

**G20**  
ITALIA  
2021



**M**   **MINISTERO del LAVORO  
e delle POLITICHE SOCIALI**

# **MINISTERIAL MEETING LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

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**22-23 June 2021**

**Media Handbook**  
[www.g20.org](http://www.g20.org)

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# ABOUT THE G20

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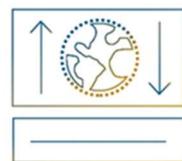
## Population

60% of the world population



## Economy

80% of global GDP



## Trade

75% of global exports

The G20 is the international forum that brings together the world's major economies. Its members account for more than 80% of world GDP, 75% of global trade and 60% of the population of the planet. The forum has met every year since 1999 and includes, since 2008, a yearly Summit, with the participation of the respective Heads of State and Government.

In addition to the Summit, ministerial meetings, Sherpa meetings (in charge of carrying out negotiations and building consensus among Leaders), Working Groups and special events are organised throughout the year.

## Members

The G20 members are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union. Spain is also invited as a permanent guest.

Each year, the Presidency invites guest countries, which take full part in the G20 exercise. This year, Italy has invited the Netherlands and Singapore. Several international and regional organisations also participate, granting the forum an even broader representation.

## How the G20 works

The G20 does not have a permanent secretariat: its agenda and activities are established by the rotating Presidencies, in cooperation with the membership.

A "Troika", represented by the country that holds the Presidency, its predecessor, and its successor, works to ensure continuity within the G20.

The Troika countries are currently Saudi Arabia, Italy, and Indonesia.

## Origins of the G20

In 1999, in the wake of the 1997 economic crisis, the G7 Finance Ministers announced the creation of the "Group of 20", aimed at including other countries in their discussions related to global economics and finance. The first official meeting of the G20 was held in Berlin in December that same year.

Following the 2008 financial crisis, the United States proposed to increase the level of participation of the G20 to Heads of State and Government.

At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, the Heads of State and Government decided to institutionalise the G20 as the main forum for global economic and financial cooperation.

Since 2010, the G20 Leaders have met every year.

# THE ITALIAN G20 PRESIDENCY

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## PEOPLE PLANET PROSPERITY

Humanity is facing many difficult challenges today, which have a direct impact on the life and well-being of the world population. Today, more than ever before, it is essential that the international community shares in its responsibilities and takes a long-term view. Aware of its role, the G20 is firmly committed to seeking coordinated, fair and effective responses able to lay the basis for a better, more sustainable future.

The pandemic has caused major damage, negatively impacting health systems, poverty indexes and international trade. It has added its burden onto other systemic problems, from climate change to inequality. It has also made one thing clear: we live in an era in which local problems swiftly become global challenges. Shared solutions must therefore be sought, to build back better, adopting innovative tools and technologies to assure a more resilient, greener growth.

In an increasingly interconnected world, multilateralism is far more than an abstract concept. It is the key to responding to these challenges, and the G20, bringing together much of the world's population and of the global economy, must live up to its role. This is why the 2021 G20, under the Italian Presidency, will focus on three broad, interconnected pillars of action: **People, Planet and Prosperity**.

Within these pillars, we are taking the lead in ensuring a swift international response to the pandemic – able to provide equitable, worldwide access to diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines – while building up resilience to future health-related shocks.

We are also looking beyond the crisis, towards ensuring a rapid recovery that addresses people's needs. This implies a focus on protecting the most vulnerable people and countries, on women's empowerment and on the younger generations. It means promoting the creation of new jobs, social protection, and food security.

We need to pave the way for an ambitious, effective, sustainable recovery. Rebuilding more efficiently, through a better use of renewable energies and with a firm commitment to protecting our climate and our common environment.

These are prerequisites for sustained prosperity, one which also requires that we properly harness the main drivers of growth and innovation. The G20 is therefore working to bridge the digital divide and make digitalisation an opportunity for all, improve productivity and – in short – to leave no one behind.

# 2021 MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

Many institutional meetings (Working Groups, Ministerial Meetings and final Summit) and special events will take place over the course of the year-long Italian Presidency.

The intense schedule will embrace a large part of the country, highlighting many of the excellences scattered throughout Italy.

The dates and format of the events may be subject to change.

		
4 May	<b>Tourism</b>	VTC
22 - 23 June	<b>Labour and Employment, and Education</b>	Catania
29 June	<b>Foreign Affairs, and Development</b>	Matera
30 June	<b>Ministerial Event on humanitarian assistance</b>	Brindisi
9 - 10 July	<b>Economy and Finance</b>	Venice
22 - 23 July	<b>Environment, Climate and Energy</b>	Naples
29 - 30 July	<b>Culture</b>	Rome
5 - 6 August	<b>Innovation and Research</b>	Trieste
5 - 6 September	<b>Health</b>	Rome
17 - 18 September	<b>Agriculture</b>	Florence
12 October	<b>International trade</b>	Sorrento
<b>30 - 31 October</b>	<b>G20 Summit</b>	<b>Rome</b>

# LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT MINISTERIAL MEETING

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## TOPICS

### **Employment, better working conditions and equal pay for women**

Although differences persist in job quality and wages, between 2012 and 2019, almost all G20 countries made progress in terms of equal opportunities, participation of women to the labour market and reduction of the gender pay gap. The process of reducing gender inequalities has slowed down due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the global economy. The current crisis has particularly affected some economic sectors as well as workers in atypical and informal employment, where women are over-represented. In addition, domestic confinement measures have amplified women's unpaid work burden, thereby widening the gender gap in unpaid work, and increased the exposure of women to domestic violence. Therefore, one of the policy priorities during the recovery will be not to dissipate the recent years' achievements of the G20 countries in reducing gender gaps in the labour market, and to resume the path of increasing women's participation to the labour market and on better terms. For policies aimed at eliminating gender gaps to be effective, a first step is to combat social and cultural gender stereotypes as well as unconscious bias. This situation must therefore be tackled by promoting policies that ensure equal opportunities and guidance in the choice of field of study, transition from education to labour market and in terms of access and career progression for women and men.

The Italian Presidency has monitored the progress made by the G20 countries towards the Brisbane target, while at the same time broadening the focus on the issue of employment of women in absolute terms, quality of work and equal opportunities in business activities. To this end, the exchange of good practices among the G20 countries was very useful, including with the aim of updating the policy recommendations agreed under the German Presidency in 2017. Thus, with the necessary contributions by the Social Partners, a Road Map was drawn up for achieving the Brisbane goal. A set of complementary indicators has also been introduced, to monitor and measure the progress towards full gender equality in the labour market.

### **Social protection in a continuously changing world of work**

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced many countries to swiftly introduce extraordinary measures to mitigate the negative effects of the crisis on employment, household income and on companies' liquidity, with an outlay of aid that the International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates as being in excess of US\$ 10 trillion. In some countries, young people were amongst the most hit: the question is thus raised of how to reshape social protection systems towards the goal of making them accessible to all, regardless of their labour contract, and moving from an emergency to a stable set-up. New social protection models must support inclusive and sustainable growth, and accompany the ongoing transitions in the global economy, primarily to a digital and green economy. This has also contributed to the proliferation of non-standard forms of employment, which today pose new questions and challenges in terms of regulation, employment protection and access to social security. In addition, the green transition poses challenges to the world of work. While pursuing the objective of limiting the growth of global warming will lead to an increase of 18 million jobs by 2030, industries based on traditional energy production still have a significant weight on GDP and employment, both in advanced and developing economies. Social protection will play a key role in supporting workers who will need to move to new sectors or new occupations. Ways of adapting the social protection system to an evolving economic and social reality must therefore be explored, ensuring the adequacy and effectiveness of provisions within a sound public finance framework.

The Italian Presidency thus continued the debate on social protection systems and their evolution perspectives in order to adapt them to emerging forms of work and changing needs, building on what has been done, most recently, by the Saudi Arabia Presidency in 2020. With the support of the International Organisations, it has been possible to exchange experiences and results on these issues, with the aim of identifying policy options to make the principle of “access to social protection for all” operational and sustainable.

### **Working patterns, business organisation and production process in the Digitalisation Era**

The spread of the Internet, the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the exploitation of big data are transforming the patterns of work, the businesses’ organisation and production processes, both in the industrial and in the services sector. During the Argentine Presidency, the G20 Labour Ministers agreed on the need for continued evidence-based analysis of digital platform jobs, as well as on a set of policy principles to ensure a fair distribution of the benefits of digitisation and dignity of work in the platform economy. To further deepen the issue of digitisation in the world of work and at the same time acknowledge the growing use of Artificial Intelligence algorithms for the management and organisation of work, during the Japanese Presidency in 2019, the G20 Heads of State and Government endorsed the G20 Principles on Artificial Intelligence, which promotes a human-centred approach and a responsible use of AI in the workplace. The Covid-19 pandemic marked a significant acceleration of current trends by increasing the pervasiveness of new technologies even in traditional work. The forms of confinement and lockdown introduced in many countries have further accelerated the digitisation of production processes with impacts in terms of increased productivity, prevention and containment of contagion. It is necessary to ensure that the increasing use of algorithms for managing and organising companies and workforces is in line with the principles already adopted in the G20 and, in particular, that they have to be human-centred and to move towards a sustainable and inclusive society. It will therefore be useful to focus on the impact of AI on the labour market and exchange views on the neutrality and transparency of the algorithms used, in order to avoid direct and indirect discrimination of workers. It is, in fact, necessary to prevent these “new patterns of work” from becoming a further factor of labour market segmentation based on gender or age and leading to new inequalities based on the digital divide. The post-pandemic recovery could thus be characterised by particularly high levels of unemployment for certain categories of workers and by an increased polarisation. In order to cope with these risks, it is necessary to urgently implement policies that promote lifelong learning and skills upgrading, fostering transitions in the labour market and ensuring the socio-economic inclusion of all citizens.

With this spirit, the Italian Presidency steered the group in identifying guiding principles for regulatory frameworks around remote and platform work, including through an exchange of views with the Social Partners.

### **JOINT LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION MINISTERIAL MEETING**

The Ministries of Labour and Employment and the Ministries of Education (which hold their meeting on the morning of 22 June 2021), will meet jointly on the afternoon of 22 June 2021 to discuss and analyse the topic of school-to-work transitions: the transition from the world of school to that of work.

# HOST CITY: CATANIA

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A city famous for its art, culture and the volcano, Mount Etna, Catania's coastline edges with the bright blue Ionian Sea and the green *Piana*, Sicily's largest plain, best known for its intense aroma of citrus fruits. Founded as *Katane* by the Chalcidian Greek settlers back in 729 BC, its history has seen a great many different populations and civilisations come and go.

The traces left by the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Swabians, Anjou, Aragonese and Spanish flourish under the shadow of the magnificent Baroque that marked the reconstruction after the 1693 earthquake. Indeed, it has been such an artistically imposing rebirth as to have received the honour of being named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Past and future, tradition and innovation, faith and folklore characterise the city in its multiple expressions, starting with the festival of Saint Agatha, the third most important of all the Christian world.

Even the flavours, colours and sounds echo a past that continues to live today in the superb opera composed by Vincenzo Bellini, the warm welcome offered by its people, the local markets and the varied culinary itineraries.

The rugged coastline, softened by the mild climate, alternates beaches of golden sand with stunning lava rock cliffs, making Catania one of the Mediterranean's most precious gems.

# AGENDA 22 JUNE 2021

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14:30 -14:40

Introductions by the Italian Minister for Labour and Employment and Social Policy and the Italian Minister for Education

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14:40 -14:55

Presentations by the International Organisations

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14:55 -15:05

Address by the Y20 Engagement Group

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15:05 -15:20

Observations from the Regional Organisations of the African Union, NEPAD and ASEAN

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15:20 -16:50

Debate between the G20 Ministers on School-to-work transitions

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16:50 -16:55

Adoption of the Joint Declaration on School-to-work transitions

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16:55 -17:00

Conclusions

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# AGENDA 23 June 2021

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09:30 -09:50

Introductions by the Italian G20 Presidency and other international members

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09:50 -10:40

Presentations by the International Organisations

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10:40 -11:00

Presentations by the Social Partners

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11:00 -11:20

Presentations by the Engagement Groups

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11:20 -11:45

Coffee break

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11:45 -12:00

Presentations by the invited Regional Organisations

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12:00 -12:15

Introduction by the Italian G20 Presidency

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12:15 -13:00

Addresses by Australia, Japan, South Korea, China, Singapore, and India

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13:00 -14:30

Institutional photographs and lunch break

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14:30 -15:15

Addresses by Russia, South Africa, Turkey, the European Union, France, Germany, and Holland

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15:15 -16:00

Addresses by Spain, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, the USA, and Mexico

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16:00 -16:10

Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration and annexes

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16:10 -16:30

Conclusions by the Italian G20 Presidency and other international members

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# PRESS CONFERENCE

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The press conference following the G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting will be held on 23 June 2021 at 16.30 CET, in-person and virtually.

To access the Media Center, located in the west wing of the Benedictine Monastery (open on 21 June, from 16.00 to 22.00 CET and on 22 and 23 June, from 10 to 22 CET), media representatives are required to show a negative rapid antigen test, carried out within 48 hours prior to entry.

The conference will be attended by

- **Andrea Orlando**, Minister of Labour and Social Policies

Journalists, photographers, and TV crews interested in physically attending the event and the press conference may request accreditation by 19 June 2021, no later than 16.00 CET, via the following link: <https://g20italia2021.org/ct1/mediahome.aspx>, or through the online Accreditation section of the Italian G20 Presidency website: [www.g20.org](http://www.g20.org).

Journalists wishing to attend the event by video conference can request press accreditation by sending an e-mail to [ufficiostampa@lavoro.gov.it](mailto:ufficiostampa@lavoro.gov.it), by 21 June 2021 at 19.00 CET.

The request must include: full participant name, name of the media outlet, and e-mail address.

Only accredited journalists will be accepted to the virtual press conference and digital access must be made using the same name, surname and media outlet provided for the media accreditation request.

The press conference will be held in Italian, with simultaneous translation provided in English.

# CONTACTS

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