

Steering Global Finance and Equity: France's Ambitious Vision during its G20 Presidency

Aditi Hanninamane and S Shailesh

Introduction

France has long occupied a central position in world affairs due to its rich historical legacy, which extends from its beginnings as a significant European kingdom to its enormous impact on art, culture, science, and international politics. France is regarded as an unstoppable force in international affairs as a result of its complex and nuanced historical narratives, which have been shaped by revolutions, wars, colonial endeavors, and numerous intellectual movements. Given these qualities, it should come as no surprise that France is a key participant in the Group of Twenty (G20), an organization that brings together the world's major economies to discuss important global concerns¹. The G20, with France as one of its leading members, aims to establish a more harmonious global economic landscape as the premier international forum for economic cooperation and policy synchronization².

When France assumed the G20 presidency in 2011, the globe was still dealing with the fallout from the 2008 financial crisis and the urgent need to recalibrate the systems of global economic governance³. The Presidency gave France the chance to influence the conversation on issues related to trade, agriculture, finance, and sustainable development in addition to reiterating its support for multilateralism and global collaboration. France fervently worked to build international bridges during its rule, making sure that discussion was both productive and solution-focused. The end result was a collection of pacts and agreements that prioritized monetary stability, sustainable growth, and equitable development in international endeavors.

¹ G20. (2022). About G20. G20. <https://www.g20.org/en/about-g20>

² *ibid*

³ Lagarde, C., & Lagarde, C. (2023). French Priorities for the G20: The Choice of Ambition. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. <https://carnegieendowment.org/2010/10/07/french-priorities-for-g20-choice-of-ambition-event-304>

The phrase, "*France plays a significant role in the Group of Twenty (G20), a premier international forum for economic cooperation and policy coordination*," captures not only France's involvement in the present but also the essence of France's long-standing dedication to the concept of world unification⁴. Due to its extensive history and diplomatic experience, its presence in the G20 is all the more important to steer debates on international economic and financial issues. Given this context, an appropriate emphasis or research question for this study could be: "How has France's historical legacy and diplomatic acumen influenced its role in the G20, and how can it leverage this experience to shape the future agenda of the forum?" In order to provide a thorough knowledge of France's participation in the G20, this inquiry aims to delve deeply into the intersections of its past and present.

France's G20 chairmanship serves as a symbol of its commitment to global cooperation. The country's 2011 G20 presidency highlighted the value of discussion, cooperation, and group decision-making while also outlining its vision for the G20 and setting an example for future presidencies. This essay will make an effort to provide a thorough analysis of France's historical development prior to its participation in the G20, its crucial role during its presidency, and potential avenues for its continued involvement in creating a more coherent global economic paradigm.

Historical Context

In 2010, France assumed the prestigious G20 Presidency, a significant responsibility that would last throughout the entirety of 2011. Under the guidance of then-French President Nicolas Sarkozy, the G20 Summit took place in Cannes, France, on November 3rd and 4th, 2011⁵. The summit held paramount importance as it aimed to tackle the lingering effects of the global financial crisis that emerged in late 2007 and lasting up till 2009 which profoundly had impacted economies across the world⁶.

⁴ Ambassador Levitte, J. - D. (2011). G20 Summit at Cannes: priorities, challenges and actions. International Labour Organisation. <https://doi.org/IL0/11/7>

⁵ Lagarde, C., & Lagarde, C. (2023). French Priorities for the G20: The Choice of Ambition. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. <https://carnegieendowment.org/2010/10/07/french-priorities-for-g20-choice-of-ambition-event-304>

⁶ *ibid*

One of the primary objectives of the Cannes G20 Summit was to devise comprehensive strategies to promote global economic growth. The 2007-2009 global economic crisis or popularly known as “The Great Recession” had caused widespread uncertainty, market instability, and slowed economic progress⁷. As the world's leading economies came together, they sought to foster cooperation and coordination to foster growth and bring stability back to international financial markets. This involved discussions on various fiscal and monetary policies, trade agreements, and investment strategies aimed at rejuvenating economies and restoring confidence in the financial system⁸.

Reforming financial regulations was another pivotal theme addressed during the Cannes G20 Summit. The 2007-09 crisis had exposed loopholes and weaknesses in the global financial framework, and there was a pressing need to establish more robust regulatory measures to prevent future crises. Leaders from the G20 nations deliberated on implementing stricter regulations for financial institutions, enhancing transparency, and improving risk management practices⁹. The overarching goal was to build a more resilient and stable financial system that could withstand future shocks and protect the interests of both nations and citizens.

The G20 Summit in Cannes also served as an opportune platform to discuss global economic governance. This included topics such as equitable representation in international financial institutions, decision-making processes, and addressing the challenges faced by developing economies. Ensuring that all nations had a voice in the global economic decision-making process was crucial to fostering a more inclusive and balanced international economic order.

To cater to specific concerns related to the agricultural sector, the summit introduced an Agriculture forum. The forum provided a dedicated space for discussions on agricultural policies, food security, and sustainable agricultural practices. As food crises and supply chain disruptions had been growing issues, addressing these challenges at the G20 Summit demonstrated a

⁷ Investopedia Team. (2023). 2008 Recession: What it Was and What Caused It. Investopedia.

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/great-recession.asp#:~:text=The%20Great%20Recession%20refers%20to,Great%20Depression%20of%20the%201930s.>

⁸ Ambassador Levitte, J. - D. (2011). G20 Summit at Cannes: priorities, challenges and actions. International Labour Organisation. <https://doi.org/IL0/11/7>

⁹ Interview given by Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the Republic, to the Indian Newspaper “The Hindu” : 04 December 2010. (2014). La France En Inde / France in India. <https://in.ambafrance.org/Interview-given-by-Nicolas-Sarkozy>

commitment to finding cooperative solutions to alleviate hunger and improve agricultural productivity¹⁰.

Furthermore, the G20 Summit aimed to emphasize the importance of development and its role in ensuring global economic stability and prosperity. Discussions revolved around promoting infrastructure investment, fostering innovation, and addressing the development needs of emerging economies. By addressing these issues, the G20 leaders recognized that sustainable development was not only crucial for individual nations but also contributed to the overall stability and growth of the global economy¹¹.

Lastly, the G20 leaders recognized the significance of climate change as a global challenge that demanded urgent attention. Environmental sustainability was a key aspect of the discussions during the summit. Leaders sought to explore ways to address climate change through collaborative efforts, sustainable policies, and investments in green technologies. The aim was to strike a balance between economic growth and environmental preservation, acknowledging that both were crucial for the long-term well-being of the planet and its inhabitants¹².

Governance in France and its Influence on G20 Ideologies

France has traditionally been at the forefront of developing international policies because of its rich history of revolution, freedom, and democratic administration. Its domestic governance structure, which is characterized by a representative democratic republic with a semi-presidential form of government, is crucial in determining its foreign outlook, especially in significant fora like the G20. We can comprehend France's influence on G20 ideology better by fusing data and recognized personalities' opinions.

¹⁰ Cannes Summit Outcomes. (2013). Utoronto.ca. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-g20-france-outcomes.html>

¹¹ Cannes Summit Outcomes. (2013). Utoronto.ca. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-g20-france-outcomes.html>

¹² ibid

The structure of French government:

The Fifth Republic's Constitution, which was adopted in 1958, is the foundation of the French government. It supports a complex division of labor between the executive, legislative, and judicial institutions, with the president exercising significant control over foreign policy and the prime minister in charge of domestic affairs¹³.

Understanding France's historical devotion to liberty, equality, and fraternity is essential to understanding its effect on the G20. The country's adherence to these ideas was formed by the French Revolution, a crucial moment in international history. A well-known French diplomat and historian named Alexis de Tocqueville once said, "*The French Revolution was not merely a regime change, but an organical transformation—a revolution with an impact so profound that it reverberated worldwide*"¹⁴. France's approach to developing international policy is characterized by this idea of revolutionary change.

France's participation in the G20:

France's advocacy for policies that are grounded in equality, sustainable development, and cooperative internationalism is an example of how its governance values are demonstrated at the G20, an organization of the world's biggest economies. The essence of France's G20 position is encapsulated in Jacques Chirac's statement, in an interconnected world, working in unison while cherishing differences becomes paramount¹⁵.

The nation put the reform of the global monetary system at the forefront under Nicolas Sarkozy's leadership during France's G20 presidency in 2011, reflecting its domestic emphasis on financial stability¹⁶. Christine Lagarde, who was France's minister of finance at the time, emphasized the

¹³ The Constitution of the Fifth Republic. (2012, November 20). Elysee.fr. <https://www.elysee.fr/en/french-presidency/constitution-of-4-october-1958>

¹⁴ The Old Regime and the Revolution (1856) | Online Library of Liberty. (2023). Libertyfund.org. <https://oll.libertyfund.org/title/tocqueville-the-old-regime-and-the-revolution-1856>

¹⁵ Seattle Times staff. (2007, May 16). Chirac appeals for national unity. The Seattle Times. <https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/chirac-appeals-for-national-unity/>

¹⁶ Hilimoniuk, R. (2011). 2011 G20 Plans and Preparations. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/g20plans/g20plans110915.pdf>

value of cooperative financial governance in the same year and emphasized the G20's responsibility in creating a "balanced and sustainable economy"¹⁷.

Furthermore, France's commitment to equality at home is consistent with its pursuit of inclusive worldwide policy. The eminent French philosopher Michel Foucault explained that "*Government's true measure is in how it treats its minorities*"¹⁸. This viewpoint emphasizes France's activities at the G20, such as promoting debt relief for developing countries and promoting more equitable participation in international financial institutions.

Furthermore, France's governance principles, which place a strong emphasis on sustainable development, have an impact on its position on climate change, both at home and on the G20 stage. The country's push for a global solution to climate concerns in the G20 is paralleled by its support for the Paris Agreement and emphasis on domestic green transitions¹⁹.

Although France has had a significant impact on G20 ideals, some detractors contend that occasionally the country puts its own interests ahead of the group's objectives. The G20's response to the issue of global wealth imbalance has come under fire from economist Thomas Piketty, who claims that member nations—including France—often prioritize national economic interests over global equity²⁰. This assertion raises concerns about whether or not international forums truly uphold the principles of good governance.

¹⁷ Press Release: Statement by IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde on the G-20 Cannes Summit. (2011, November 4). IMF.

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2015/09/14/01/49/pr11395>

¹⁸ Foucault, M., Gordon, C., Marshall, L., Mepham, J., & Soper, K. (1980). POWER/KNOWLEDGE.

https://monoskop.org/images/5/5d/Foucault_Michel_Power_Knowledge_Selected_Interviews_and_Other_Writings_1972-1977.pdf

¹⁹ de, M. (2019). France's action in climate negotiations. France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs; France Diplomacy.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/the-fight-against-climate-change/international-climate-change/article/france-s-action-in-climate-negotiations#:~:text=Since%20COP21%2C%20the%20implementation%20of.It%20aims%20to%3A&text=Encourage%20the%20implementation%20of%20national.climate%20goals%20in%20all%20fields.>

²⁰ Piketty, T. (2014). Capital in the Twenty-First Century. <https://dowbor.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/14Thomas-Piketty.pdf>

The Five Pillars/Priorities of France's G20 Presidency in 2011

Ever since its elevation to the level of Heads of State and Government in 2008²¹, the G20 had facilitated the provision of effective collective responses to ‘The Great Recession’, which according to *Investopedia* is the most severe economic crisis experienced since the 1930s ‘Great Depression’²². The Cannes G20 Summit in 2011 focused on completing actions and projects which had already been planned and initiated during the Toronto and Seoul G20 summits of 2010²³. Additionally, the Cannes G20 summit also extended its agenda to encompass new projects aimed at enhancing agriculture and food security²⁴. As per the official Cannes’ G20 Dossier, ‘G20 had been the only forum or grouping which possessed the necessary influence, legitimacy, and decision-making capability to drive forward the significant economic initiatives of that time’. Taking note of this, France, which held the presidency of G20 laid down five priorities reflecting its motive to effectively utilize its G20 presidency to address the aftermath effects of ‘The Great Recession.’

1. Reform the International Monetary System (IMS)²⁵

During its presidency of the G20 in 2011, France identified a crucial priority aimed at reforming the International Monetary System (IMS)²⁶ to address global economic challenges which had emanated from the ‘Great Recession of 2007-2009’. In addition, it also focused on fostering stability in the international financial landscape²⁷. Therefore, by recognizing the significance of a stable and predictable monetary system, France laid out a comprehensive agenda encompassing multiple key areas.

²¹ G20 India. (2022). About G20. G20.org. <https://www.g20.org/en/about-g20/#:~:text=The%20G20%20was%20upgraded%20to,leadership%20of%20a%20rotating%20Presidency>

²² The Investopedia Team. (2023, April 30). 2008 Recession: What it Was and What Caused It. Investopedia. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/great-recession.asp>

²³ OECD. (2023). Cannes - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Oecd.org. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/cannes/g20cannessummitpriorities.htm> ; CONFÉRENCE DE PRESSE DE M. LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. (2011). DOSSIER DE PRESSE. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-g20-g8_dossier_presse.pdf (English Translation not available)

²⁴ OECD. (2023). Cannes - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Oecd.org. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/cannes/g20cannessummitpriorities.htm> ; CONFÉRENCE DE PRESSE DE M. LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. (2011). DOSSIER DE PRESSE. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-g20-g8_dossier_presse.pdf (English Translation not available)

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Ibid

Firstly, France sought to create effective instruments that would act as safeguards against excessive currency volatility and the accumulation of imbalances²⁸. The excessive fluctuation in exchange rates and imbalances between countries' trade and financial positions can lead to financial instability and hamper global economic growth. By developing these instruments, the French presidency aimed to foster a more predictable and balanced international monetary environment, which could better withstand economic shocks²⁹. Enhancing the coordination among G20 members on exchange rates was another vital aspect of France's reform agenda³⁰. The value of currencies in international markets can have far-reaching implications for trade balances, capital flows, and overall economic performance. By fostering better communication and cooperation among the G20 nations, France aimed to minimize instances of competitive devaluations of currency manipulation, which can lead to harmful trade practices and exacerbate economic tensions³¹.

Furthermore, the French presidency recognized the importance of protecting emerging economies from sudden and massive withdrawals of international capital³². Such events, often triggered by external economic shocks or shifts in investor sentiment, can lead to severe financial crises and negatively impact the stability of emerging markets. To mitigate this risk, France advocated for designing mechanisms like international guarantees and multilateral instruments that could provide a safety net and bolster investor confidence in emerging economies³³. In pursuit of a more resilient international monetary system, France also promoted the diversification of foreign exchange reserves and the currencies used for the denomination of commodities³⁴. The overreliance on a single currency for international trade settlements and reserve holdings can expose countries to undue risks, particularly if the value of that currency experiences significant fluctuations. By encouraging diversification, France aimed to enhance the stability and resilience of the global financial system³⁵. Lastly, France's reform agenda included reviewing the

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ OECD. (2023). Cannes - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Oecd.org.

<https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/cannes/g20cannessummitpriorities.htm> ; CONFÉRENCE DE PRESSE DE M. LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. (2011). DOSSIER DE PRESSE. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-g20-g8_dossier_presse.pdf
(English Translation not available)

³² Ibid

³³ Ibid

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ Ibid

conventional doctrine of free capital flows through the establishment of new multilateral rules³⁶. While capital flows are essential for international investments and economic growth, unregulated or unfettered capital movements can lead to speculative bubbles, financial crises, and increased vulnerabilities in the IMS. Through multilateral rules, France sought to strike a balance between promoting capital mobility and ensuring adequate safeguards to prevent destabilizing financial flows.

2. Enhancing Financial Regulation, especially in non-banking financial institutions³⁷

France placed significant emphasis on addressing crucial issues related to global financial stability and regulation, during its presidency³⁸. One of the most pressing priorities for France during this time was to bolster financial regulation, with a particular focus on non-banking financial institutions³⁹. These entities, often referred to as shadow banks, play a vital role in the financial system but are not subject to the same level of oversight as traditional banks. Recognizing their growing significance and potential risks they might pose to the global economy, France sought to ensure that they were subject to appropriate regulatory measures⁴⁰.

To achieve this goal, France engaged in extensive consultations with other G20 member countries, international organizations like The United Nations, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, etc., and financial industry experts to develop comprehensive and effective regulatory frameworks⁴¹. These frameworks aimed to address potential vulnerabilities, close regulatory loopholes, and enhance the overall resilience of the financial system.

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ OECD. (2023). Cannes - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Oecd.org. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/cannes/g20cannessummitpriorities.htm> ; CONFÉRENCE DE PRESSE DE M. LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. (2011). DOSSIER DE PRESSE. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-g20-g8_dossier_presse.pdf (English Translation not available)

⁴⁰ Ibid

⁴¹ IMF, I. M. F. (n.d.). IMF staff reports for the G-20 Mutual Assessment Process. Group of Twenty : IMF. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/110411.pdf>

3. Collaborative Approaches for Mitigating Commodity Price Volatility and Strengthening Global Food Security⁴²

Addressing the issues of excessive commodity price volatility and food insecurity was another major objective of the Cannes G20 Summit⁴³. These issues have far reaching consequences on economies, societies and individuals worldwide. The summit's discussions majorly focused on the crucial need to develop solutions that would effectively address volatile commodity prices and ensure a more stable agricultural environment⁴⁴. A key aspect in achieving this goal was the need for a better organization of markets for these products⁴⁵. Organization of these markets aimed to create a more transparent, efficient, and fair trading system that would benefit producers, consumers, and all stakeholders⁴⁶.

In addition to addressing the organization of agricultural markets, the Cannes G20 Summit also highlighted the importance of regulating derivative markets in raw materials⁴⁷. Although they are useful tools for risk management, derivatives are increasingly the target of speculative practices that could make volatility in commodity prices worse⁴⁸. As a response, the summit emphasized the significance of an enhanced regulatory framework that would curb excessive speculation in raw materials⁴⁹. By allowing legitimate hedging operations while prohibiting destabilizing speculation, this regulation tried to find a compromise.⁵⁰

Furthermore, the summit recognized that energy price volatility posed a distinct yet interconnected challenge⁵¹. The discussions at Cannes revolved around developing strategies for efficiently reducing the swings in energy prices⁵². The G20 leaders intended to explore policies that could

⁴² OECD. (2023). Cannes - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Oecd.org. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/cannes/g20cannessummitpriorities.htm> ; CONFÉRENCE DE PRESSE DE M. LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. (2011). DOSSIER DE PRESSE. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-g20-g8_dossier_presse.pdf (English Translation not available)

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ OECD. (2023). Cannes - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Oecd.org. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/cannes/g20cannessummitpriorities.htm> ; CONFÉRENCE DE PRESSE DE M. LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. (2011). DOSSIER DE PRESSE. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-g20-g8_dossier_presse.pdf (English Translation not available)

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Ibid

improve market stability in the energy sector since they understood how energy costs affect businesses, economies, and consumers alike⁵³. These measures included initiatives like diversification of energy sources, investment in renewable energy technologies, and the development of mechanisms to manage and stabilize energy prices⁵⁴.

4. Support employment and Strengthen Social Dimension of Globalization⁵⁵

The Cannes Summit's agenda also focused on addressing and enhancing the various dimensions of globalization with a particular emphasis on employment and social considerations⁵⁶. In order to accomplish this, the members of G20 adopted a comprehensive strategy which focused on four key priority objectives⁵⁷. These objectives included, i) employment of the young and vulnerable section of the population, ii) solidify the foundation of social protection measures, iii) uphold the tenets of social and labor rights, iv) foster a higher degree of coherence among the strategies put forth by international organizations⁵⁸.

The French presidency promoted a broad strategy to increase employment prospects worldwide throughout the summit. Young people and others in vulnerable economic conditions received special attention⁵⁹. The leadership understood that empowering these groups would not only ease the hardships they were currently experiencing, but would also help ensure the long-term stability of economies and communities all across the world⁶⁰. The summit sought to establish a more inclusive and sustainable global economic landscape by coming up with solutions that took into account the particular difficulties these groups faced⁶¹. Moreover, the French presidency emphasized the importance of creating a strong social protection system in accordance with its commitment to enhancing the social aspects of globalization⁶². The summit discussed ways to combine these protective measures because it was recognized that a resilient society needs

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Ibid

⁵⁵ Ibid

⁵⁶ Ibid

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ OECD. (2023). Cannes - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Oecd.org.

<https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/cannes/g20cannessummitpriorities.htm> ; CONFÉRENCE DE PRESSE DE M. LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. (2011). DOSSIER DE PRESSE. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-g20-g8_dossier_presse.pdf
(English Translation not available)

⁵⁹ Ibid

⁶⁰ Ibid

⁶¹ Ibid

⁶² Ibid

safeguards to protect people from diverse dangers and insecurity⁶³. This included talks of the need for social safety nets, healthcare, and unemployment compensation, all of which were viewed as essential elements of an all-encompassing social protection system⁶⁴.

Furthermore, the summit's agenda placed a strong emphasis on upholding social and labor rights⁶⁵. The participating nations emphasized the significance of safeguarding fundamental labor rights and ideals⁶⁶. They sought to advance international discourse and support the adoption of policies that protected the rights and dignity of employees across a range of businesses and sectors since it was recognised that treating workers fairly and justly was crucial for sustainable development⁶⁷. Furthermore, the summit also acknowledged the need for aligning the strategies suggested by international organizations like the International Labor Organization, United Nations, etc in order to achieve efficient cooperation and coherence in attaining these goals⁶⁸. It aimed to develop a more streamlined and uniform strategy for addressing employment and social concerns on a worldwide scale by coordinating the work of these organizations⁶⁹.

5. Fight Against Corruption⁷⁰

Finally, the G20 leaders also discussed strengthening their adherence to the anti-corruption action plan that was previously endorsed at the G20 summit in Seoul, South Korea (2010)⁷¹. The summit's overarching objective was to ensure that this action plan translated into tangible outcomes and substantial progress as the year commenced. Central to the G20's stance on fighting corruption was its recognition that this commitment was a crucial part of a long-term, global strategy to improve the business environment, reduce tax evasion, and strengthen the rule of law⁷². The G20 leaders recognized that fighting corruption was an essential part of the larger effort to promote economic fairness and stability rather than just a stand-alone activity.⁷³ The French presidency,

⁶³ Ibid

⁶⁴ Ibid

⁶⁵ Ibid

⁶⁶ Ibid

⁶⁷ Ibid

⁶⁸ OECD. (2023). Cannes - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Oecd.org.

<https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/cannes/g20cannessummitpriorities.htm> ; CONFÉRENCE DE PRESSE DE M. LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. (2011). DOSSIER DE PRESSE. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-g20-g8_dossier_presse.pdf (English Translation not available)

⁶⁹ Ibid

⁷⁰ Ibid

⁷¹ Ibid

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ Ibid

which worked relentlessly to guarantee that the Anti-Corruption Action Plan evolved from merely words on paper to a revolutionary force across international economies, underlined this strategic approach⁷⁴.

With its dedication and vision, the French presidency was instrumental in advancing anti-corruption initiatives. France aimed to create a strong structure that would permit real-world improvements through strategic negotiations, rigorous planning, and encouraging international cooperation⁷⁵. The goal was to provide a setting where fraudulent conduct and corrupt practices were consistently rejected, paving the path for more ethical and transparent corporate practices all over the world⁷⁶.

The G20's commitment to fighting corruption during France's leadership was not a lone initiative. It was carefully woven into the fabric of more general policy goals, which included improving the business climate, combating tax evasion, and bolstering the rule of law. This all-encompassing strategy showed that people realized the fight against corruption couldn't be conducted in a vacuum; it had to be woven into the larger framework of economic governance.

As the G20 Summit in Cannes came to an end, the world saw a united front against corruption, a sign of the member countries' shared resolve. The G20 reaffirmed its commitment to fighting corruption under the French presidency, making sure that the Anti-Corruption Action Plan didn't just become a declaration but really resulted in real change⁷⁷. The summit in 2011 was a substantial advancement, laying the groundwork for a more open, equitable, and responsible international economic environment.

⁷⁴ Ibid

⁷⁵ Ibid

⁷⁶ Ibid

⁷⁷ OECD. (2023). Cannes - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Oecd.org. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/cannes/g20cannessummitpriorities.htm> ; CONFÉRENCE DE PRESSE DE M. LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. (2011). DOSSIER DE PRESSE. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-g20-g8_dossier_presse.pdf (English Translation not available)

The Impact of French Domestic Policy on G20 Agendas

France's vision for the future in the G20 reflects its long-standing commitment to international cooperation, equity, and sustainable progress. By leveraging its rich history, present strategies, and projected contributions, France is well-positioned to play a crucial role in the G20's pursuit for a peaceful and prosperous future. Historically, France had a strong labor protection system; however, with the changing nature of the global economy, reforms have become increasingly important to maintaining competitiveness and sustainability⁷⁸. France's labor market under President Emmanuel Macron saw significant changes in 2017.

These changes were made to:

1. **Flexibility and security:** Making it easier for businesses to hire and, if required, fire people by simplifying the labor code.
2. **Encouraging Social Dialogue:** Promoting direct discussions between companies and employees by giving company-level agreements the first priority above sector-wide accords.
3. **Unemployment Benefits:** Extension of unemployment benefits to resigning employees and company owners.

Policies to combat terrorism:

In the late 2010s, France started to become a common target for terrorist attacks. In response, the country took significant steps to strengthen its internal security system. In 2017, the "loi renforçant la sécurité intérieure et la lutte contre le terrorisme" (law reinforcing internal security and combating terrorism) was passed⁷⁹. Goals of the law were:

1. **Preventing Radicalization:** Combating radical narratives, particularly in jails and on the internet, is a strategy for preventing radicalization.

⁷⁸ France is Building Resilience Through Bold Reforms. (2023, February). IMF. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/01/27/cf-france-is-building-resilience-through-bold-reforms>

⁷⁹ LOI n° 2017-1510 du 30 octobre 2017 renforçant la sécurité intérieure et la lutte contre le terrorisme (1) - Légifrance. (2017). Gov.fr. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000035932811/>

2. **Enhanced Surveillance:** Giving law enforcement authorities the authority to track and respond to potential security concerns is known as "enhanced surveillance."
3. **Securing Public Spaces:** Increasing security at events and in exposed public spaces.

Impact on G20:

Economic Resilience and Labour Reforms: France's labour reforms are consistent with the G20's overarching goal of promoting economic resilience on a global scale. France stressed the importance of labour market reforms for steady economic growth during its G20 presidency⁸⁰. The G20's larger approach to building a balanced global economic environment, where corporations prosper without compromising workers' rights, was reflected in France's domestic policy changes that encouraged flexibility and communication.

Counterterrorism and International Security: Terrorism is a worldwide problem, not just a national one. The internal counterterrorism tactics of France have influenced its G20 strategy. The country has constantly pushed for increased international cooperation to stop the financing of terrorism⁸¹. The G20 made a commitment to strengthening international cooperation and information sharing in response to the urgent issues raised by members like France.

By increasing flexibility and encouraging conversation, France's labor reforms serve as a model for other G20 countries struggling to modernize their labor markets while preserving worker security. The G20's goals of sustainable and inclusive growth are mirrored by the labour market's emphasis on adaptability and resilience⁸². Similar to this, France's strict counterterrorism policies highlight the need for a cooperative approach to international security. France assists the G20 in developing comprehensive and effective policies that promote both economic growth and global security by sharing its experiences, methods, and difficulties.

⁸⁰ Mistral, J. (2012). The G20 and the Reform of the International Monetary System. *Journal of Globalization and Development*, 2(2). <https://doi.org/10.1515/1948-1837.1245>

⁸¹ The Fight against Terrorism. (2014). France ONU. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/The-Fight-against-Terrorism>

⁸² Towards an Inclusive Future: Shaping the World of Work. (2017). www.g20.org. https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/about_g20/previous_summit_documents/2017/G20%202017%20Labour%20Ministerial.pdf

Domestic policies frequently have effects that are seen internationally even though they are designed to address particular national concerns. France has contributed vital knowledge and guidance to the G20 objectives through its labor market reforms and counterterrorism initiatives. These national initiatives, developed in response to France's particular problems and answers, support a collaborative strategy for addressing common global concerns by enhancing the G20 discourse and making it deeper and more informed.

Potential Pathway for France

Given its status as one of the top economies in the world and its long history in international diplomacy, France's participation in the G20 has continuously been crucial. The G20, which serves as the principal international forum for economic cooperation, typically incorporates the most important political and economic insights of its members, with France contributing insightful viewpoints. Here we take a reference from France's past achievements and state its possible actions for the upcoming G20 meetings.

1. Supporting International Tax Reforms:

One of France's most notable contributions to recent G20 summits has been its advocacy for global tax reforms, particularly with regard to IT companies. France and Germany led discussions about the need to reach an agreement on the taxation of digital giants by 2020 during the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Fukuoka, Japan, in 2019⁸³. This movement followed France's own initiatives to levy a digital tax on firms like Google, Amazon, and Facebook, calling for a just contribution from digital firms to the public coffers. Many countries struggle with how to make sure these organizations make appropriate contributions to the public coffers in light of the growing power of digital behemoths. France's advocacy of global tax reforms may contribute to more equitable wealth distribution.

⁸³ OECD Secretary-General Tax Report to G20 Finance Ministers (2023). Retrieved 30 August 2019, from <https://www.oecd.org/tax/oecd-secretary-general-tax-report-g20-finance-ministers-june-2019.pdf>

2. **Commitment to Sustainable financing:** Under President Emmanuel Macron's direction, France has emphasized the value of sustainable growth and green financing. France played a key role in pushing for the continuance of climate finance at the 2018 G20 summit in Buenos Aires, highlighting the necessity of matching financial flows with the objectives of the Paris Agreement⁸⁴. Ecosystems and economies around the world are under peril from climate change's rising speed. If widely adopted, France's emphasis on coordinating financial flows with the goals of the Paris Agreement can direct investments towards green technologies and sustainable business sectors.

3. **Digital Inclusion and Innovation:** France has emphasized the significance of utilizing technology for growth while ensuring digital inclusion because it recognizes the transformative potential of the digital revolution. France emphasized the value of AI, digital trust, and the data economy at the G20 Digital Economy Task Force meeting in 2019 and pushed for a human-centric approach to digital innovation⁸⁵. The difficulties of job displacement and rising digital disparities are brought on by the rapid rate of digital development. The promotion of a human-centered approach to digital innovation by France ensures that employment opportunities and inclusivity are not sacrificed in the name of progress in technology.

4. **Fighting Terrorism Financing:** Given the security issues France has experienced over the past ten years, counterterrorism has been a top priority for the country. The G20 has been actively urged by France to implement stricter steps to stop the financing of terrorism. For instance, the G20 established an action plan to enhance measures against the worldwide financing of militant activities during the 2017 Hamburg summit, with major involvement from France⁸⁶. International peace and security are threatened by the globalization of extremist beliefs and the ensuing terrorist activity. The G20 can stop the flow of funding to terrorist organizations by enacting strict anti-terror finance regulations, as advocated by France.

⁸⁴ The G20 Summit in Buenos Aires: putting multilateralism high on France's. (2023, August 30). France in Brunei Darussalam; France Diplomatie - MEAE. <https://bn.ambafrance.org/The-G20-Summit-in-Buenos-Aires-putting-multilateralism-high-on-France-s>

⁸⁵ Digitalisation and Innovation - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2016). Oecd.org. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/digitalisation-and-innovation/>

⁸⁶ G20 Statement on the Fight Against Terrorism | 1 G20 STATEMENT ON THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM. (n.d.). <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/antalya/G20-Statement-on-the-Fight-Against-Terrorism.pdf>

Conclusion: France's Future Vision in the G20: Approaches and Potentials

France has played a crucial role in the G20 as one of the top economies in the world and a country with a rich history of diplomacy, culture, and government. What vision does France have for the G20's future, though, as the problems of the twenty-first century become more interwoven and complex? We may acquire a thorough grasp of France's intended role in determining the future G20 agenda by looking at its historical approach, current strategies, and possible contributions. France has always been a shining example of liberty, equality, and brotherhood. France has constantly demonstrated a commitment to creating a just, inclusive, and sustainable global order, from the French Revolution to its post-war reconstruction⁸⁷. The vision of France in the G20 is built upon this legacy of equality and global cooperation.

The globe has faced many difficulties recently, including financial crises, pandemics, climate change, and technological advancements. France has continuously supported multilateralism within the G20 and joint solutions to key global concerns⁸⁸. For instance, President Emmanuel Macron has often emphasized the value of international cooperation, saying that "our challenges are global and can only be addressed through joint action"⁸⁹. Promoting global economic stability is one of the G20's core philosophies. France is in a prime position to play a crucial role in guiding the G20 towards a more equitable economic architecture because it championed global financial rules during its 2011 chairmanship. France wants to make sure that the global economic recovery is both robust and equitable by promoting debt relief for developing countries and highlighting the function of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) at the International Monetary Fund⁹⁰.

France's dedication to halting climate change, as seen by its participation in the Paris Agreement, highlights its commitment to the G20 framework and its vision for a sustainable future. France may influence the G20 to make more significant and collective environmental commitments in light of mounting climate catastrophe concerns by mobilizing both technology and funding to meet

⁸⁷ Fenby, J. (2015). *The History of Modern France*. Simon & Schuster Limited. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25401920>

⁸⁸ G20 Cannes Summit 2011. (2019). Utoronto.ca. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2011cannes.html>

⁸⁹ Borger, J. (2018, December). "I am worried": Macron's chat with Saudi prince captured at G20. *The Guardian*; *The Guardian*.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/30/macron-saudi-arabia-mbs-conversation-g20-summit-caught-on-mic>

⁹⁰ France commits to UNCTAD on public debt management | DMFAS. (2020). Unctad.org. <https://unctad.org/dmfas/France-UNCTAD-DMFAS#:~:text=%22In%20response%20to%20the%20increasing,countries%2C%20namely%20the%20Debt%20Service>

global climate goals. France recognizes the revolutionary power of technology in a world that is quickly going digital. France wants a G20 that welcomes the digital age and makes sure it benefits all of humanity by supporting digital inclusivity, data privacy, and cybersecurity⁹¹. In addition, France's desire for a universal digital taxation system underscores its goal of a just digital economy that equally enhances public wellbeing⁹².

Due to its diverse population and rich cultural legacy, France is particularly positioned to promote intercultural communication and understanding within the G20. By using its soft power, France can promote a sense of world solidarity and make sure that the G20's policies are supported by a variety of global populations. Uncertainties and complexity will surely characterize the G20's future. However, France's proactive approach to tackling global issues places it in a position to lead in developing the G20's long-term strategy. France can influence the G20 towards solutions that are both imaginative and practical by supporting research, encouraging innovation, and emphasizing youth engagement.

France's long-standing dedication to international cooperation, equity, and sustainable progress is reflected in its vision for the future in the G20. France is positioned to play a pivotal role in the G20's quest for a peaceful and prosperous future by drawing on its rich history, current tactics, and anticipated contributions.

⁹¹ 2019 Annual Report of the Ambassador for digital affairs. (2019). France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs; France Diplomacy. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/digital-diplomacy/news/article/2019-annual-report-of-the-ambassador-for-digital-affairs>

⁹² Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project Public Consultation Document ADDRESSING THE TAX CHALLENGES OF THE DIGITALISATION OF THE ECONOMY. (2019). <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/public-consultation-document-addressing-the-tax-challenges-of-the-digitalisation-of-the-economy.pdf>

Bibliography

- G20. (2022). About G20. G20. <https://www.g20.org/en/about-g20>
- Lagarde, C., & Lagarde, C. (2023). French Priorities for the G20: The Choice of Ambition. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. <https://carnegieendowment.org/2010/10/07/french-priorities-for-g20-choice-of-ambition-event-304>
- Ambassador Levitte, J. - D. (2011). G20 Summit at Cannes: priorities, challenges and actions. International Labour Organisation. <https://doi.org/IL0/11/7>
- Lagarde, C., & Lagarde, C. (2023). French Priorities for the G20: The Choice of Ambition. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. <https://carnegieendowment.org/2010/10/07/french-priorities-for-g20-choice-of-ambition-event-304>
- Investopedia Team. (2023). 2008 Recession: What it Was and What Caused It. Investopedia. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/great-recession.asp#:~:text=The%20Great%20Recession%20refers%20to,Great%20Depression%20of%20the%201930s.>
- Ambassador Levitte, J. - D. (2011). G20 Summit at Cannes: priorities, challenges and actions. International Labour Organisation. <https://doi.org/IL0/11/7>
- Interview given by Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the Republic, to the Indian Newspaper "The Hindu" : 04 December 2010. (2014). La France En Inde / France in India. <https://in.ambafrance.org/Interview-given-by-Nicolas-Sarkozy>
- Cannes Summit Outcomes. (2013). Utoronto.ca. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-g20-france-outcomes.html>
- The Constitution of the Fifth Republic. (2012, November 20). Elysee.fr. <https://www.elysee.fr/en/french-presidency/constitution-of-4-october-1958>
- The Old Regime and the Revolution (1856) | Online Library of Liberty. (2023). Libertyfund.org. <https://oll.libertyfund.org/title/tocqueville-the-old-regime-and-the-revolution-1856>
- Seattle Times staff. (2007, May 16). Chirac appeals for national unity. The Seattle Times. <https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/chirac-appeals-for-national-unity/>
- Hilimoniuk, R. (2011). 2011 G20 Plans and Preparations. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/g20plans/g20plans110915.pdf>
- Press Release: Statement by IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde on the G-20 Cannes Summit. (2011, November 4). IMF. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2015/09/14/01/49/pr11395>
- Foucault, M., Gordon, C., Marshall, L., Mephram, J., & Soper, K. (1980). POWER/KNOWLEDGE. https://monoskop.org/images/5/5d/Foucault_Michel_Power_Knowledge_Selected_Interviews_and_Other_Writings_1972-1977.pdf
- de, M. (2019). France's action in climate negotiations . France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs; France Diplomacy. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/the-fight-against-climate-change/international-climate-change/article/france-s-action-in-climate-negotiations#:~:text=Since%20COP21%2C%20the%20implementation%20of,It%20aims%20to%3A&text=Encourage%20the%20implementation%20of%20national,climate%20goals%20in%20all%20fields.>
- Piketty, T. (2014). Capital in the Twenty-First Century. <https://dowbor.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/14Thomas-Piketty.pdf>
- G20 India. (2022). About G20. G20.org. <https://www.g20.org/en/about-g20/#:~:text=The%20G20%20was%20upgraded%20to,leadership%20of%20a%20rotating%20Presidency>
- The Investopedia Team. (2023, April 30). 2008 Recession: What it Was and What Caused It. Investopedia. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/great-recession.asp>
- OECD. (2023). Cannes - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Oecd.org. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/cannes/g20cannessummitpriorities.htm> ; CONFÉRENCE DE PRESSE DE M. LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE. (2011). DOSSIER DE PRESSE. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-g20-g8_dossier_presse.pdf (English Translation not available)
- IMF, I. M. F. (n.d.). IMF staff reports for the G-20 Mutual Assessment Process. Group of Twenty : IMF. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/110411.pdf>
- France is Building Resilience Through Bold Reforms. (2023, February). IMF. <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2023/01/27/cf-france-is-building-resilience-through-bold-reforms>
- LOI n° 2017-1510 du 30 octobre 2017 renforçant la sécurité intérieure et la lutte contre le terrorisme (1) - Légifrance. (2017). Gouv.fr. <https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/IORFTEXT000035932811/>
- Mistral, J. (2012). The G20 and the Reform of the International Monetary System. Journal of Globalization and Development, 2(2). <https://doi.org/10.1515/1948-1837.1245>
- The Fight against Terrorism. (2014). France ONU. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/The-Fight-against-Terrorism>
- Towards an Inclusive Future: Shaping the World of Work . (2017). Wwww.g20.org. https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/about_g20/previous_summit_documents/2017/G20%202017%20Labour%20Ministerial.pdf
- OECD Secretary-General Tax Report to G20 Finance Ministers (2023). Retrieved 30 August 2019, from <https://www.oecd.org/tax/oecd-secretary-general-tax-report-g20-finance-ministers-june-2019.pdf>
- The G20 Summit in Buenos Aires: putting multilateralism high on France's. (2023, August 30). France in Brunei Darussalam; France Diplomatie - MEAE. <https://bn.ambafrance.org/The-G20-Summit-in-Buenos-Aires-putting-multilateralism-high-on-France-s>
- Digitalisation and Innovation - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2016). Oecd.org. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/digitalisation-and-innovation/>
- G20 Statement on the Fight Against Terrorism | 1 G20 STATEMENT ON THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM. (n.d.). <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/antalya/G20-Statement-on-the-Fight-Against-Terrorism.pdf>

- Fenby, J. (2015). The History of Modern France. Simon & Schuster Limited. <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/25401920>
- G20 Cannes Summit 2011. (2019). Utoronto.ca. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2011cannes.html>
- Borger, J. (2018, December). "I am worried": Macron's chat with Saudi prince captured at G20. The Guardian; The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/30/macron-saudi-arabia-mbs-conversation-g20-summit-caught-on-mic>
- France commits to UNCTAD on public debt management | DMFAS. (2020). Unctad.org. <https://unctad.org/dmfas/France-UNCTAD-DMFAS#:~:text=%22In%20response%20to%20the%20increasing,countries%2C%20namely%20the%20Debt%20Service>
- 2019 Annual Report of the Ambassador for digital affairs. (2019). France Diplomacy - Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs; France Diplomacy. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/digital-diplomacy/news/article/2019-annual-report-of-the-ambassador-for-digital-affairs>
- Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project Public Consultation Document ADDRESSING THE TAX CHALLENGES OF THE DIGITALISATION OF THE ECONOMY. (2019). <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/public-consultation-document-addressing-the-tax-challenges-of-the-digitalisation-of-the-economy.pdf>