

**Embassy of India
Tokyo

**Remarks by Ambassador Sibi George for G-20 event
at the Embassy of India, Japan - January 30, 2023**

Distinguished Guests, Dear Friends,
Welcome to Embassy of India in Japan,

We have assembled today as part of the series of events that the Embassy is organizing to brief the friends of India on the ongoing G -20 meetings in India.

As you all are aware, India has assumed the G20 Presidency on December 1, 2022 at a challenging time, when the world is looking at the G20 with hope. You are all aware that the G20 brings together the 20 major economies of the world. They represent 85% of the global GDP, 75% of international trade and two-thirds of the world's population. In addition, participants in the group include the major international organizations like the UN, WTO, WHO, World Bank, IMF, ILO, ASEAN, African Union, International Solar Alliance, CDRI etc. As the host, it is also India's prerogative to invite guest nations. We have exercised that right in respect of UAE, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Egypt, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, the Netherlands and Spain. So, this is a gathering of extraordinary importance. And one that in many ways, unparalleled in our history.

There are almost 200 meetings at various other levels, from Ministers and officials to domain experts, civil society and of course, the youth. G20 meetings are held not as a Delhi-centric set of events, but one that is celebrated across the width and breadth of our country. It enables the world to know better the fullness of India's extraordinary diversity and rich heritage. To quote our External Affairs Minister, it will "make the world more India ready and make India more world ready."

India has taken some important initiatives under its Presidency, such as the setting up of a new working group on Disaster Risk Reduction and a Startup-20 Engagement Group. These initiatives are aimed at addressing some of the world's most pressing problems and finding innovative solutions to them.

In today's event, we will also introduce another important initiative that we have recently launched – the **G20: Digital Innovation Alliance**, which is aimed at promoting digital innovation and entrepreneurship, and fostering greater cooperation between G20 countries in this area. We believe that digital innovation is key to achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth, and we are committed to working with our G20 partners to further this goal. We will hear more about this in a subsequent presentation by Mr Jitender Vijay, CEO of MEITY Start UP Hub.

As India takes the helm of the G20, we are committed to working with our partners to promote economic growth and development, and to find innovative solutions to the world's most pressing problems. We believe that the G20 has a critical role to play in shaping the future of the global economy, and we are committed to working with our partners to build a better, more sustainable future for all.

This is the second meeting on G -20 that the Mission is organizing in Tokyo to spread the message of G-20. We have a message from our G 20 Sherpa. We look forward to meeting you in our forthcoming meetings as well.

I would like to conclude by mentioning the Global South Summit that India hosted earlier this month. In his inaugural address at the summit Hon'ble Prime Minister of India said that "together the Global South can produce new and creative ideas. These ideas can form the basis of our Voice in the G-20 and other forums." He spoke about a global agenda of 'Respond, Recognize, Respect and Reform': (i) Respond to the priorities of the Global South by framing an inclusive and balanced international agenda; (ii) Recognize that the principle of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities' applies to all global challenges. (iii) Respect sovereignty of all nations, rule of law and peaceful resolution of differences and disputes; and (iv) Reform international institutions, including the United Nations, to make them more relevant.

Dear Friends,

I invite you to join me a special event, "Glimpses of the Voice of Global South Summit" that we organize in the Embassy on this Wednesday February 1. Once again, thank you for joining this special meeting on India's G -20 presidency.

Thank you!
