

## **Inclusion of African Union in G 20 and its Economic Impacts:**

Africa, with its expanding population and abundant resources, is viewed as a global development frontier. The World Bank predicts GDP growth of 3.6% in 2023 and 3.9% in 2024. However, Africa is often ignored in international governance organizations. For example, other than South Africa, no other African nation had ever belonged to the Group of Twenty (G20).

The G20 has been involved in Africa for just over ten years. Africa was first mentioned in the G20 Summit 2010, initially offering financial support to the African Development Bank and promoting regional economic integration. Over time, India has made a concerted effort to secure the African Union a seat at the G20 and finally, in September, the announcement of the AU's full membership at the Delhi Summit was made by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi

The platform will certainly provide the continent “a voice, a seat at the global high table, and leadership, where its developmental, financial, economic, and environmental concerns (The Indian Express, Sept 13, 2023). Therefore, the G20 countries are expected to provide the AU with the best possible economic empowerment in both the short and long terms.

Being a G20 member, the AU is focusing on some immediate impacts in the continent, such as infrastructure development, and access to international markets. Financial assistance from G20 member countries is also considered, particularly for Emerging Market Economies (EMEs). This will help to boost connectivity and stimulate the economy in Africa. As a result of their G20 membership, African nations may also experience an improvement in diplomatic ties. They are expected to become more well-known globally and have greater opportunities to engage in global issues.

Another immediate benefit to Africa's export potential and economic diversification can come from trade agreements, improved market access, and technology transfers. Duty-free quota-free (DFQF) trade policy and trade assistance (such as loans to regional blocs) are the two primary trade-related policy issues that African countries must address. Africa is interested in reducing trade obstacles with updated Rules of Origin, permitting the import of skills, assessing G20 initiatives for Africa, and strengthening regional integration in G20 actions.

The long run impacts are also impressive that can be summed up as under-

The G20 framework can contribute to sustainable economic growth by investing in environmentally friendly infrastructure and healthcare. Africa can also enhance its human capital development by promoting employment-relevant skills, transformative entrepreneurship training, and creative business ideas. The G20 can support Africa by reviewing its support for post-secondary education and focusing on technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programs.

In fact, African nations are actively promoting innovation and advancement in a variety of disciplines by exchanging information and cultures in the modern period. In order to address financial inequality and advance sustainable development, the G20 must remain true to its commitment to fair development, coalition building, and meaningful involvement.

❖ Views are personal.



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