



# G20

SOUTH AFRICA 2025



Solidarity

Equality

Sustainability

## CONCEPT NOTE

## TASK FORCE 2 FOOD SECURITY

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

South Africa holds the presidency of the Group of 20 (G20) from December 2024 to November 2025 with the theme *Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability*. This marks a historic milestone, as South Africa is both the only African country within the G20 and the first from the continent to preside over this global forum. Food security has been identified as one of the high-level priorities of South Africa's G20 Presidency. This is informed, firstly, by South Africa's Constitution that promotes food security for all and, secondly, the high levels of global food insecurity, which exacerbate inequality and hinder growth and development that the G20 countries collectively aim to achieve.

The interconnections among the world's food systems are such that global political, economic, and social instability results in persistent food insecurity that replicates across the globe. Food stands at the heart of human life, and the right to adequate food is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet, even though the world produces more than sufficient food to feed humanity, much of the world's population goes hungry. Many families continue to experience food insecurity at the household level. The resultant hunger and poor nutrition can have adverse effects on health, education, and overall human development. Food insecurity also contributes to lower economic productivity and exacerbates inequality.

Hunger has increased despite an adequate global food supply. Instead, the prevailing situation is caused, among others, by commodity price shocks that triggered food inflation, together with speculative behaviour among producers in global trade. Over-reliance on global markets for food necessitates the protection of consumers from market-related shocks. Commodity price volatility affects the accessibility and affordability of food, leading to reduced consumption of healthy diets, which in turn increases the risk of malnutrition. Climate shocks such as floods, droughts, and soil degradation have worsened incidences of hunger and risk of malnutrition. Furthermore, global, regional, and domestic conflicts have contributed to rising food prices.

Exchange rate depreciation, monetary policy tightening, and the increase in the cost of living in the Global South have also had a direct impact on food security. This situation has led to significant capital outflows, elevated spreads on sovereign bonds, and sustained inflation in food prices for countries that rely on food imports. Financialisation of the food systems exacerbates these shocks through commodity price speculation that affects the affordability and accessibility of food.

According to the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI, 2024), global hunger rose sharply from 2019 to 2021 and persisted at the same level to 2023. About 733 million people may have faced hunger in 2023. This means the world is not on track to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger. The global prevalence of undernourishment in the world

in 2023 was reported to be 9.1%, persisting at nearly the same level for three consecutive years after having risen sharply in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Progress was made towards reducing undernourishment in some subregions of the world, but hunger is still on the rise in Western Asia, the Caribbean, and most subregions of Africa, with 20.4% prevalence of hunger in Africa, which is far above the world's average. The African continent remains off track to meet the food security and nutrition SDG targets and the Malabo Declaration targets of ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2025.

South Africa has proposed establishing a G20 Task Force on Food Security to set out priorities for tackling the above-mentioned challenges. The Task Force will conduct studies that will support policy responses that address the interconnectedness of hunger, malnutrition, loss of biodiversity, environmental damage, climate change, trade, and financial markets. Policies and interventions on commodity price stabilisation and the impact of global trade on domestic prices will be at the centre of these studies, whose results will contribute to the strengthening of food systems resilience.

The scope for the studies will be based on the recognition of the importance of regional-level policy responses while recognising the global factors that can enable the reshaping of more resilient and sustainable global food systems. These are expected to result in policy strategies and interconnected responses at the regional levels that create greater resilience while also addressing some of the constraints at the global level.

To ensure continuity, the Task Force will consider past G20 outcomes related to food security and nutrition, such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty and the Deccan High Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition.

## 2. RATIONALE FOR THE FOOD SECURITY TASK FORCE

As a leading forum for global economic and financial cooperation, the G20 is well placed to pursue coordinated action to tackle the ongoing food insecurity crisis while complementing other global and regional efforts. Bringing together the G20 members and partners, the Task Force on Food Security will ensure coordinated action to enhance food security by focusing on interventions, measures, and institutions to address high and volatile food prices. These are expected to include the macroeconomic stabilisation measures, financing gaps, and conflict- and climate-related interventions that are needed to improve the resilience of food systems and access to sufficient,

safe, and nutritious food. The Task Force will, among others, place a sharp focus on high food prices, which have a negative impact on access to food, especially in developing countries and particularly among the most vulnerable segments of the population.

### 3. APPROACH

The Food Security Task Force will build on and complement the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty established under the Brazilian G20 Presidency. While the Global Alliance focuses on a national and programme level, the Task Force under South Africa's Presidency will look at food security and systems through two pillars (regional and global levels). The Task Force's efforts will be supported by several key reports from leading international organisations and experts under both the regional and global pillars, which will inform the Task Force's deliberations. Therefore, the South African G20 Presidency will link the Food Security Task Force's work to the existing frameworks and information systems.

#### 3.1 Regional and sub-regional level

Under the regional and sub-regional pillar, the Task Force will coordinate two sets of studies. The first set will explore policy interventions that link national strategies with regional food security approaches that are climate-resilient and sustainable, such as the African Union (AU) Special Envoy on Food Systems initiative to create regional "food baskets". Increased public research and development should focus on climate-resilient food security strategies at regional and sub-regional levels. This area of work will take cognisance of the recently adopted AU post-Malabo Development Agenda, which, although a continental programme, has implications for other regions towards sustainable development. The second ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 aims to work towards common African positions on key issues on food systems, environment, and climate change issues. Notably, around 70%-80% of the African continent's food supply is produced by smallholder farmers. However, despite their significance, they face numerous challenges such as low productivity, limited access to markets, and a growing vulnerability to climate change impacts. Particularly vulnerable are women and young people, who often face systemic barriers to land, finance, and decision-making.

The second set of regional studies will examine the feasibility of various commodity price stabilisation techniques at regional and global levels to mitigate food price shocks and thus prevent increases in hunger and poverty. These studies are critical as several policy frameworks already exist, but food security is complex due to food price shocks as households spend most of their income on food, especially in developing countries.

### 3.2 Global level

At the global level, the Financial Stability Board (FSB), in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), will be tasked with developing regulations and standards related to international commodity markets, corporations in the food sector, and cross-border flows.

These will also be expected to address the intersections of these issues with climate change, with a view to improve food security.

Another study will analyse how global trade costs, supply chain systems, and market concentration affect domestic food prices, identifying significant factors by region and type of country. The available policy approaches will be captured in the G20 Policy Priorities on Strategies to Stabilise Food Pricing to Achieve Food Security and End Hunger. An assessment will be made on which particular policy proposals to take to the appropriate Working Groups to take forward.

The Task Force will assess and build on the effectiveness of previous G20 work undertaken since 2011 on food and agricultural commodity price volatility. This will also complement South Africa's current leadership of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), encouraging the uptake by G20 members of the policy products of CFS. Importantly, by integrating the Sherpa Track (which includes Agriculture, Energy Transitions, Trade and Investment, Development, and Climate Change Working Groups) with the Finance Track (which encompasses International Financial Architecture and Infrastructure Working Groups), the Task Force seeks to bridge the often-segmented approaches to food security and macro-financial stability, focusing on both regional and global ecosystems.

## 4. PROPOSED STUDIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN

STUDY 1: Analysing how global trade prices, supply chains, and market concentrations affect domestic food prices.

STUDY 2: Exploring the feasibility of various commodity price stabilisation techniques at regional and global levels.

STUDY 3: Analysing regulations and standards related to international commodity markets, corporations in the food sector, and cross-border flows while also addressing intersections of these with climate change.



STUDY 4: Exploring the policy and implementation interventions that link national strategies with global, regional, and sub-regional food security and food sovereignty approaches for climate-resilient and sustainable food systems.

## 5. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

- 5.1 Policy, regulatory and implementation interventions that link national strategies with global, regional, and sub-regional food security approaches that promote climate resilience and sustainability.
- 5.2 G20 high-level principles on food commodity stabilisation techniques at global and regional levels.
- 5.3 Proposed regulatory frameworks and standards on international commodity markets, corporations in the food sector, and cross-border flows.
- 5.4 G20 policy priorities on strategies to stabilise food pricing to achieve food security and end hunger.
- 5.5 A Task Force Ministerial Communiqué.
- 5.6 A comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework.



## 6. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR THE TASK FORCE

MEETING	FOCUS	PLACE	DATE
<b>FIRST TASK FORCE MEETING: FOOD SECURITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the Concept Note</li> </ul>	<b>Virtual</b>	5 March 2025
<b>SECOND TASK FORCE MEETING: FOOD SECURITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion of proposals for the studies</li> <li>- Discussion on zero draft of the Task Force communiqué</li> <li>- High-level side event on macroeconomic stabilisation techniques</li> </ul>	<b>KwaZulu-Natal</b>	22 April 2025
<b>THIRD TASK FORCE MEETING: FOOD SECURITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Findings from studies</li> <li>- Recommended policy and implementation interventions, as well as Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework</li> <li>- Finalisation of negotiations on the Task Force Communiqué</li> </ul>	<b>Western Cape</b>	14 – 15 September 2025
<b>TASK FORCE MINISTERIAL MEETING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the Communiqué</li> </ul>	<b>Western Cape</b>	19 September 2025