

G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Climate Change, 2008-2010

Zaria Shaw, G20 Research Group, February 15, 2011

Summary of G20 Leaders' Conclusions on Climate Change

Year	# of Words	% of Total Words	# of Paragraphs	% of Total Paragraphs	# of Documents	% of Total Documents	# of Dedicated Documents
2008 Washington	64	1.7	2	2.8	1	100	0
2009 London	64	1	2	2.1	1	100	0
2009 Pittsburgh	911	9.7	10	11.7	3	100	0
2010 Toronto	838	7.4	11	7.6	1	50	0
2010 Seoul	2018	12.7	25	11.4	3	60	0
Average	779	6.5	10	7.1	1.8	82	0

Notes:

Data are drawn from all official English-language documents released by the G20 leaders as a group. Charts are excluded.

"# of Words" is the number of subjects related to climate change for the year specified, excluding document titles and references. Words are calculated by paragraph because the paragraph is the unit of analysis.

"% of Total Words" refers to the total number of words in all documents for the year specified.

"# of Paragraphs" is the number of paragraphs containing references to climate change for the year specified. Each point is recorded as a separate paragraph.

"% of Total Paragraphs" refers to the total number of paragraphs in all documents for the year specified.

"# of Documents" is the number of documents that contain subjects related to climate change and excludes dedicated documents.

"% of Total Documents" refers to the total number of documents for the year specified.

"# of Dedicated Documents" is the number of documents for the year specified that contain a subject related to climate change subject in the title.

Introduction

Since their first meeting in 2008, G20 leaders have supported their finance ministers and central bank governors focus on achieving "sustainable economic growth." At Pittsburgh in 2009 the G20 endorsed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations and the Copenhagen Accord from the 2009 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting in Denmark. The non-legally binding Copenhagen Accord complements, and does not replace, the legally binding Kyoto Protocol (agreed to at COP3 in Japan in 1997 and now ratified by just under 200 countries) that expires in 2012. Under the Copenhagen Accord, 114 countries, including all 17 members of the Major Economies Forum (MEF), agreed for the first time to reduce their emissions and register their national commitments by January 2010. Countries also committed to "delivering 'prompt start' funding to assist developing countries in deploying clean energy technologies, reducing forest-related emissions, and adapting to the impacts of global warming." The most recent UNFCCC COP-16 meeting took place in Cancun, Mexico in November/December 2010. COP-17 will take place in Durban, South Africa, in November/December 2011.

Search Terms

The following keywords were used for this report.

Inclusions

Biodiversity, carbon, carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbon capture and storage (CCS), carbon sequestration, climate change, climate change mitigation, climate finance, climatic change, Conference of the Parties (COP), Copenhagen Accord, deforestation, ecosystems, emissions, emissions reduction, fossil fuels, Global Environment Facility (GEF), environmental degradation, environmental development, environmental stress, global warming, greenhouse gases, green development, green economy, green growth, green recovery, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Kyoto Protocol, marine protection, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), renewables, sinks, sustainable development (when dealing with climate control), United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UN High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing

Exclusions

Alternative energy, ‘alternative’ energies (geothermal, hydro, nuclear, solar), clean energy, energy efficiency, energy technologies, energy security

Coding Rules

The unit of analysis is the paragraph/sentence.

There must be a direct reference to climate change or a cognate term.

Cognate or extended terms can be used without a direct reference to “climate change” if they have previously been directly associated together in summit document history.

Conclusions on Climate Change in G20 Summit Documents

2008 Washington Summit: Special Leaders Summit on the Financial Situation, November 14-15

Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy

Commitment to an Open Global Economy

15. We remain committed to addressing other critical challenges such as energy security and **climate change**, food security, the rule of law, and the fight against terrorism, poverty and disease.

Reform of International Financial Institutions

We should explore ways to restore emerging and developing countries' access to credit and resume private capital flows which are critical for **sustainable growth** and development, including ongoing infrastructure investment.

2009 London Summit

G20 Action Plan for Recovery and Reform

4. We have today therefore pledged to do whatever is necessary to:

...build an inclusive, **green**, and **sustainable** recovery.

Ensuring a Fair and Sustainable Recovery for All

28. We reaffirm our commitment to address the threat of irreversible **climate change**, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and to reach agreement at the **UN Climate Change conference** in Copenhagen in December 2009.

2009 II Pittsburgh Summit, September 24-25

The Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit

Preamble

21. We stressed the importance of adopting a dynamic formula at the World Bank which primarily reflects countries' evolving economic weight and the World Bank's development mission, and that generates an increase of at least 3% of voting power for developing and transition countries, to the benefit of under-represented countries. While recognizing that over-represented countries will make a contribution, it will be important to protect the voting power of the smallest poor countries. We called on the World Bank to play a leading role in responding to problems whose nature requires globally coordinated action, such as **climate change** and food security, and agreed that the World Bank and the regional development banks should have sufficient resources to address these challenges and fulfill their mandates.

24. To phase out and rationalize over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing targeted support for the poorest. Inefficient fossil fuel subsidies encourage wasteful consumption, reduce our energy security, impede investment in clean energy sources and undermine efforts to deal with the threat of **climate change**.

27. To maintain our openness and move toward **greener, more sustainable** growth.

29. We will spare no effort to reach agreement in Copenhagen through the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC) negotiations.

Modernizing Our Global Institutions to Reflect Today's Global Economy

17. Modernizing the international financial institutions and global development architecture is essential to our efforts to promote global financial stability, foster **sustainable development**, and lift the lives of the poorest. We warmly welcome Prime

Minister Brown's report on his review of the responsiveness and adaptability of the international financial institutions (IFIs) and ask our Finance Ministers to consider its conclusions.

Reforming the Mission, Mandate and Governance of Our Development Banks

24. We agree that development and reducing global poverty are central to the development banks' core mission. The World Bank and other multilateral development banks are also critical to our ability to act together to address challenges, such as **climate change** and food security, which are global in nature and require globally coordinated action. The World Bank, working with the regional development banks and other international organizations, should strengthen:

- ...contributions to financing the transition to a **green economy** through investment in sustainable clean energy generation and use, energy efficiency and climate resilience; this includes responding to countries needs to integrate **climate change** concerns into their core development strategies, improved domestic policies, and to access new sources of **climate finance**.

Energy Security and Climate Change

29. Enhancing our energy efficiency can play an important, positive role in promoting energy security and **fighting climate change**. Inefficient **fossil fuel subsidies** encourage wasteful consumption, distort markets, impede investment in clean energy sources and undermine efforts to deal with **climate change**. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the IEA have found that eliminating fossil fuel subsidies by 2020 would reduce **global greenhouse gas emissions** in 2050 by ten percent. Many countries are **reducing fossil fuel subsidies** while preventing adverse impact on the poorest. Building on these efforts and recognizing the challenges of populations suffering from energy poverty, we commit to:

- Rationalize and phase out over the medium term inefficient **fossil fuel subsidies** that encourage wasteful consumption. As we do that, we recognize the importance of providing those in need with **essential energy services**, including through the use of targeted cash transfers and other appropriate mechanisms. This reform will not apply to our support for **clean energy, renewables**, and technologies that dramatically reduce **greenhouse gas emissions**. We will have our Energy and Finance Ministers, based on their national circumstances, develop implementation strategies and timeframes, and report back to Leaders at the next Summit. We ask the international financial institutions to offer support to countries in this process. We call on all nations to adopt policies that will phase out such subsidies worldwide.

31. Increasing clean and renewable energy supplies, improving energy efficiency, and promoting conservation are critical steps to protect our environment, promote sustainable growth and address the threat of **climate change**. Accelerated adoption of economically sound clean and renewable energy technology and energy efficiency measures diversifies our energy supplies and strengthens our energy security. We commit to:

- Stimulate investment in clean energy, **renewables**, and energy efficiency and provide financial and technical support for such projects in developing countries.

- Take steps to facilitate the diffusion or transfer of clean energy technology including by conducting joint research and building capacity. The reduction or elimination of barriers to trade and investment in this area are being discussed and should be pursued on a voluntary basis and in appropriate fora.

32. As leaders of the world's major economies, we are working for a resilient, **sustainable, and green recovery**. We underscore anew our resolve to take strong action to address the threat of dangerous **climate change**. We reaffirm the objective, provisions, and principles of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** (UNFCCC), including common but differentiated responsibilities. We note the principles endorsed by Leaders at the Major Economies Forum in L'Aquila, Italy. We will intensify our efforts, in cooperation with other parties, to reach agreement in Copenhagen through the **UNFCCC** negotiation. An agreement must include mitigation, adaptation, technology, and financing.

33. We welcome the work of the Finance Ministers and direct them to report back at their next meeting with a range of possible options for **climate change financing** to be provided as a resource to be considered in the **UNFCCC negotiations at Copenhagen**.

2010 Toronto Summit, June 26-27

The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration

Preamble

2. Building on our achievements in addressing the global economic crisis, we have agreed on the next steps we should take to ensure a full return to growth with quality jobs, to reform and strengthen financial systems, and to create strong, **sustainable and balanced global growth**.

The Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth

7. The G20's highest priority is to safeguard and strengthen the recovery and lay the foundation for strong, **sustainable and balanced growth**, and strengthen our financial systems against risks. We therefore welcome the actions taken and commitments made by a number of G20 countries to boost demand and rebalance growth, strengthen our public finances, and make our financial systems stronger and more transparent. These measures represent substantial contributions to our collective well-being and build on previous actions. We will continue to co-operate and undertake appropriate actions to bolster economic growth and foster a strong and lasting recovery.

8. The Framework for Strong, **Sustainable and Balanced Growth** that we launched in Pittsburgh is the means to achieving our shared objectives, by assessing the collective consistency of policy actions and strengthening policy frameworks.

Increasing **global growth on a sustainable basis** is the most important step we can take in improving the lives of all of our citizens, including those in the poorest countries.

International Financial Institutions and Development

25. Towards this end, we have fulfilled our Pittsburgh Summit commitment on the MDBs. This includes \$350 billion in capital increases for the MDBs, allowing them to nearly double their lending. This new capital is joined to ongoing and important reforms to make these institutions more transparent, accountable and effective, and to strengthen their focus on lifting the lives of the poor, underwriting growth, and addressing **climate change** and food security.

Other Issues and Forward Agenda

41. We reiterate our commitment to a green recovery and to sustainable global growth. Those of us who have associated with the **Copenhagen Accord** reaffirm our support for it and its implementation and call on others to associate with it. We are committed to engage in negotiations under the UNFCCC on the basis of its objective provisions and principles including common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and are determined to ensure a successful outcome through an inclusive process at the **Cancun Conferences**. We thank Mexico for undertaking to host the **sixteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 16)** in Cancun from November 29 to December 20, 2010 and express our appreciation for its efforts to facilitate negotiations. We look forward to the outcome of the **UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing** which is, *inter alia*, exploring innovative finance.

43. Following the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico we recognize the need to share best practices to **protect the marine environment**, prevent accidents related to offshore exploration and development, as well as transportation, and deal with their consequences.

Annex III: Enhancing the Legitimacy, Credibility and Effectiveness of the IFIs and Further Supporting the Needs of the Most Vulnerable: MDB Reforms

9. We have also fulfilled our commitment to ensure that these capital increases are joined to ongoing and important institutional reforms to make the MDBs more effective, efficient and accountable. These include:

Recommitting to their core development mandates and taking up a greater role in the provision of global solutions to transnational problems, such as **climate change** and food security.

10. With these reform commitments, we are building not just bigger MDBs, but better MDBs, with more strategic focus on lifting the lives of the poor, underwriting growth, promoting security, and addressing the global challenges of **climate change** and food security. Implementation of these reforms has already begun, and we will continue to ensure that this work is completed and that further reforms are undertaken where necessary.

Further Supporting the Needs of the Most Vulnerable

24. There is still an urgency to accelerate research and development to close agricultural productivity gaps, including through regional and South-South cooperation, amidst growing demands and **mounting environmental stresses**, particularly in Africa. The private sector will be critical in the development and deployment of innovative solutions that provide concrete results on the ground. We commit to exploring the potential of

innovative, results-based mechanisms such as advance market commitments to harness the creativity and resources of the private sector in achieving breakthrough innovations in food security and agriculture development in poor countries. We will report on progress at the Seoul Summit.

Annex I: The Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth

4. The Framework for Strong, **Sustainable and Balanced Growth** we launched in Pittsburgh is the means to achieving our shared objectives. G20 members have a responsibility to the community of nations to assure the overall health of the global economy. We committed to assess the collective consistency of our policy actions and to strengthen our policy frameworks in order to meet our common objectives. Through our collective policy action, we will ensure growth is sustained, more balanced, shared across all countries and regions of the world, and consistent with our development goals.

2010 Seoul Summit, November June 26-27

The G20 Seoul Summit Leader's Declaration

4. The concrete steps we have taken will help ensure we are better prepared to prevent and, if necessary, to withstand future crises. We pledge to continue our coordinated efforts and act together to generate **strong, sustainable and balanced growth**.

8. Since 2008, a common view of the challenges of the world economy, the necessary responses and our determination to resist protectionism has enabled us to both address the root causes of the crisis and safeguard the recovery. We are agreed today to develop our common view to meet these new challenges and a path to **strong, sustainable and balanced growth** beyond the crisis.

13. To provide broader, forward-looking leadership in the post-crisis economy, we will also continue our work to prevent and tackle corruption through our Anti-Corruption Action Plan; rationalize and phase-out over the medium term inefficient **fossil fuel subsidies**; mitigate excessive **fossil fuel price volatility**; safeguard the **global marine environment**; and combat the challenges of **global climate change**.

14. We reaffirm our resolute commitment to fight **climate change**, as reflected in the Leaders' Seoul Summit Document. We appreciate President Felipe Calderón's briefing on the status of the UN **Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations**, as well as Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's briefing on the report of the **High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing** submitted to the UN Secretary-General. We will spare no effort to reach a balanced and successful outcome in Cancun.

The Seoul Summit Document

Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth

1. Our unprecedented and highly coordinated fiscal and monetary stimulus worked to bring back the global economy from the edge of a depression. This has highlighted that the world would benefit from more effective international cooperation. In Pittsburgh, we launched the Framework **for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth** and committed

to work together to assess the collective implications of our national policies on global growth and development, identify potential risks to the global economy, and take additional actions to achieve our shared objectives.

3. Since we last met, the global recovery continues to advance, but downside risks remain. We are resolved to do more. Our strengthened collaborative and collective policy actions can further safeguard the recovery and lay a solid foundation for our shared objectives of **strong, sustainable and balanced growth**.

The Seoul Action Plan

4. Today we are launching the Seoul Action Plan. We shaped the Plan with unity of purpose to:

- deliver on all three objectives of strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth

47. At the same time, narrowing the development gap and reducing poverty are integral to achieving our broader Framework objectives of **strong, sustainable and balanced growth** by generating new poles of growth and contributing to global rebalancing. We are therefore using our best efforts for a rapid increase in the share of global growth and prosperity for developing countries, LICs in particular.

50. The Seoul Consensus and the Multi-Year Action Plan are based on six core principles:

- First, an enduring and meaningful reduction in poverty cannot be achieved without inclusive, **sustainable and resilient growth**, while the provision of ODA, as well as the mobilization of all other sources of financing, remain essential to the development of most LICs.

51. The Seoul Consensus also identifies nine key pillars where we believe actions are necessary to resolve the most significant bottlenecks to inclusive, **sustainable and resilient growth** in developing countries, LICs in particular: infrastructure, human resource development, trade, private investment and job creation, food security, growth with resilience, financial inclusion, domestic resource mobilization and knowledge sharing. The Multi-Year Action Plan then outlines the specific, detailed actions to which we commit in order to address these bottlenecks

Energy: Fossil Fuel Subsidies – should this be included?

58. We reaffirm our commitment to rationalize and phase-out over the medium term **inefficient fossil fuel subsidies** that encourage wasteful consumption, with timing based on national circumstances, while providing targeted support for the poorest. We direct our Finance and Energy Ministers to report back on the progress made in implementing country-specific strategies and in achieving the goals to which we agreed in Pittsburgh and Toronto at the 2011 Summit in France.

59. We note the preliminary report of the IEA, World Bank and OECD and ask these organizations, together with OPEC, to further assess and review the progress made in

implementing the Pittsburgh and Toronto commitments and report back to the 2011 Summit in France.

60. We recognize the value of the sharing of knowledge, expertise and capacity with respect to programs and policies that phase out **inefficient fossil fuel subsidies**.

Fossil Fuel Price Volatility

63. Welcoming the June and November 2010 IOSCO reports, we ask IOSCO to further monitor developments in the oil OTC markets and report to the FSB for consideration of next steps, for improved regulation and enhanced transparency of the oil financial market in April 2011 by Finance Ministers and other relevant Ministers, informed by the work of the Energy Experts Group. We ask the Energy Experts Group to extend its work on volatility to other **fossil fuels** as a second step.

Global Marine Environment Protection

64. We welcome the progress achieved by the **Global Marine Environment Protection (GMEP)** initiative toward the goal of sharing best practices to protect the **marine environment**, to prevent accidents related to offshore exploration and development, as well as marine transportation, and to deal with their consequences. We recognize the work done by the GMEP Experts Sub-Group and take note of the progress made on reviewing international regulation of offshore oil and gas exploration, production and transport with respect to **marine environmental protection** as a first step to implement the Toronto mandate.

65. Future work on the **GMEP** initiative should benefit from relevant findings, as they become available, from the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the United States and the Montara Commission of Inquiry in Australia. We ask the GMEP Experts Sub-Group to provide a further report, with the support of the IMO, OECD, IEA, OPEC, International Regulators Forum, and International Association of Drilling Contractors and, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to continue work on the effective sharing of best practices at the 2011 Summit in France.

Climate Change and Green Growth

66. Addressing the threat of **global climate change** is an urgent priority for all nations. We reiterate our commitment to take strong and action-oriented measures and remain fully dedicated to **UN climate change negotiations**. We reaffirm the objective, provisions, and the principles of the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**, including common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. We thank Mexico for hosting the **UNFCCC negotiations** to be held in Cancun beginning at the end of November 2010. Those of us who have associated with the **Copenhagen Accord** reaffirm our support for it and its implementation. We all are committed to achieving a successful, balanced result that includes the core issues of mitigation, transparency, finance, technology, adaptation, and forest preservation. In this regard, we welcome the work of the **High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing** established by the UN Secretary-General and ask our Finance Ministers to consider its report. We also support and encourage the delivery of fast-start finance commitments.

67. The ongoing loss of **biodiversity is a global environmental and economic challenge**. Both climate change and loss of biodiversity are inextricably linked. We acknowledge the outcomes of the global study on the economics of **ecosystems and biodiversity**. We welcome the successful conclusion of COP10 in Nagoya.

68. We are committed to support country-led **green growth policies** that promote **environmentally sustainable global growth** along with employment creation while ensuring energy access for the poor. We recognize that **sustainable green growth**, as it is inherently a part of **sustainable development**, is a strategy of quality development, enabling countries to leapfrog old technologies in many sectors, including through the use of **energy efficiency and clean technology**. To that end, we will take steps to create, as appropriate, the enabling environments that are conducive to the development and deployment of **energy efficiency and clean energy technologies**, including policies and practices in our countries and beyond, including technical transfer and capacity building. We support the ongoing initiatives under the **Clean Energy Ministerial** and encourage further discussion on cooperation in &D and regulatory measures, together with business leaders, and ask our Energy Experts Group to monitor and report back to us on progress at the 2011 Summit in France. We also commit to **stimulate investment in clean energy technology, energy and resource efficiency, green transportation, and green cities** by mobilizing finance, establishing clear and consistent standards, developing long-term energy policies, supporting education, enterprise and R&D, and continuing to promote cross-border collaboration and coordination of national legislative approaches.

Annex 1” Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth

*“Narrowing the development gap and reducing poverty are integral to our broader objective of achieving **strong, sustainable and balanced growth** and ensuring a more robust and resilient global economy for all.”*

—Toronto Declaration, June 26-27, 2010

In the wake of the most severe economic shock in recent history, the G20 has the opportunity to contribute to the reconstruction of the world economy in a form conducive to **strong, sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth**. Through the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth, we seek to add value to and complement existing development commitments, particularly those made at the recent High-Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, and in other fora.

Why Growth Must Be Shared

At Pittsburgh we agreed to work together in an unprecedented process of mutual assessment to ensure our individual economic policies collectively achieved an outcome of **strong, sustainable and balanced growth**. This Framework was borne of a recognition that for the world to enjoy continuing levels of prosperity it must find new drivers of aggregate demand and more enduring sources of global growth. We recognize as a crucial part of this exercise that we need to enhance the role of developing countries and low income countries (LICs) in particular, for the following reasons:

- First, because for prosperity to be sustained it must be shared....

Our overarching objective of helping LICs improve and maintain the levels and quality of growth, thereby reducing poverty, improving human rights and creating decent jobs, requires strengthening the relationships among high, middle and low income countries. This entails **promoting sustainable economic, social and environmental development**; honoring equity in the partnerships that exist; building stronger and more effective partnerships among advanced countries, emerging countries and LICs; engaging the private sector and civil society; and refocusing our priorities and efforts to remove the bottlenecks for LIC growth. We further believe there is no “one-size-fits-all” formula for development success and that developing countries must take the lead in designing and implementing development strategies tailored to their individual needs and circumstances.

In close consultation with our developing country and LIC partners, as well as relevant international and regional organizations with development expertise, we have also identified nine areas, or “key pillars,” where we believe action and reform are most critical to ensure inclusive and **sustainable economic growth** and resilience in developing countries and LICs. These areas are: infrastructure, private investment and job creation, human resource development, trade, financial inclusion, growth with resilience, food security, domestic resource mobilization and knowledge sharing. Creating optimal conditions for **strong, sustainable and resilient economic growth** in developing countries will require reform and transformation across each of these interlinked and mutually reinforcing key pillars.

Guided by our development principles and oriented around the key pillars, we have developed the following Multi-Year Action Plan on Development. We believe these action plans address some of the most critical bottlenecks to strong and **sustainable economic growth** and resilience in developing countries, in particular LICs, and have high potential for transformative, game-changing impact on people’s lives, helping to narrow the development gap, improve human rights and promote gender equality. We commit to full, timely and effective implementation of these action plans and, to this end, will continue to closely monitor their progress, in synergy with other processes, including preparations for the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Korea in late 2011.