

# Fact sheet



## The G20 at a glance

Each year 20 world leaders meet to discuss important issues involving the global economy. This gathering, known as the Group of 20 (G20), helps leaders work together to design policies and make decisions that keep people in jobs and improve their quality of life.

G20 MEMBERS	
 Argentina	 Italy
 Australia	 Japan
 Brazil	 Republic of Korea
 Canada	 Mexico
 China	 Russia
 European Union	 Saudi Arabia
 France	 South Africa
 Germany	 Turkey
 India	 United Kingdom
 Indonesia	 United States

G20 members include countries that are economically advanced, including France and the United States, and other countries that are emerging from a less developed economic base, including Indonesia and Brazil. Two in every three people around the world live in the G20, meaning its leaders represent a large share of the world's population. The G20 includes 19 countries plus the European Union, the body that represents 28 countries in Europe.

The G20 was formed in 1999 amid the Asian financial crisis – a series of events that meant many people in Asia were unable to borrow money and could no longer afford to buy things they needed. At that time it was not leaders that represented their countries but Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, the people responsible for economic policies. The G20 helped countries co-ordinate their actions to ease the pain of the crisis and help the recovery.

Nine years later, in 2008, another major economic problem struck – but this time it spanned the planet. The global financial crisis meant that some major banks collapsed, the value of important assets like houses fell and many people lost their jobs. In response, G20 leaders came together in Washington to agree to take urgent steps to protect their economies from further decline.

The G20 encouraged trillions of dollars of economic activity worldwide, which saved or created millions of jobs. It worked to limit the collapse of banks and other financial institutions and helped maintain consumer and business confidence.

Since then, G20 world leaders have met eight times. The next Leaders Summit, which is now held each year, will take place Brisbane in November 2014.

## CO-OPERATION

To ensure discussion in the G20 reflects the interests of a wide range of nations, each year the G20 president invites guest countries to participate in the year's meetings, including the Leaders Summit. This includes Spain (a permanent invitee); the chair of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations); the chair of the African Union and a representative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development; and a country or countries invited by the president, usually from its own region.

As G20 host, Australia has invited Mauritania and Senegal from Africa, Spain from Europe, Myanmar and Singapore from Asia and New Zealand from across the Tasman Sea.

The G20 also works with international bodies, including the United Nations, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, that help design global policies on important issues including trade and jobs.

Input to the G20 also comes from outside governments and international bodies. Several engagement groups have been formed that bring together people from different sectors of society to present ideas to G20 leaders. The engagement groups are B20, representing business, C20, representing civil society, L20, representing labour groups, T20, representing think tanks and Y20, representing youth. Australian business and community leaders are contributing to G20 discussions in 2014.

## AUSTRALIA'S HOSTYEAR

Australia's time as G20 president started on 1 December 2013, when it took over from the previous host, Russia, and runs until 30 November 2014, when it hands over to the next host, Turkey. During the year Australia is hosting many meetings of government officials to discuss and debate ideas for improving the global economy. Their conversations and decisions will help leaders reach an agreement when they meet in Brisbane on 15-16 November 2014 for the Leaders Summit.

More than 4,000 delegates and 3,000 media representatives are expected to come to Brisbane for the summit, which will be the most significant meeting of world leaders that Australia has ever hosted.

At the end of the summit, the leaders will release a Communique that spells out their commitment to take steps to improve their countries' economies.

## CAIRNS

One of the major meetings during Australia's G20 host year will take place in Cairns. On 20-21 September 2014, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors will meet to discuss economic policies in their countries, such as approaches to finding jobs for people, ensuring people can afford to buy the things they need and making sure rules are fair for all businesses and people. About 1,000 people are expected to travel to Cairns for the meeting, focusing global attention on the city.

## AUSTRALIA'S G20 LOGO

Australia's G20 logo represents the weaving together of nations, a gathering of leaders and the journeys they will embark upon throughout the host year. The logo pays tribute to the ancient cultures of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The logo is inspired by traditional Torres Strait Islander weaving patterns of the coconut palm leaf. Connecting shapes representing the Aboriginal Rainbow Serpent legend form a track through the events of the host year and reflect the G20 journey. The weaving also forms a fish, which represents the *Dhari*, the traditional Torres Strait Islander headdress. The fish is a reminder of the connection between the people and the sea – the source of life and food.

The colours represent the diverse landscape of Australia from red desert sands to golden beaches and lush tropical rainforests, and economic sectors such as resources, infrastructure and manufacturing.

### For more information

**Website:** [www.G20.org](http://www.G20.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/G20Australia2014](https://facebook.com/G20Australia2014)

**Twitter:** @G20Australia

**Email:** [G20info@pmc.gov.au](mailto:G20info@pmc.gov.au)

**G20 Infoline:** (toll-free in Australia): 1800 922 011