



REPORT

**G7/G20 & Development Cooperation Policy Priorities and the way
ahead**

Online

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Introduction

- **ETTORE GRECO** (Istituto Affari Internazionali, IAI)

The event, held on the 31st of October 2024, follows the meetings and the discussions of the G7 2024 under the Italian Presidency in the area of development, with a particular focus on the inter-ministerial meeting of the development ministers held between the 22nd and the 24th of October in Pescara. This event, organised in collaboration with civil society and think tanks serves to make an assessment of the achievements and the shortcomings of the G7 2024 Italian Presidency and to analyse the policy priorities that have been set out during the discussions within the G7 and that should be pursued in other international contexts in the future.

The other important point of discussion regards the role that the G7 and the G20 can assume in fostering cooperation between international actors in the field of development cooperation and in supporting the global sustainability agenda, and how these two institutions can build more solid interactions and improve their synergy towards common goals.

Opening Session - A Conversation on the recent G7 Development Ministerial Meeting

- **FRANCESCO RAMPA**, *G7 Sherpa Office and European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM)*
- **FERDINANDO NELLI FEROCI**, *Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)*

The focus of the first session was centred on the outcomings of the G7 2024 Italian Presidency in the area of development, and in particular to the results of the meeting held in Pescara between development ministers well summarised in the final communiqué that represents the final point of a long process of discussions and negotiations.

The important and relevant perspectives brought to the panel by the G7 Sherpa Office **Francesco Rampa** and by former Ambassador **Ferdinando Nelli Feroci** help to understand which were the priorities that were pushed forward by the Italian Presidency during the discussions. It is possible to count among them food security, particularly in relation to climate change, investments in infrastructures and education, together with global health and humanitarian issues.

The theme of food security, with investments on the development of food systems of production in more vulnerable countries, follows a series of initiatives such as the Apulia Food Systems Initiative and the Cop28 Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture,



Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action, and represents the strong effort attained by the G7 and the Italian Presidency to put Africa at the centre of its priorities.

This aim is also represented by the second priority of the meeting that is investments in infrastructures. This point is quite relevant in the face of the great number of international initiatives that have been taken in the last few years to improve the quantity of investments on infrastructures in developing countries, such as the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment (PGII), the EU Global Gateway, the US Build Back Better World, the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative and the Italian Piano Mattei.

The third theme of discussion in order of priority was Education, quite relevant in the context of the African Union year of Education, and greatly sponsored by the Italian Presidency.

The final assessment of this year's G7 was positive, especially for the great importance and the primary role that has been given to Africa and the great synergy and continuity that there was in 2024 and that there can be in 2025 between the Presidencies of G7 and G20.

In fact there can be great synergy between the G7 2024 Presidency of Italy and G7 2025 Presidency of Canada especially in the area of development and with the focus on Africa that can be very well accompanied by the work of the South Africa G20 2025 Presidency.

According to Rampa, however, there are some critical points to stress in order to make a very credible account of the initiatives taken by the G7.

For instance, the role of the G7 as a political institution, capable of taking action and being incisive, must be enhanced, also in regards to the decreased representation that its members have of the global stage, especially in terms of share of the population and of the GDP.

The G7, being a group of like minded countries, with a common view over different topics, should be more cohesive and incisive, and cooperate more with the G20 and other international partners that share its goals.

Panel Discussion

- **ELISSA GOLBERG**, *Ambassador of Canada to Italy*
- **NOSIPHO NAUSCA-JEAN JEZILE**, *Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to Italy*
- **VALERIA EMMI**, *Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) /Civil7*
- **ENRICO PETROCELLI**, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP)
- **JOHN KIRTON**, G7 Research Group, University of Toronto
- **MARCOS CARAMURU**, Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI)



Moderator: DANIELE FATTIBENE, Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), and European Think Tanks Group (ETTG)

The second part of the event was dedicated to a panel of guests that were able to bring different perspectives to the discussion, originating from their different backgrounds.

Elissa Golberg, Ambassador of Canada to Italy, stressed the importance of continuity, cooperation and synergy between the G7 Italian Presidency and the following Canadian Presidency of the G7. She assured that this will be the case also in light of the fact that the Italian Presidency of G7 was in continuity to the Canadian one of the past G7s especially in the area of development and in the priority given to the African continent.

She also underlined the relevance that a major cooperation between the G7 and the G20 should take as it would benefit both institutions, especially in areas such as food security, education and innovation, where there can be greater space of maneuver.

Nosipho Nausca-Jean Jezile, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to Italy, expressed in her intervention the political priorities that should be undertaken when talking about development for the African continent. For example, there should be a strengthening of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and of the PGII to sharpen the policy action of the African countries.

She pointed to the importance of two strategic infrastructures for the development of the African continent. The Great Green Wall, to fight food insecurity and the impact of climate change, and the connectivity infrastructures, such as roads, railroads, air and digital infrastructures. These infrastructures are not only necessary for the development and the growth of the African continent but they represent a matter of safety and security.

The approach of the South African G20 Presidency in 2025 will be characterized by a focus on solidarity, equality and sustainability, in line with the Italian Presidency of the G7.

Valeria Emmi, of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) and Civil7, brought the perspective of the civil society and reserved some critics towards the methodological approach of the G7 and also of the contents of its activities.

In particular, she had reservations concerning the scarce role that civil society had in the decision-making process, compared to the private sector, but also in the scarce consideration that was reserved to it.



This was represented by the very few times in which civil society appeared in the final communiqué of the Pescara development ministers meeting compared to the private sector.

She also stressed the risks related to large privatizations of public goods that can be brought by projects such as the Global Gateway or the PGII and the lack of a serious discussion over ODA and debt burden.

Enrico Petrocelli, Head of International Institutional Relations at Cassa Depositi e Prestiti (CDP), on the other hand underlined the significant progress that has been made in involving financial institutions and public funds in launching a series of initiatives to support investments in the sector of food, health and renewable energies especially for the African continent. At the same time, topics such as gender equality and artificial intelligence will gain more space in the future with specific initiatives addressed to them.

John Kirton, Member of the G7 Research Group, talked about the fundamental role that Canada has played in the past and is playing nowadays in shaping the initiatives within the G7, with a particular reference to development issues and commitment towards Africa. Every time that Canada has hosted a G7 there was a dedicated meeting towards development, at the same Canada has always had a great compliance over the commitments taken for development initiatives in Africa. He also recognised the great work done by the Italian Presidency and the great improvements that Italy has made in complying to its commitments within the G7, particularly in the area of development.

He also stated that the G7 2025 Canadian Presidency will be in continuity and synergy with the Italian Presidency, but the concrete impact that the G7 will have will depend on who will be the new Prime Minister of Canada in 2025 and more importantly who will be the next President of the United States of America.