises by improving the banking sector's ability to absorb losses, limiting the build-up of leverage and incentivising banks to use stable sources of funding.
- *Ending too-big-to-fail:* Reforms to enable governments and authorities to resolve financially distressed and systemically-important institutions in such a way as to avoid disruption to the financial system and without exposing the taxpayer to the risk of loss.
- *Addressing shadow banking risks:* Improving the regulation and oversight of the shadow banking sector, which performs bank-like activity (e.g. borrowing short-term and lending long-term, and leveraging up balance sheets to provide credit).
- *Making derivatives markets safer:* This includes enhancing the transparency of transactions to sell derivatives by imposing requirements to trade on organised platforms and to report transactions to trade repositories. Other commitments seek to reduce the exposure financial firms have to each other in the derivatives market by involving a third central parties in any transaction, and by setting minimum reserve requirements.

For more information visit [Financial Regulation](#)

### How will the G20 advance reform of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

The IMF is integral to the stability and growth of the global economy. As a key institution in global economic policymaking, the IMF must have enough resources to fulfil this role.

The G20 has played a key role in driving reform in the IMF to make its governance structures more representative. G20 leaders agreed a package of reforms in 2010. If these reforms are not ratified by year-end, the G20 will ask the



IMF to develop options for discussion by the G20 and the International Monetary and Financial Committee, which is responsible for advising and reporting to the IMF Board of Governors.

For more information visit link to [Reforming Global Institutions](#)

### What is the G20 tax agenda for 2014?

With the growth of the digital economy over the past 20 years, the international tax system has increasingly come under pressure. There is a growing recognition that the current international taxation arrangements are outdated, contributing to rising tax avoidance and evasion and world-wide dissatisfaction with tax outcomes.

A strong tax system helps underpin sound and stable governments and supports their ability to deliver services, finance infrastructure and achieve sound fiscal positions.

The G20 is committed to international cooperation to protect the integrity of national tax systems. International tax cooperation is focused on three areas:

- Address tax avoidance, particularly base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS), to ensure profits are taxed in the location where the economic activity takes place.
- Promote international tax transparency and the global sharing of information by implementing the common reporting standard on the automatic exchange of information (AEOI), so that taxpayers with offshore investments comply with their domestic tax obligations.
- Engage with and assist developing countries so they can benefit from the G20's tax agenda, particularly in relation to information sharing.

For more information visit [Tax](#)

### What is the G20 doing to curb corruption and promote transparency?

Addressing corruption has been on the G20 agenda since 2010. Corruption is an obstacle to growth and economic resilience in both developed and developing countries. Corruption increases the cost of doing business, impedes cross-border investment and trade, and distorts resource allocation and incentives.

The G20 is implementing its 2013-2014 Anti-Corruption Action Plan which is helping to strengthen the global response to corruption, including through actions to address bribery, improve whistle-blower protection, enhance transparency and strengthen international cooperation through increased adherence to international agreements such as the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. Members are discussing actions to strengthen investment environments, including by improving the transparency of the public sector and entity ownership.

Work on transparency cuts across the growth and resilience agenda, in particular members are addressing tax, investment and market transparency. The G20 recognises that information transparency is important for countries at all stages of development, it is essential for encouraging private sector investment and the efficiency and effectiveness of markets.

For more information visit [Anti-Corruption](#)



### What is the G20 energy agenda for 2014?

Well-functioning energy markets and reliable supply are essential to every household and business and have a significant impact on the cost of living and the cost of doing business. Many G20 countries also depend on reliable sources of demand for their energy exports to help drive domestic growth and productivity.

In 2014 the G20 is talking about what it can do to improve the operation of global energy markets (including gas markets), and to deepen collaboration between developed and emerging economies (including by improving international energy institutions).

G20 members are also exploring how they can work together to achieve better outcomes on energy efficiency. The G20 continues its work to enhance the transparency of energy markets and to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption.

These efforts will help to meet the energy needs of the future. And the work on energy efficiency and inefficient fossil fuel subsidies will complement international efforts on climate change.

For more information visit [Energy](#)

### What is the G20 approach to addressing environmental issues? What is the G20 approach to climate change?

Environmental issues are important and there are many forums established to deal with these issues. The G20 regularly expresses political support for such efforts, for example those of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and has done so since the London summit in 2009.

There are also aspects of the G20's work to strengthen economic growth and boost resilience that can make a practical contribution to addressing key environmental challenges and climate change - notably its work to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption and on energy efficiency. Energy efficiency is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce emissions and meet rising energy demand, while also supporting growth and development.

### How will the G20's work benefit women?

The G20's focus on boosting global growth and strengthening economic resilience can also contribute to supporting women's economic empowerment and helping to reduce gender inequality. This year, the membership is considering specific actions that will benefit women, including by increasing women's labour force participation and improving their access to financial services.

For more information visit [Employment](#) and [Development](#)

### What place does global health have in the G20 agenda?

The G20 agenda is focussed on economic issues. Global health issues are not on the agenda. However in 2013, for the first time, G20 leaders called on countries to strengthen compliance with the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations.

G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors expressed their concerns about the human cost of the Ebola epidemic and the potentially serious impacts on growth and stability in the affected countries and wider region and underscored the importance of a coordinated international response in their September 2014 communique.



## About the G20

### Who are the members of the G20?

The G20 forum brings together the world's major economies and represent around 85 per cent of global gross domestic product, over 75 per cent of global trade, two-thirds of the world's population and over 50 per cent of the world's poor.

The members are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and the European Union.

Drawing from all regions of the world, G20 members include advanced and emerging economies and reflect the global economic transformation that has been underway for the last 30 years or so.

For more information visit [G20 Members](#)

### What is the 'troika' and what is its role?

The G20 president is responsible for bringing together the G20 agenda in consultation with other members and in response to developments in the global economy.

The G20 presidency rotates annually according to a system that ensures a regional balance over time. The 2015 president of the G20 is Turkey. To ensure continuity, the presidency is supported in this by the "troika", made up of the current, immediate past and future host countries. Members of the troika ensure that preparations for the Leaders summit are on track, that the two streams of work are coordinated and that priorities agreed by leaders are implemented.

Current members of the G20 troika are Australia (current host), Russia (immediate past host and Turkey (next host).

Australia is working closely with troika and other members to ensure continuity. As part of this, it is developing the G20.org website in such a way that it will be easy for future hosts to customise and inherit an up to date library of official resources for them to add to and pass on to the member that follows them as host.

For more information visit [G20 Members](#).

### What role do working groups play in the lead up to the G20 summit?

The agenda for the 2014 summit will be based around the themes of Australia's presidency: promoting strong economic growth and employment outcomes by empowering the private sector, and making the global economy more resilient to future shocks. Discussion will also include looking at ways to strengthen global institutions to ensure their ongoing relevance to the global economy of the Twenty-First Century.

Leaders will consider work undertaken in 2014 by workstreams: one led by sherpas – officials who represent their leaders in G20 discussions – and the other led by Finance Ministries and Central Banks. In each stream, working groups and taskforces bring together officials to undertake technical work to prepare for the annual leaders' meeting.

Under Australia's leadership, the two streams are working closely together, with senior officials from each stream attending the other's meetings.



In addition to the current year's priorities, working groups help to progress leaders commitments from previous summits. Some of this work may require leaders attention while some of it may not and therefore not feature in summit discussions.

For more information visit [G20 Priorities](#) and [G20 Working Arrangements](#)

### What is the G20 doing to ensure accountability of its commitments?

The size of the G20 economies means their actions affect people all around the world. As such, the G20 has a responsibility to follow through on its promises.

Since the beginning, the G20 has put a high priority on accountability. It has introduced such measures as the 'Mutual Assessment Process' at the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, as well as ongoing accountability reports through the G20 working groups.

Building on these efforts, Australia is strengthening the G20's commitment to accountability. The 2 per cent growth goal, agreed by G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in February 2014, provides a very visible benchmark against which G20 member commitments can be measured.

Each G20 country's contribution to the 2 per cent goal is represented through its comprehensive growth strategy, which will be incorporated into the Brisbane Action Plan. As Australia's Treasurer has stated, G20 members will work with the IMF and the OECD in the lead up to the Brisbane Summit on plans to monitor implementation and build effective accountability mechanisms for the G20 growth target.

There are also many external commentators who scrutinise the achievements of the G20, including universities, think tanks and non-government organisations. The G20 welcomes the variety of views on its policy agenda and performance and engages strongly with think-tanks and other groups.

### What is Australia doing to reach out to non-member countries? Who are the 2014 G20 guest nations?

Leaders recognise that the G20's actions have far-reaching impacts. The views of non-members are taken into account in several ways, including through inviting guests to participate in the G20 agenda. The membership agreed to invite the following guests, Spain (a permanent invitee), the chair of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Myanmar in 2014), the chair of the African Union (Mauritania in 2014) and a representative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD, Senegal in 2014), and a country or countries invited by the presidency (New Zealand and Singapore in 2014).

In 2014, the Australian G20 presidency has also undertaken an outreach program to seek the views of non-members on the agenda. Australia's G20 Sherpa, Australia's G20 Special Representative, Australia's diplomatic network, and officials have been participating in G20-related advocacy events around the world to discuss the G20 and promote international economic governance. Australia is also working closely with countries in the Asia-Pacific region through the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF).



When G20 leaders meet in Brisbane, they will discuss an agenda that is the product of extensive consultation with a wide range of global stakeholders. Leaders are seeking to put in place a concrete programme to promote strong economic growth and employment outcomes by empowering the private sector, make the global economy more resilient to future shocks, and strengthen global institutions. The G20 has taken steps to seek the views of non-members at all stages of preparation for the Brisbane Summit.

For more information visit [G20 and the World](#) and [G20 Guests](#)

### Who are the G20 engagement groups and what is their role? What is Australia doing as G20 President to strengthen G20 engagement with these groups?

Leaders announced in their [5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Vision Statement](#) of September 2013 their intention to strengthen engagement with the Business 20 (B20), Civil Society (C20), Labour 20 (L20), Think 20 (T20) and Youth 20 (Y20), the five recognised engagement groups that bring together key economic and social actors from across G20 nations to advise and inform the G20's decisions.

Australia is taking this vision forward during its G20 presidency to ensure that the views from outside government are considered by G20 members.

- At the start of its presidency, Australia invited the engagement groups to identify practical actions that countries can take to tackle complex global economic challenges across a range of areas and to consider how they can help G20 countries to implement G20 decisions.
- The engagement groups are holding major international meetings in Australia this year to finalise their recommendations to leaders. The Australian presidency has facilitated dialogue between these groups and G20 members to ensure their recommendations are taken into account as countries prepare for the Brisbane summit.
- Engagement groups met with senior G20 officials at the first sherpa meeting in December 2013, and met with sherpas and finance deputies to discuss their policy recommendations in June in Melbourne.
- Australia also hosted [a roundtable on 12 May 2014](#) with all groups, chaired by Parliamentary Secretary to the Australian Prime Minister, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, exploring engagement group priorities and updating groups on the G20's progress this year.
- On 22 June, [sherpas and finance and central bank deputies also met with G20 engagement groups](#) to hear their views on priorities for the Brisbane Summit
  - o This was the first time in the G20's history that representatives of the B20, C20, T20, L20 and Y20 have had an opportunity to present an overview of their priorities to a combined meeting of sherpas and finance deputies.
- On 10 September, engagement groups participated in a social dialogue with the G20 Labour and Employment Ministers in Melbourne to progress the shared goal of boosting employment and workforce participation.
- The groups also held productive discussions on ways to boost growth and jobs with the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on 20 September in Cairns.

For more information visit [Working with Partners](#)



## What is Australia doing to strengthen the G20?

The Australian presidency is strengthening the G20 as the key forum for international economic governance as it continues the transition from crisis-response to dealing with longer-term issues affecting the global economy.

As chair, Australia has taken a disciplined approach by focusing on areas where the G20 can best make a real difference, while finding ways to maintain political momentum in the absence of an immediate crisis.

This includes strengthening the integration among different work streams (for example, the joint meeting of the Framework Working Group and Taskforce on Employment and the joint meeting of sherpas and finance deputies in June), ensuring meetings are concise and productive.

Australia has worked hard to improve the G20's public communication on outcomes and worked with members to produce short, non-technical documents that are easily understood. This includes the aim of delivering a short, tight and accessible communiqué from leaders, ideally of no more than three pages, written in clear, direct language.

The success of the Brisbane Summit and the leaders' communiqué will partly be measured by members' effectiveness in communicating the importance of leaders' decisions to the wider world. Australia is communicating the G20 priorities and agenda to ensure they are heard by the general public as well as policy communities, including the G20 engagement groups and non-members.

## How does Australia benefit from hosting the G20?

The G20 is focused on boosting economic growth and lifting productivity, which is important for the health of the Australian economy and Australian workers.

The G20 Summit will be the most important meeting of world leaders ever held in Australia. Chairing the G20 is an opportunity to promote a new era of ambition for the global economy that reflects the same goals and aspirations that we have for the Australian economy;

It also provides a valuable platform for Australia to strengthen its relationships with individual countries of importance to Australia's strategic and economic interests. Success in delivering the G20 agenda will improve Australians' capacity to engage in the global economy, develop private sector opportunities and get jobs.

Australia's presidency of the G20 is also an opportunity to showcase Australia's economy to some of the world's most influential leaders, officials and business and civil society representatives. This includes the way we do business and approach policy reform.

## WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2014 G20 AGENDA AND THE G20

### G20.org pages:

About the G20  
 G20 priorities  
 2014 G20 agenda (including *Overview of Australia's Presidency – December 2013*)  
 G20 Policy Notes/Factsheets (on the Official Resources page):  
 Frequently Asked Questions on the 2014 G20 Agenda  
 Australia 2014 – G20 Representatives  
 Leaders' Summit  
 Multilingual content on the 2014 G20 agenda

[News page](#) - for speech transcripts and other materials  
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