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G20 Foreign Ministers' Summit in Johannesburg *Navigating Global Challenges on African Soil*

The G20 Foreign Ministers convened in Johannesburg, South Africa, on February 20-21, 2025, marking a historic first meeting on African soil. Under the theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability," the summit addressed pressing global challenges, with particular emphasis on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

This milestone gathering brought together key diplomatic figures from the world's largest economies, though notably absent was U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Despite this, South African officials declared the meeting a success, with discussions centring on multilateralism, territorial integrity, and collaborative approaches to international disputes.

The March 2025 edition of the CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) provides a nuanced overview of President Donald Trump's return to the White House. It critically examines diverse international perspectives, exploring implications across geopolitical, economic, and diplomatic landscapes, offering readers a comprehensive snapshot of emerging global shifts.

Op-eds	Key Takeaways
<p>South Africa: Call for Global Solidarity at G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting <i>www.g20.org, February 20, 2025</i></p>	<p>At the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Johannesburg, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa called for global solidarity to address pressing international challenges, emphasising the importance of cooperation and partnership among nations</p>
<p>Rubio Snubs G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in South Africa <i>Foreign Policy, February 20, 2025</i></p>	<p>U.S. Secretary of State, Marco Rubio has decided to forgo the upcoming G-20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. This decision stems from concerns over South Africa's land reform policies and its stance on Israel. The U.S. Treasury Secretary, Scott Bessent, is also expected to skip the G-20 Finance Ministers' Meeting in Cape Town, reflecting heightened tensions between the U.S. and South Africa.</p>
<p>No room for coercion: Jaishankar's veiled dig at China during G20 Ministers' meet <i>India Today, February 21, 2025</i></p>	<p>Member nations must also recognise that multilateralism itself lies deeply damaged and that the UN and its Security Council are often grid-locked, stated India's External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar In a subtle dig at China, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said there must be no room for coercion, and, in a push for plurilateralism, stressed that the global agenda cannot be narrowed down to the interests of a few.</p>
<p>EU's Kallas warns against Ukraine talks giving in to Russian aggression <i>Reuters, February 21</i></p>	<p>European Union foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas cautions that appeasing Russia in peace negotiations could embolden aggressors globally. She emphasizes that recent U.S.-Russia interactions indicate Moscow's continued pursuit of its territorial ambitions in Ukraine. Kallas advocates for increased political and economic pressure on Russia, rather than premature mediation efforts.</p>
<p>G20 urged to uphold peace and security <i>China Daily, February 22, 2025</i></p>	<p>Speaking at the G20 Ministerial Meeting, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi emphasised the importance of G20 nations collaborating to maintain global peace and stability. He advocated for the defense of multilateralism, the enhancement of the United Nations' role, and the peaceful resolution of international disputes through dialogue and negotiation and highlighted the necessity of respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity, while addressing security concerns through cooperative and political means.</p>

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<p>G20 Meeting a Success Despite US Absence, Priorities Backed www.g20.org, February 22</p>	<p>Despite the notable absence of U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the G20 Ministerial gathering was deemed successful by International Relations Minister Ronald Lamola. Both Minister Lamola and President Cyril Ramaphosa dismissed suggestions that Rubio's absence signified a U.S. boycott, noting that the U.S. was represented by embassy staff from Pretoria. The two-day meeting focused on pressing geopolitical issues, including ongoing tensions between Pretoria and Washington over interpretations of South Africa's land policy.</p>
<p>Navigating Trump's shadow: South Africa's G20 challenge <i>Samir Bhattacharya</i>, www.orfonline.org, February 24</p>	<p>The article discusses how South Africa's G20 presidency faces significant challenges due to the return of Donald Trump to the White House, which could impact global cooperation and South Africa's diplomatic agenda. It presumably analyses how Trump's "America First" policies and potential disengagement from multilateral forums might complicate South Africa's efforts to advance its priorities during its G20 presidency, particularly around issues of global reform and development.</p>