



Diversity, Inclusion and Mutual Respect: A Review on C20 in the G20 Presidency

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ABSTRACT

In 2013, the Civil 20 (C20) became an official G20 group, providing a platform for global Civil Society Organizations (CSO) to voice public aspirations to G20 leaders. Indian society is celebrated for its pluralism and dynamism. Its approach is society-focused yet values independence, allowing individual expression. Nature endows each being with a unique identity, leading to diversity, a natural result evident in ecosystems, celestial bodies, and geography. Diversity is essential for sustaining life. Recognizing the interconnections within diversity leads to harmony. Ancient cultures valued the unity seen in all things. It's crucial to embrace multiple strategies to tackle various challenges, as no single model fits all. By gathering global stakeholders, the group can promote adaptability and creativity, respecting local needs and resources.

INTRODUCTION

The G20 is an international conference of the world's largest economies, including Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, South Africa, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the UK, the US, and the EU. Its members represent over 85% of global GDP, 75% of trade, and 60% of the population. India has been a member since 1999, with Prime Minister Modi leading its delegation since 2014. (National Portal of India, 2022) The G20 serves as a crucial platform for leaders to discuss and address pressing global issues, ranging from economic stability and sustainable development to climate change and health challenges. The annual summits provide an opportunity for member nations to collaborate on policy initiatives and share best practices, aiming to foster international economic cooperation and mitigate potential crises. In recent years, the G20 has taken on an expanded role, addressing challenges such as digital transformation, global health security, and resilience in the face of pandemics. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the collective efforts of G20 nations are vital in crafting comprehensive strategies that not only respond to existing challenges but also anticipate future needs.

The host country for the G20 summit rotates annually among its members, allowing different cultures and perspectives to enrich the dialogue. In 2023, India assumed the presidency,

emphasizing themes of inclusivity and sustainability. Under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India sought to amplify the voices of developing nations, advocating for equitable economic growth and greater representation in global decision-making processes. As the G20 continues to evolve, its significance in the global arena cannot be overstated. By uniting the world's largest economies, the G20 aims to forge consensus and drive collective action, reinforcing the importance of multilateralism in addressing the challenges that transcend borders and affect us all. (Media Centre, 2022)

Objectives

This paper attempted

- To review different activities of the G20 presidency in India;
- To look into the matter of Civil20's function in the G20 Presidency;
- To analyse diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect;
- To find out some of the important priority areas of G20;

METHOD

The methodology is very simple in the sense that it depends on empirical analysis on the available secondary sources.

Role of C20

Notable figures like Mahatma Basaveshwara, Dayanand Saraswati, Ramkrishna Paramahansa, Ishwar Chandra

Vidyasagar, Mahatma Phule, Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar have shaped India's civil society (Working Groups, 2023). They laid the groundwork for grassroots initiatives to tackle societal challenges. In post-independence India, Vinoba Bhave, Maharshi Karve, Baba Amte, and Sundarlal Bahuguna continued this tradition of voluntarism. India's C20 Presidency will focus on issues from cyberspace to social justice, reflecting earlier communiques and policies.

1. They provide expertise: Civil society groups include some of the world's leading experts on a wide range of issues relevant to the G20.
2. They hold governments accountable: Civil society challenges governments to achieve higher standards and holds them accountable to their own commitments, seeking positive outcomes for society as a whole and pushing for an effective allocation of resources to achieve those outcomes.
3. They explain complex issues in lay terms: Much government policy is too technical or abstract for non-specialists. Civil society can help citizens understand what these policies mean and how they will impact their everyday lives. They advocate for marginalized voices: Civil society groups often serve as a platform for those who are underrepresented or voiceless in the political discourse. They ensure that the concerns of vulnerable populations are heard and considered in decision-making processes, fostering a more inclusive approach to governance.
4. They facilitate dialogue and engagement: By bringing together diverse stakeholders, including governments, businesses, and communities, civil society fosters constructive dialogue and collaboration. This engagement encourages a holistic understanding of the challenges at hand and promotes cooperative efforts to address them.
5. They mobilize grassroots movements: Civil society organizations are adept at rallying citizens around causes, leveraging collective action to influence policy change. By empowering communities to advocate for their interests, they contribute to a more active citizenship and strengthen democratic processes.
6. They contribute to policy innovation: Civil society groups are often at the forefront of developing innovative solutions to pressing global challenges. Their work can inspire governments to adopt new policies or rethink existing frameworks, resulting in more effective and adaptable governance.
7. They promote transparency and integrity: Civil society plays a crucial role in monitoring government actions and advocating for transparency. By scrutinizing public spending and

policy implementation, they help to ensure that resources are utilized effectively and that the interests of the public are safeguarded.

Diversity, Inclusion and Mutual Respect

Every being in existence has been granted a distinct yet intricately woven identity by the forces of nature. This complexity serves as the foundation for the rich tapestry of life we see around us. The diversity that characterizes our world arises from the ceaseless transmutation of energy, a process made possible by the individuality and uniqueness of each entity. As a result, diversity emerges as an inherent and natural occurrence, manifesting itself across various domains, including the solar system, distant galaxies, various forms of plant and animal life, as well as across an array of geographical features found on our planet. It is essential to recognize that without this diversity, life, as we understand it, cannot be sustained or thrive in the multitude of ways we experience it today. Although the presence of diversity is an unavoidable aspect of existence, a sense of harmony and balance can be achieved when we take the time to acknowledge and understand the intricate relationships that underlie this diversity. The recognition of the interconnectedness of all things, seeing the One that pervades every aspect of existence, was a fundamental tenet of the knowledge held by ancient Indian societies, as well as many other civilizations that came before us. This understanding reinforces the importance of unity within the diversity that surrounds us, illuminating the path toward a more harmonious existence. (1951, United Nations)

"Ekam sat viparah bahudhah vadanti" conveys the profound notion that while truth exists as a singular entity, it can manifest in a plethora of diverse forms and interpretations. The vast cosmos, in all its complexity and grandeur, serves as a remarkable expression of the divine nature of God. This interconnected existence implies that everything within the universe is interdependent, intricately interrelated, and deeply woven together in a vast tapestry of life. Recent studies conducted by scientists in the fields of ecological and cellular biology are increasingly highlighting the intricate relationships and dependencies that exist among all forms of life on our planet (Bruce, 2015). This growing awareness sheds light on the fundamental principles of interconnectedness that govern the natural world.

Moreover, ancient Indian wisdom posits that every individual possesses an inherent goodness and innate knowledge. This profound understanding has increasingly found recognition within contemporary educational philosophy, as it aligns with the belief in the potential within each person. Regardless of the framework—be it through codified laws and regulations, enduring social customs, or prevailing cultural norms—the ultimate aim of all methods of discipline and personal development is to nurture and cultivate this intrinsic goodness and wisdom within individuals. Such approaches are

designed to guide individuals toward a deeper understanding of themselves and their place within the larger fabric of existence, fostering a sense of unity and harmony with the world around them. The journey towards self-realization involves recognizing and embracing this essential goodness, allowing it to flourish in the context of a supportive community and a well-structured society.

Diversity is the fundamental reality of nature and human existence, not only a modern theory of sustainability. Understanding and accepting this diversity in light of the Oneness of existence and, consequently, mutually honoring each person's right to life, expression, and application of his civilizational ideals are essential to the survival of human civilization on Earth. It is impossible to accept difference with mutual respect unless the unity of existence is internalized. This profound recognition of diversity necessitates a deep commitment to fostering dialogue and understanding among various cultures, beliefs, and identities. Each individual embodies a unique tapestry of experiences and wisdom, contributing to the rich mosaic of human existence. When we embrace this multiplicity, we open ourselves to a wellspring of ideas that can enrich our collective journey and promote innovation, creativity, and sustainable practices.

To cultivate such an environment, we must challenge the entrenched notions of supremacy and exclusion that often pervade societal structures. Embracing the principle of interconnectedness not only elevates our moral responsibility to one another but also propels us toward a more equitable and harmonious global community. In recognizing that our destinies are intertwined, we empower every voice, especially those that have been historically marginalized, to share their narratives and visions for the future.

Thus, it becomes imperative that education systems, governance frameworks, and community initiatives reflect this ethos of diversity and unity. By nurturing an appreciation for various civilizational ideals, we enable future generations to advance a culture rooted in empathy, mutual respect, and collaboration. This holistic approach to existence will not only safeguard the richness of our individual identities but also promote a collective resilience in the face of challenges that threaten our shared home.

As we navigate the complexities of our modern world, let us commit to fostering environments where dialogue flourishes and differences are celebrated. With every step taken toward understanding, we affirm our allegiance to the greater whole, reinforcing the belief that our strength lies not in uniformity, but in the vibrant interplay of diverse thoughts and actions, echoing the essence of our shared humanity.

Many groups have been left behind as a result of immaturity in imposing one's thinking on others during the "development" process and haste to homogenize the world.

The environment was simultaneously depleted while some were abused and mocked. Therefore, in order to give space to those who have been overlooked and assist those who have been left behind with various concessions and legal support at the government level, political correctness has given much-needed emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion. This newfound emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion serves not merely as a remedy for past grievances but also acts as a beacon of hope for a more cohesive and understanding society. By acknowledging the multifaceted identities that enrich our world, we begin to dismantle the barriers that have perpetuated exclusion and inequality. This process encourages us to listen more intently to the stories of those who have been historically silenced, allowing their experiences to shape the narrative of progress rather than remaining footnotes in a dominant discourse.

Moreover, it calls for a recalibration of how we define success—not as a monolithic achievement but as a collective journey where every voice is valued and celebrated. Educational institutions, workplaces, and community organizations are urged to implement frameworks that prioritize these principles, ensuring that decisions are made with the representation of diverse groups at the forefront. This is not merely a checkbox exercise; it is about fostering genuine relationships anchored in respect and understanding, cultivating environments where innovation thrives through a tapestry of perspectives.

As we venture into this approach, it is imperative to recognize that progress does not happen in isolation. Each step taken towards inclusion is a step away from the shadow of immaturity that once dominated dialogues surrounding development. It demands a commitment to continual reflection and adaptation, embracing discomfort as a catalyst for growth. To truly honor those who have been sidelined, we must engage in the hard work of dismantling systemic inequalities that persist in our societies.

In essence, the path forward hinges on collective responsibility; it is a shared endeavor that requires courage, compassion, and a readiness to confront uncomfortable truths. By uplifting the marginalized, we not only heal historical wounds but also pave the way for a future that is robustly inclusive—thereby ensuring that no one is left behind in our aspirations for a just world.

Just as biodiversity plays a crucial role in sustaining and enriching the natural world, the diversity found in customs, languages, spiritual practices, and various methods of personal development significantly enhances the quality of human life. This rich tapestry of differences contributes to a more vibrant and dynamic society. When we make efforts to eliminate this diversity or to marginalize the differences that exist among people, we inadvertently lead ourselves toward a form of artificial living that lacks authenticity and depth. Such actions can result in unsustainable development that fails to

honor the unique contributions of various cultures and traditions. It is essential to recognize that embracing diversity not only fosters resilience within communities but also promotes a more harmonious and interconnected existence for all individuals. (Indian Times, November 16, 2022) Moreover, the celebration of diversity is not merely an act of tolerance; it is a profound acknowledgment of the intricate web of human experience that shapes our collective identity. Each custom, language, and belief system offers a unique lens through which we can view the world, fostering empathy and understanding among individuals from different backgrounds. This interconnectedness enriches our lives, providing us with a broader perspective that can inspire creativity, innovation, and problem-solving.

In contrast, the suppression of diversity often breeds division, misunderstanding, and conflict. When we fail to appreciate the myriad of voices that contribute to our shared existence, we risk creating an environment where fear and ignorance thrive. Such a climate stifles growth and diminishes the potential for collaborative efforts that can address the pressing challenges we face as a global community.

To cultivate a society that values diversity, we must actively engage in dialogue and education that highlight the importance of inclusivity. By promoting cultural exchange and understanding, we can dismantle the barriers that separate us and foster a sense of belonging for everyone. Encouraging individuals to share their stories and experiences can illuminate the common threads that bind us, reminding us that, despite our differences, we all aspire to a life filled with purpose, connection, and fulfillment.

In this light, embracing diversity becomes not only an ethical imperative but also a practical necessity for a thriving society. It empowers individuals to express their true selves, leading to greater innovation and adaptability in the face of change. By nurturing an environment where diversity is celebrated, we lay the groundwork for a more sustainable and equitable future, one that honors the richness of human experience and the potential for collective advancement. Thus, let us commit to fostering a world where diversity is not merely tolerated but cherished as the foundation of our shared humanity.

India's G20 Presidency

India's G20 Presidency theme, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam," or "One Earth • One Family • One Future," is derived from the Maha Upanishad, an ancient Sanskrit scripture. The subject essentially acknowledges the importance of all life, including bacteria, plants, animals, and humans, as well as their interconnectedness on Earth and in the larger world. A cleaner, greener, and bluer future is the outcome of globally transformative actions that highlight LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and its associated environmentally sustainable and responsible choices at the individual and national levels (PIB Mumbai 10 Dec 2022). In this spirit, the G20 Summit

under India's leadership seeks to foster a comprehensive dialogue on innovative solutions that bridge economic growth with ecological conservation. It emphasizes the need for collaborative efforts among nations to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and the sustainable management of resources. By prioritizing initiatives that promote renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and waste reduction, the theme of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" underscores the reality that our collective choices today shape the fate of future generations.

Through the lens of this theme, the summit encourages not only policy frameworks and international cooperation but also grassroots movements that galvanize citizens to embrace a sustainable lifestyle. Educational programs and awareness campaigns will play a pivotal role in reshaping mindsets towards consumption and conservation, striving for a world where every individual is a steward of the environment.

The vision for "One Earth • One Family • One Future" is more than a mantra; it is a clarion call to rethink our relationship with nature and each other. It implores us to recognize that our destinies are intertwined, and the health of our planet directly influences our well-being. As nations convene to deliberate on these pressing issues, the focus remains on ensuring that prosperity does not come at the expense of the environment, creating a holistic paradigm that encapsulates equity, sustainability, and collective responsibility.

Ultimately, as the G20 framework pivots on the ideals of inclusivity and shared progress, the aspiration is to cultivate a world where empathy and environmental stewardship prevail, reinforcing the timeless wisdom of the Maha Upanishad that transcends cultural and geographical boundaries—reminding us that we are indeed one interconnected family on this fragile planet, bound together by a shared future.

FINDINGS

- In light of the significant shifts in the global order, it is seen to encompass the strong attitude that the G20 nations conveyed regarding the necessity of bolstering multilateralism.
- The G20 acknowledged the need of reforms and the necessity for renewed multilateralism in the framework of the UN.
- The G20 emphasized several key elements of international development collaboration, including host country ownership, equitable partnerships, and adjusting such cooperative efforts to local circumstances.
- They also praised initiatives to raise more money for the Sustainable Development Goals and discussed the necessity for the Multilateral Development Banks to raise more funds.
- The Foreign Ministers acknowledged that all acts of terrorism are illegal and unacceptable, and they categorically denounced terrorism in all of its forms and

manifestations. They demanded stepping up efforts to prevent terrorist organizations from finding safe havens, operating freely, recruiting new members, and receiving material, financial, or political support. The G20 also considered the risks associated with the abuse of new and developing technologies and emphasized the significance of enhancing global collaboration in this area.

CONCLUSION

The C20 group will conclude by discussing and outlining the necessity of recognizing, respecting, embracing, and endorsing a variety of ways to addressing different problems. There isn't a single paradigm that works for every problem. The working group can encourage the need for adaptability and creativity while taking into consideration local needs, culture, and resources by bringing together stakeholders from all over the world. The G20 foreign ministers took up the issue of counternarcotics for the first time, discussed it, and urged robust and comprehensive international collaboration in this area. Furthermore, the C20 group emphasizes the importance of fostering inclusive dialogue that empowers local communities to share their unique perspectives and solutions. By engaging diverse voices, we can cultivate a richer understanding of the complexities surrounding various issues, particularly in the realm of counternarcotics. It is vital to recognize that successful strategies must be rooted in the specific contexts of the communities they aim to serve.

The dialogue initiated by the G20 foreign ministers serves as a pivotal moment to galvanize action and cooperation among nations. Collaborative frameworks that prioritize the exchange of best practices and innovative approaches can significantly enhance our collective efforts to combat drug-related challenges. This collaboration should extend beyond governmental entities, involving non-governmental organizations, grassroots movements, and affected populations to ensure a holistic approach.

Moreover, the C20 group advocates for the integration of harm reduction strategies, emphasizing that public health must be at the forefront of counternarcotics efforts. By prioritizing education, prevention, and treatment, we can address the root causes of substance abuse while minimizing the stigmatization of individuals affected by drug use. This compassionate approach not only promotes human rights but also strengthens community resilience.

As we move forward, the commitment to adaptability and creativity must remain steadfast. The global landscape is continually evolving, and our responses must be equally dynamic. By harnessing the power of collaboration and innovation, we can forge pathways toward sustainable solutions that resonate with the diverse realities of our interconnected world. The C20 group stands ready to support these initiatives, ensuring that the voices of the marginalized

are heard and that their contributions are valued in the quest for effective counternarcotics strategies.

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