

Seoul mates

The G20 Summit in Seoul is approaching; diplomatic activity is intensifying, orchestrated by the active South Korean Chair. Expectations as to what can be achieved, and what the G20 should take on, vary widely.

The G20 as a forum for heads of state and government emerged out of crisis. It played an important role in catalyzing coordinated responses to the global economic and financial meltdown in 2008. It may again have to play a crisis role, given the currency conflict emerging between the US and China. The Summit may even bring that to a head.

Questions about the status of the G20 abound. Should it be institutionalized? At the moment it is not. Some mechanism for ensuring continuity between meetings and making sure that decisions are implemented is needed. But giving it a permanent secretariat might create more problems than it solves, such as overlap with other bodies, more meetings, costs.

Does it have political legitimacy? Certainly more so than the G8, but it still excludes most of the world's countries. Africans are invitees; not members. To increase its legitimacy, a more robust formula needs to be found to ensure that the least developed and African countries are full payers, not add-ins.

This is particularly so given the addition of a development dimension to the G20 agenda. Mandated in Toronto, the Koreans with their own extraordinary development experience in the last 50 years, see this as both a practical necessity and a moral responsibility. What is the value the G20 can add to global development? Not aid mobilization – that's the G8's and OECD DAC's domain. Nor in somehow becoming a development body in its own right.

It should be in areas where the G20 membership gives it added value: preserving financial stability as a global public good; the heft to reform global and economic governance, especially the IFIs; to ensure safety nets and support for developing countries hammered by global shocks; to unblock the Doha trade logjam; and politically to turbo-charge existing or nascent initiatives to increase investment and partnerships around specific economic development priorities, including infrastructure, clean energy and agricultural productivity.

Africa can and should influence this agenda, and the Koreans' door is open. A coordinated approach and strong voice on these issues would help set the bar for judging the success of the Summit.

News Overview

[Kenya's new constitution has turned out to be a dilemma for architects of regional integration](#) as fears mount that the new structures of governance are seen as potentially undermining the spirit of the East African Community treaty.

The recently released [2010 Ibrahim Index](#) shows a mixed picture of African governance. [The survey suggests that economic development and quality of life is improving in Africa](#). However, [the areas of human rights, safety and rule of law seem to be in decline or stagnant](#).

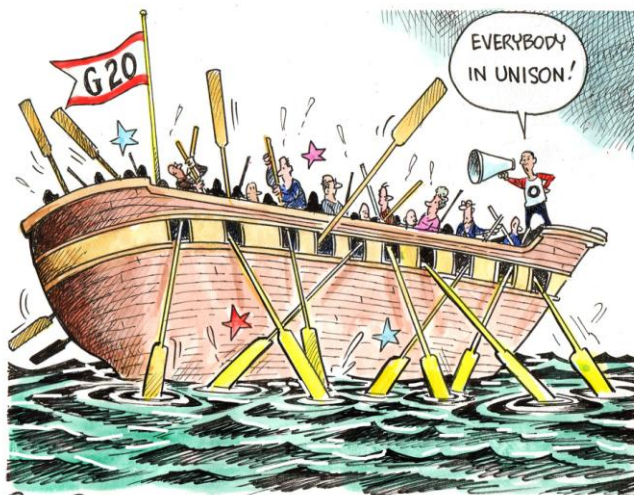
[Finance ministers at last week's G-20 meeting in Washington failed to reach any conclusions](#) about how to handle [currency disputes](#), but gave the IMF a mandate to deal with the main actors in the dispute that risk overshadowing the upcoming G20 Summit in South Korea at which [some feel the issue should not be discussed](#).

[Zimbabwe's power-sharing government is in crisis as the MDC leader and PM Morgan Tsvangirai accuse President Mugabe of breaking the constitution](#) by unilaterally appointing senior public servants. [Both principals have recently issued separate call for new elections](#). This is widely expected to cause all sorts of problems for all three political parties that constitute the coalition government.

In Sudan, the [latest round of talks over the future of the oil-producing Abyei region has failed to lead to an agreement](#). The issue also stands as a key hurdle ahead of the forthcoming referendum on [southern Sudan's independence from the north](#).

[Al-Qaeda's activities in Sahel are threatening Guinea's and Côte d'Ivoire's attempts to get out of political and military turmoil](#) and may cause unprecedented military build-ups in other countries from the Sahel-Saharan area (Article in French).

ECOWAS President urges West African governments to address the growing pace of [organized crime which threatens to wipe out all the political, social, economic and other gains achieved since the waves of reforms and renaissance in the region](#).



Source: Daryl Cagle

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G8/G20 Update

AUSTRALIA

[Australia will increase support in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria by committing \\$210m to the Global Fund](#)

[Australia will be investing \\$60m in GAVI to provide children in developing countries life saving vaccines](#)

BASIC

[The BASIC group calls for the \\$30 billion fast-start finance to be made available as soon as possible to enable success in Cancun](#)

CANADA

[Canada will continue its support to GAVI with a contribution of \\$50m over five years to help prevent deaths of millions of children through immunization efforts](#)

EU

[EU and Libya agree on a Migration Cooperation Agenda and increased financial support for Libya amounting to a total of €60m](#)

[The EU says it's making deeper emission cuts than promised and will meet its commitments to climate change under the Kyoto Protocol](#)

JAPAN

[The Government of Japan announces that it will make contributions to the Global Fund amounting to \\$800m in the coming years from 2011](#)

UK

[The UK will improve school attendance in high risk countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia and Niger with up to 25% by tackling treatable diseases](#)

[The UK plans to intensify its work with business and enterprise as part of the battle against poverty in least developed countries](#)

USA

[USAID announces major expansion of its global food aid programme, benefitting approximately 56 million people in 49 countries during 2009](#)

[The United States launches a Program aimed to bring together women and mobile technology to advance gender equality and development](#)

[The Obama Administration pledges \\$4 billion for the Global Fund for 2011 through 2013](#)

[The Coca-Cola Company, in collaboration with USAID, has launched a \\$1.5 million safe drinking water and sanitation programme in Ghana](#)

Reports

The WEF has launched its annual [Gender Gap Report](#), revealing Lesotho and South Africa as the top African countries in the Gender Gap Index

A new tool launched by the CGD- "[Quality of Official Development Assistance \(QuODA\)](#)" assesses the quality of development assistance using 30 indicators in four dimensions that reflect international consensus of what constitutes high-quality aid.

[Africa scores low on oil transparency](#) with Equatorial Guinea, DRC, Tanzania and Ghana being cited as countries with scant revenue transparency in Africa, according to the [Revenue Watch Index](#).

According to an [independent audit by Tulane University](#), [West Africa's Coca industry is still trafficking children and using forced labor](#) despite nearly a decade of efforts to eliminate the practices.

**GENDER GAP:
TOP TEN COUNTRIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

Country	Score	Rank
Lesotho	0.7678	8
South Africa	0.7535	12
Mozambique	0.7329	22
Namibia	0.7238	25
Uganda	0.7169	33
Botswana	0.6876	62
Tanzania	0.6829	66
Malawi	0.6824	68
Ghana	0.6782	70
Gambia, The	0.6762	75

Source: WEF - Global Gender Gap Report 2010

Election Watch

Guinea is poised to hold long-delayed presidential elections on 24 October, marking the country's first free and fair vote after half-a-century of dictatorship. Although the first round in June was largely deemed transparent, the country has since been plunged into crisis after the government and the leading candidates could not agree on a date for the run-off.

Niger will hold a referendum on a new constitution on 31 October. Over 6.7 million Nigeriens are expected to vote ahead of general elections scheduled early next year to transfer power from the military junta that toppled President Mamadou Tandja in February to a civilian government.

Tanzania will elect a new Union President, National Assembly, Zanzibar President and Zanzibar House of Representatives on 31 October. Current President Jakaya Kikwete is widely expected to be re-elected as Tanzania's 18 opposition parties have failed to utilize growing voter discontent with his government.

Côte d'Ivoire's presidential elections originally scheduled for November 2009 will be held on 31 October. The UN is reinforcing its mission UNOCI in an attempt to prevent the outbreak of any election-related violence.

Multilateral Organizations

AfDB

[AfDB and the European Investment Bank \(EIB\) will provide €45m to finance the first large scale wind farm in Africa](#)

[AfDB approves a \\$237.2m debt relief for Liberia](#)

AU

[The AU outlines its role in peace and security on the African continent](#)

EAC

[The EAC develops a climate change policy](#) and plans to establish a fund that would help partner states to adapt to climate change

GLOBAL FUND

Despite increases from donors [the Global Fund failed to reach its lowest fund-raising target of \\$13 billion](#), only reaching \$11.7 billion - an amount insufficient to put patients on treatment at current rates

IMF

[2010 IMFC Annual Meetings Communiqué](#)

UN

The new WFP/FAO [report on the State of Food Insecurity in the World](#) says [22 countries in the world are facing long-lasting hunger crises, out of which 17 are African countries](#)

[The UN WFP announces ten new ways to end hunger](#); New [FAO report](#) makes recommendations on addressing gender issues in the context of climate change adaptation

[The UN Trust Fund will provide a \\$10m grant to fund grassroots efforts to protect women and girls](#)

[UNEP lists how to combat climate change by '30 ways in 30 days'](#)

[UN supports a \\$700m child and maternal health initiative in Zimbabwe, with the intention of raising investments in health from the current \\$9 per person to \\$44 per person](#)

United Nations Development Programme

[The UNDP launches a knowledge sharing tool with the purpose of helping businesses in their fight against poverty](#)

[UNDP, in collaboration with UNCDF, has held its first Global Forum on Local Development in Uganda, emphasizing that local development is needed for growth and reduction of disparities](#)

World Bank

[Sub-Saharan Africa gains a louder voice in the WB executive board](#)

[African Finance Ministers calls for a replacement of the WB's International Development Association \(IDA\), while the World Bank says the IDA is key for maximizing development in Africa](#)

[The World Bank says that agriculture and agri-business can have a bigger impact on Africa's development than the mobile phone boom](#)

[Africa needs to boost trade with itself as the intra-Africa trade only accounts for 10% of the regions total trade, says the WB](#)

[A World Bank water project makes clean water available in Lusaka 24 hours per day](#)

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Our hope and expectations is that the G20 discussions provide a way, a framework on how Africa and other low income countries can be part of the effort at global recovery as an additional zone of growth and demand

AfDB President Donald Kabaruka in Dinner Speech in Seoul, September 2010

In the blogs...

[World Bank Blog: Delivering Aid Differently - The New Reality of Aid](#)

This blog highlights the new realities of aid that has overtaken the traditional model of development assistance and suggests that aid must now be delivered differently.

[Poverty News Blog: 2010 Global Hunger Index](#)

According to the [2010 Global Hunger Index](#), most of the high levels of hunger are found in Africa and Southern Asia. The only three countries that have hunger levels regarded as "extremely alarming," are the Republic of Congo, Eritrea and Chad.

Calendar

13 October	International Day for Disaster Reduction
14 October	World Microfinance Forum Geneva "Future Risks & Opportunities in Investible Microfinance:" Geneva, Switzerland
14-15 October	OECD Global Forum on Trade : Chengdu, China
14-16 October	Women's Forum for the Economy and Society-Global Meeting : Deauville, France
16 October	World Food Day
19 October	Deadline for 2011 Ashden Awards for sustainable Energy
21-22 October	"Development Forum for the G20" organized by the UNRISD: Seoul, Republic of Korea
22-23 October	G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governor Meeting: Gyeongju, Korea
22-24 October	XIII Sommet de la Francophonie : Montreux, Switzerland
27-29 October	2010 African Economic Conference on "Setting the agenda for Africa's Economic Recovery and Long-term Growth:" Tunis, Tunisia

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