

# ACADEMIC GUIDE



Group of Twenty

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**Level:** Junior

**Language:** English



**Topic A:** Reviewing G20 trade policy.

**Topic B:** Ensuring sustainable alimentation.

Welcome letter:

Welcome Delegates,

From part of the chair we want to share with you our excitement for this MMUN XIII. We are glad to preside over this committee through the three days of debate we will have throughout this model. In this model we want for all of you, including ourselves, to have the opportunity to learn not only about the topic of debate, but also to have the opportunity to make great memories, meet amazing people and most importantly learn from each other. As mentioned before, we want for you to have a great experience, but we also expect that all of you do your best, reflecting on your investigations from each topic and that you have the possibility to understand them and learn from them. If any of you have any doubts about anything, let any of the members of the chair know.

Sincerely, the chair.

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# Reviewing G20 trade policy.

## Introduction to topic A

The G20 is an organization, founded in 1999. Formed by leaders of 19 of the most powerful countries and the European Union, for having a greater and powerful worldwide economy. The G20 was created for fighting against worldwide poverty rates, preventing a future economic depression and promoting the growth of the world's economy. Additionally, to achieve this goal, the G20 created a series of action plans to achieve their objectives. In this case, for topic A, we will review the G20 trade policy.

Due to this, the trade policy planned by the G20 has planned an agenda for 2030 for achieving or for getting closer to the goals proposed by this group. This is why, this agenda has certain proposals that will make growth the national economy from each country for getting to view results worldwide. And a great way for making the economy grow, commerce may grow at the same time. That's why, the way for making this is by reinforcing trading around the world.

For that reason, there are some points to follow in the agenda for the growth of trading around the world. Like proposing programs for all the population to access and learn of finances for having a good economy worldwide. Also, to lower the cost of trading from country to country for promoting the growth of commerce and increase the incomes. Another point, is to offer jobs to people that need one by all of the opportunities given by the growth in commerce. This with other proposal will be explained later on.

Taking this information into account, we want to enjoy this first topic, and all of what this one has to offer to all of you delegates. We want you to learn from the topics and from the rest of ideas that the rest may propose for making the proposals of the G20 more efficient. Lastly, take advantage from this time that it was planned and made for all of you.

### Key concepts

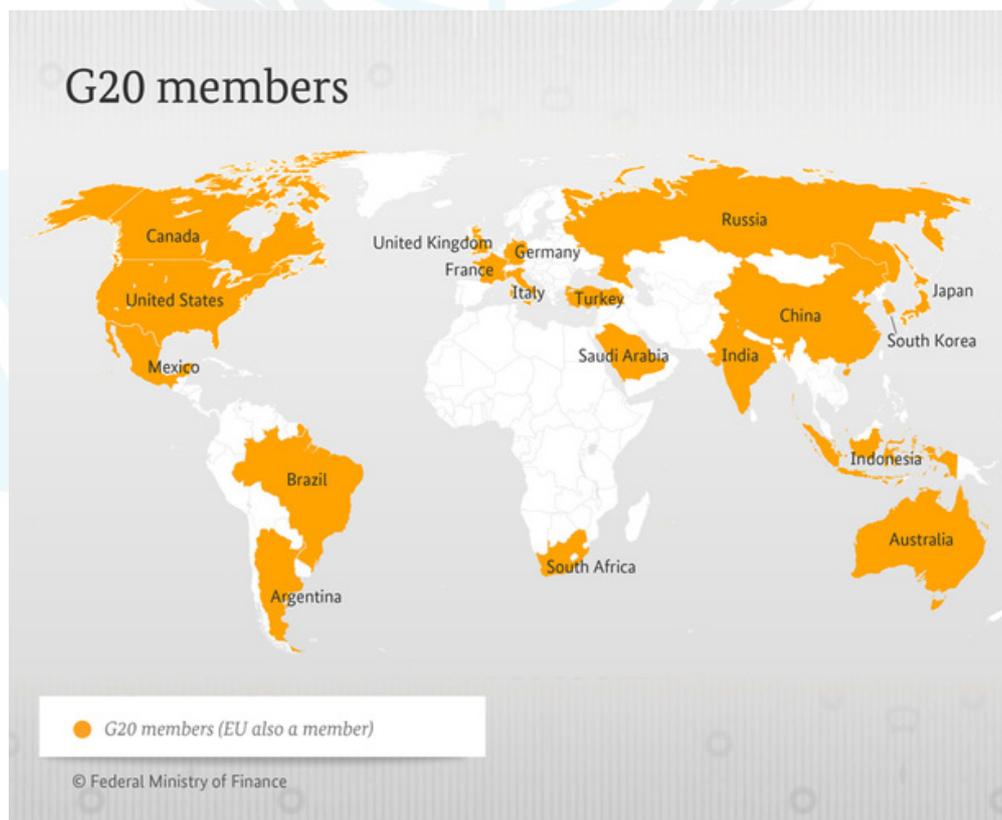
- Financial Crisis: When the value of finances decrease and lose value.
- Economic Depression: “A major downturn in the business cycle characterized by sharp and sustained declines in economic activity; high rates of unemployment, poverty, and homelessness; increased rates of personal and business bankruptcy; massive declines in stock markets; and great reductions in international trade”.  
(Britannica, N. A)

- **Emerging Countries:** As the International Monetary Fund states; “Emerging markets are typically countries with low to middle per capita income that have undertaken economic development and reform programs and have begun to 'emerge' as significant players in the global economy”. (IMF, N. A).

## Historical Context:

For understanding the meaning and the central idea of topic A, G20 trade policy. It is crucial to understand the roots of this organization. How this one was founded with a specific purpose for fighting and for finding solutions that the world economy might face in the future. In other words, G20 is an organization that started for evading future economic crisis worldwide.

This group was born at the end of the 90s. For being precise their first meeting was from the 15 to the 16 of December from 1999. Having as first objective finding a solution to the economic crisis of that decade. This reunion, happened for first time in Berlin, Germany, even though that place isn't where the headquarters of this organization are located. In fact, the headquarters of G20 are located now a days in London, England.

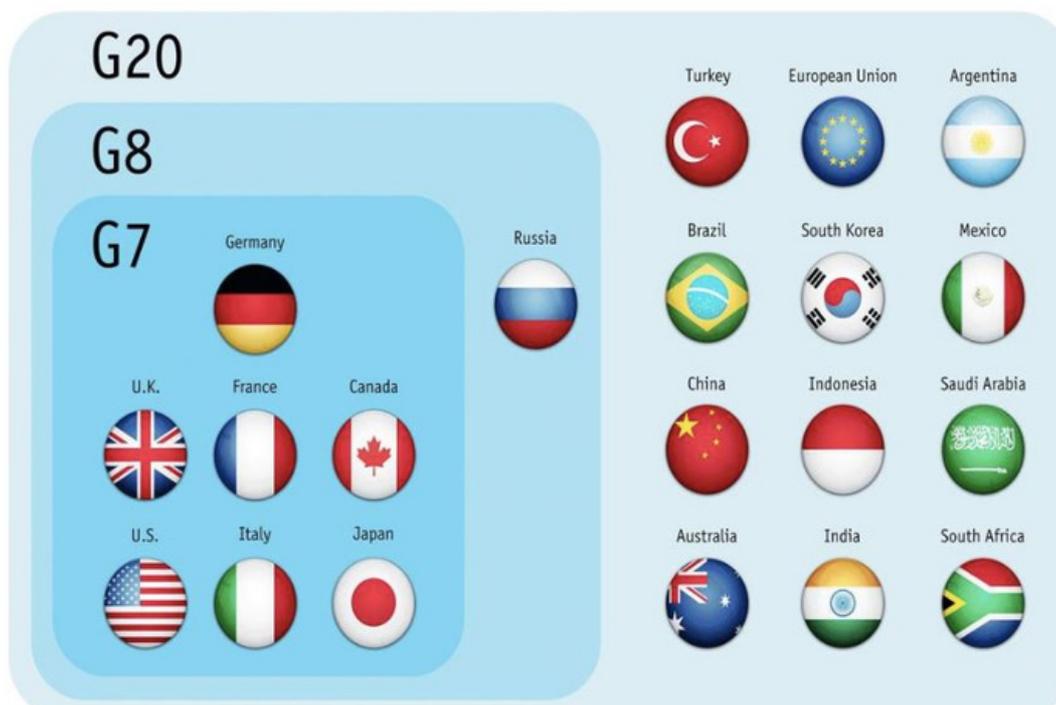


Federal Ministry of Finance. (2022, January 7). *Group of 20 (G20)* [Graph]. Bundesfinanzministerium. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/world/G7-G20/G20-7292.html>

This group, is formed by 20 representatives, 19 of them are countries and the European Union, (this one is represented in the headquarters and in the assemblies by the Minister council or the European Central bank. And, the nineteen countries that form part of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brasil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Rusia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, England and the United States.

Search the reasons why your delegation forms part of this group

This group persisted through the years simply because of their clear and specific objective, the ones are centralized in two main ideas. The first one, to lower public spending by the governments and lower the interest rates. Meanwhile, the other objective, is to re enforce the regulation of banks and other institutions worldwide, for avoiding a future economical crisis. Even though, the G20 can't act by itself, they get most of their monetary resources from International Money Found and from the World Bank. As, Federico Steinberg, an economist at the Elcano Royal Institute in Madrid, "No decision adopted will have sufficient legitimacy if it does not have the support of the emerging countries, because they constitute an increasingly significant portion of the world's Gross Domestic Product," said Federico Steinberg.



Alexander, N. (2018, October 1). *El G7 y el G20 en el panorama de la gobernanza global* [Graph]. Cl.Boell. <https://cl.boell.org/es/2018/10/01/el-g7-y-el-g20-en-el-panorama-de-la-gobernanza-global>

All though, is important to understand the difference between the following two main groups. G7 and G20. G7, was a group founded in 1976 and is formed by 7 countries, which are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, U.K and the United States. This group had a wider objective, which was finding solution for problematics that affect worldwide. While G20, has 20 members, and was later founded for for fighting against economical crisis of future economic depressions.

Difference G7 and G20, (consult different sources than this guide).

## Present Situation

Taking into account the purpose and the objective of the G20 is to prevent a global economic depression and increase the world incomes. Through the sessions of the first debate we want for all of the delegations to analyze and discuss, the importance and the accuracy of the trade policies implemented by the G20. Also, for you to measure if all of this trading rules will help in future years for the development of the world's economy.

The G20 has always look as an objective for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the Annex II: G20 Strategy for Global Trade Growth (SGTG); “This Strategy complements the undertakings and commitments set out in the G20 Trade Ministers’ Statement, including with respect to standstill and rollback of protectionist measures, trade facilitation, the WTO, other trade agreements, guiding principles for global investment policymaking, and promoting inclusive global value chains”.

One of their proposal is to lower the cost of trades. The world trade organization (WTO), would implement the the Trade Facilitation Agreement. This one look for lowering the costs of transporting merchandising from one country to another. This would promote the inner commerce and the growth of the world's economy. This being possible, by having allies that the WTO, that would make possible to reduce almost the 15% of the global trade cost, and giving funds to the countries that most need them for achieving this worldwide objective. Achieving, not only what implicates in economic matters the reduction of trade costs, but also reaching and inventing into other public manner that may of will be affected by this modifications.

Another of the proposals of the G20 is to boost trade in other matters, not only economical. By the growth of trade, there would be a great employment bust around the world because more jobs will be generated because of the need of a massive production of all for the trading products. Plus, all of the personal needed at the moment from completing the chain of the production of the product until it reaches the costumer.

Is important to take into account the following, for having good worldwide finances is important to get to now how to reach one. That's why, thanks to the monetary resources giving like associations like the World Bank, in low developed countries like in Africa, parts of Asia and developing islands. There will be programs promoting how to get to have a good and stable finances.

Search if your delegation has implemented one of this programs in their territory.

Other base for reaching the objective is implementing a record that tracks all the movements of the traded products and sold ones in each country. And if there were some bad indicators in from tof the economical incomes of this one, there would be set an alert for warning and preventing an economical depression. Trading for the growth of the worldwide economy, is important. But it is also important to do it in an efficient and technological way. That's why the use of e-commerce. A database that facilitates the access to the statistics and need of every of the delegation in front of all the implications of trading may get to have in their territory.

Lastly, for getting to achieve this massive purposes, there need to be organization already planned for achieving each thing when is needed. Thats why, there's an action agenda for 2030 planned for Sustainable Development. For a simple and concrete reason. For the growth of the worldwide economy, the reduction of poverty around the world and the prevention of a future economic depression that may affect all the world. That's why delegates, is important to discuss and analyze the functions and the the positive of negative reproductions that all of this planned actions by de G20 may have in the future and if they will have the efficiency needed for achieving their goals.

## QARMAS

- Investigate if you delegation is part of G20, because it is an emerging country of an industrialized one.
- Look up if your delegation was the economic resources for lowering costs of trading and commerce
- What products are the mosts traded produced in your delegation?
- Does your delegations agrees with the G20?



# Ensuring sustainable alimentation.

## Introduction to Topic B

In recent years, the whole world has continued to face a severe food security crisis, mainly due to events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing war in Ukraine. However, with the situation that we have reached today, even if the international community is willing to put in its efforts to counteract the effects, this cannot be solved now just with a “more food for everyone initiative”, since it is first necessary to work on changing, or improving, the current food production system to ensure sustainable alimentation worldwide.

To talk about ensuring sustainable alimentation, it is necessary to understand what the concept means. For this purpose, we will understand sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (United Nations Brundtland Commission, 1987). Relating this definition to alimentation, the goal of the committee will be to discuss and evaluate ways by which it is possible to ensure high quality food and reduce hunger in today’s population while also considering and ensuring that there will be enough and nutritious food for the future generations, focusing on the whole earth rather than in some local areas.

However, why is it important to work on the current food production system? Nowadays, our food system has many limitations and a lot of room for improvement:

- Malnutrition:

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), between 702 and 828 million people in the world suffered of hunger in 2021 (2021), and, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 1 billion people worldwide are obese, which includes 650 million adults, 340 million adolescents and 39 million children (2022), which may lead to developing many illnesses such as type 2 diabetes. Without this being enough, it is estimated that by the year 2050 the global population will increase up to 10 billion people, which will very likely directly affect the demand for food, and this will most probably lead to having the necessity of increasing the food supply by 56%.

- Poor diet:

Human diet is mostly based on fats, sugars, salt and meat, which has a big impact on our health and on the environment. For example, just meat production is responsible for many negative causes and effects of climate change, such as greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, water pollution and biodiversity loss, among others; and, in regards to our health, it can potentially increase the risk of having a heart attack.

- Waste:

Along the steps of the current food system, which include production, processing, distribution and consumption, around 1/3 of all the food globally is being wasted, which creates an urgency to improve the efficiency of the supply chain.

- Natural resources:

Lastly, the current food system involves many natural resources' overuse. For example, sources of freshwater are running dry, and water resources are becoming polluted, which has been intensified by climate change (UNEP, 2016). As a matter of fact, around 70% of the total global water is used in agriculture, and about 38% of the planet's land mass is used for food production. (FAO, 2020)

Does the population of your delegation suffer from any of these limitations?

Is it possible to apply your own solutions for your territory as a global strategy?

## Key concepts

*Sustainable alimentation:* To deliver food security and nutrition for all in such a way that the economic, social and environmental bases to generate these two aspects for future generations are not compromised (it involves economic, social and environmental sustainability). (FAO, n.d)

*Food system:* "Food systems encompass the entire range of actors and their interlinked value-adding activities involved in the production, aggregation, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food products that originate from agriculture, forestry or fisheries, and parts of the broader economic, societal and natural environments in which they are embedded." (FAO, n.d)

*Food security:* "Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life". (World Food Summit, 1996)

*Agriculture:* The science, art, or practice of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock and in varying degrees the preparation and marketing of the resulting products.

*Greenhouse gasses:* Gasses that trap heat in the atmosphere, affecting our climate in multiple ways. Globally, the primary sources of greenhouse gas emissions are electricity and heat, agriculture, transportation, forestry and manufacturing. (UNEP, 2022 & Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, n.d.)

## Historical Context and Present Situation

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since then, the G20 members have committed to support the SDGs as part of their efforts to promote sustainable economic growth and development. The SDG that has more relevance in our topic is SDG 2: Zero hunger. This SDG has been a recurring topic of discussion in different working groups, such as the G20 Development Working Group and the G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group. It is important to note that even though the SDG 2 is the one that is most directly related with the topic, ensuring sustainable alimentation also involves other SDGs that you should consider when discussing in the committee.

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Taking into account what was previously mentioned, what other SDGs do you think should be discussed in relation to the topic?

What plans do you think should be implemented or modified in order to advance in the SDGs that concern us? Consider ways to end hunger, improve access to safe and nutritious food, support rural development, etc.

However, efforts made by the G20 began even before the implementation of the SDGs. In fact,

Following the 2007/08 food crisis, the G20 proved its value in promoting a host of high-impact initiatives with multiple and complementary objectives that remain in place today: from enhancing the transparency of food markets, to better managing risks, to bolstering innovation, productivity and investment, to making developing countries' agriculture sectors more resilient. (OECD, 2019)

Here are some of the G20 initiatives aimed at enhancing food security and raising agricultural productivity sustainably, but take into account that there are many more than the ones mentioned:

- G20 Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS): monitors markets and policies in order to avoid market disruptions and damaging policy reactions.
- Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP): provides funding for country and regional agriculture and food security investment plans.
- G20 Framework for Analysing Policies to Improve Agricultural Productivity Growth Sustainably: analyses countries' experience in bringing together innovation, productivity and sustainability.

Which strategies could be implemented to improve these already-existing initiatives?

What others could be created and how?

Lastly, an important event that took place recently (September 8 of 2022), gathered the G20 Agriculture Ministers to talk about responses to the food crisis that we are living through. There, even though they couldn't get to a consensus, they discussed three priority areas for action:

1. Promote investments in improving sustainable and climate-resilient technologies and practices;
2. Adhere to principles of open, fair, predictable, transparent, and non-discriminatory agricultural trade to ensure availability and affordability of food for everyone; and
3. Promote innovative agriculture entrepreneurship through digital innovations in agriculture and food systems, to improve farmers' livelihoods, empower women and provide opportunities for youth.

(Malhotra & Vos, 2022)

This meeting allows us to see one of the emergent strategies that the G20 has been focusing on, and that you should also take into account, which is to promote the use of digital technologies in agriculture and food systems, such as precision agriculture and blockchain, to improve supply chain efficiency, reduce food loss and waste, and increase food security.

How can digital technologies help in solving the problem?

## Relevant Approaches:

Before the committee begins we encourage you to inform yourselves about already-existing strategies, since it has no use to create something that is already established. However, you may think of ways in which those strategies can be improved, but most importantly, we want you to innovate and to be creative in the implementation of new action plans, taking into account all the important aspects, such as: how will it be financed?, in which regions will it be implemented?, will it have a test time?, which countries will be benefited and which may be affected?, etc.

Also, consider the areas that should be tackled that were mentioned in the guide, such as the support to the SDGs, the limitations of the current food system and the three priority areas discussed in the Agriculture Ministers' meeting. These may help you to begin introducing ideas, but do not limit yourselves by just considering these aspects, since that are many more related, such as the farmers that could be affected with the decisions taken or the use of technologies.

Finally, do not forget to investigate specifically about your delegation in relation to the topic and what it could offer to the committee.

## QARMAS

- How would it be possible to accomplish the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda that concern the committee?
- By which means is it possible to improve the current food system?
- How could the committee ensure that there will be an equitable distribution of food among most of the countries?
- How can the committee guarantee that the measures taken now will not affect the correct development of future generations?
- How can we tackle the climate footprint left by the food system?

- How could you make the populations of your delegations conscious about the issue? How could they contribute in solving it?
- How will you finance each of your projects?

## Recommended Links

- Future of Food (Ted Talk):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OraJ7pAYwew>
- Exploring Food Sustainability (video):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PyiVf26C5pc&t=57s>
- 4 Ways to Build a More Sustainable Food System (video):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnqPcpSgxwU>
- G20 2015 Action Plan:  
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000111212.pdf>
- Eating Our Way To Extinction (Documentary):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cl2iY87Sic8>



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