



Photo: Maicon Douglas / Image rights: C20

STATEMENT

The Brazilian G20 Presidency

New momentum to overcome hunger and poverty?

Poverty and hunger as a priority

Hunger, poverty, and inequality are top priorities for Brazil's G20 agenda this year. The Brazilian presidency has announced the establishment of a **Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty**, set to launch at the G20 summit on November 18th and 19th. President Lula aims to build on the successes of his first term, during which his social policies removed Brazil from the FAO's official hunger map. Despite some progress, global efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty remain insufficient, [highlighting the urgent need for accelerated action](#). Can Brazil's commitment inspire other G20 members to intensify their efforts towards a world without hunger?

The G20

The G20 is one of the most important forums in the world. In an increasingly multipolar world, where other bodies are often blocked or not inclusive enough, its significance continues to grow. While its decisions are not legally binding, they are influential. Initially focused on financial crises, the G20 has expanded its scope to encompass many other aspects of international cooperation, including the fight against hunger.

The G20 summit and its final declaration are prepared in working groups assigned to two different negotiating tracks. The first track is led by finance ministers and central bank governors of the G20 countries. The second track, named after the governments' chief negotiators, is

known as the sherpa's track. The working groups on agriculture and development, for example, are subordinate to this sherpa track. The German sherpa is State Secretary Dr. Jörg Kukies in the Federal Chancellery.

In parallel to the core structure, interest groups, e.g. from business and science, develop recommendations that they pass on to the negotiators. The corresponding group from civil society is called Civil Society 20 (C20). The summary of the [C20 recommendations](#), to which Welthungerhilfe also contributed, is already available online. Thematic policy briefs will follow at the end of July.

How democratic are the G20?

The G20 comprises 19 countries and the EU, representing most of the world's 20 largest economic powers. Since 2023, the African Union has also been a member. Unlike the G7, the G20 includes emerging economies such as India and Brazil. However, the forum is significantly less representative than the United Nations General Assembly, where each country has one vote. For instance, South Africa is the only African country in the G20, even though 18.2% of the world's population lives in Africa – a figure that continues to grow.

G20 initiatives often fade as subsequent presidencies do not follow up on them. Each presidency has its own website, but these typically provide little information about previous decisions. There is no transparent and independent monitoring system in place, making it difficult to track commitments, such as additional funding for the fight against hunger. Nonetheless, some G20 initiatives remain

active, such as the Agricultural Market Information System, which provides valuable agricultural market information. The Development Working Group responded to this criticism by establishing its own website in 2020 and producing reports evaluating its work.

The Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty

The Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty (GAHP) aims to accelerate efforts towards SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 2 (zero hunger). Rather than duplicating existing forums, this initiative seeks to create a lean structure with three key pillars:

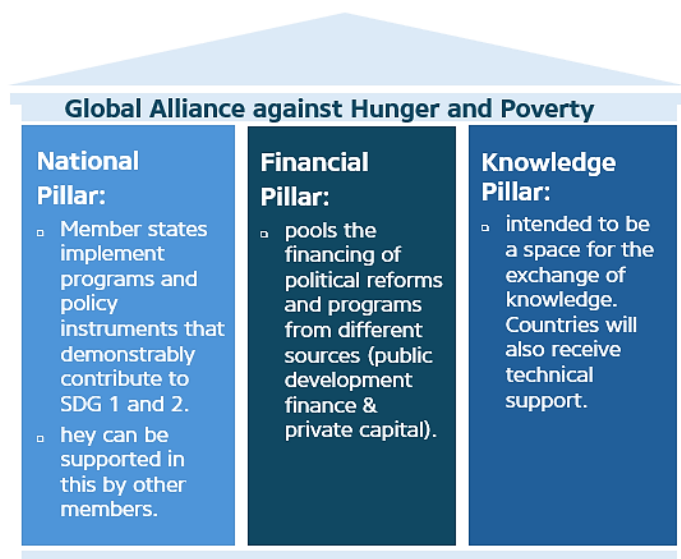


Figure 1 – The three pillars of the GAHP

Is the GAHP a new concept?

The primary international and intergovernmental platform for global food issues is the World Food Committee (CFS). However, unlike the CFS, the GAHP, as envisioned by the Brazilian government, will focus on pooling resources and implementing programs instead of developing policy guidelines and recommendations. To this end, it is setting up a “policy basket” – a digital platform providing information on effective policy instruments where member countries can offer or request support. This collaboration aims to unite poorer and richer countries in the fight against poverty and hunger. The GAHP could contribute to the central work of the CFS by using its policy recommendations as guidelines for the policy basket. Unlike the CFS, where civil society and the private sector have specific participation mechanisms, the GAHP, does not plan for the direct involvement of these groups. Whether governments will include civil society in the implementation of the GAHP programs at the national level remains to be seen and is rather unusual.

There is also a need to delineate responsibilities with the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, established by the UN Secretary-General in 2021 following the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS). As part of the summit, countries committed to developing national plans (pathways) to

transform their food systems. The work of the GAHP and the Coordination Hub could probably be integrated.

In this context, it makes sense that the German government has decided to merge the Global Alliance for Food Security (GAFS), which was founded in 2022 under the German G7 Presidency, into the GAHP at the Hamburg Sustainability Conference in October. The GAFS was unable to fulfil its ambition: it wanted to establish itself as a coordinator for emergency relief measures and at the same time form a meaningful link to the long-term transformation of food systems. How well it can be integrated into the GAHP remains an open question.

Whether the GAHP will succeed in establishing a flexible yet representative structure that strengthens the central role of the CFS remains to be seen, as does its ability to outlast future G20 presidencies. Nonetheless, Brazil’s strong commitment to overcoming hunger is a very positive sign. With its experience as an emerging economy that has successfully reduced its own hunger figures, Brazil brings significant credibility to this initiative.

Political recommendations

The G20 and the German government should:

- ensure that the GAHP and the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub strengthen the central work of CFS, avoiding duplication between these initiatives. The GAHP should align its policy basket with CFS guidelines and recommendations.
- involve civil society and farmer organizations directly in the development and implementation of policy instruments at the GAHP steering level.
- ensure that GAHP member countries provide sufficient participation opportunities for civil society and farmer organizations at the national level.
- create more transparency and accountability within the G20, e.g. by maintaining a permanent website where they regularly publish independent evaluations of their initiatives.
- involve the C20 more closely in the G20 negotiations and ensure greater participation from civil society, particularly from the Global South, in the run-up to the summit.
- make concrete commitments to achieve SDGs 1 and 2 in the final declaration and further continue to allocate 0.7% of their gross national income (GNI) to development cooperation, with 0.2% of their GNI specifically allocated to the least developed countries.

Johanna Braun

Senior Policy Advisor, Policy and External Relations
 Phone +49 30 288749 21
johanna.braun@welthungerhilfe.de
policy@welthungerhilfe.de
 Berlin, July 19, 2024

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e. V., Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 1,
 53173 Bonn, Tel. 0228 22 88-400