

# The G20 and an Agenda for Development

21 November 2011

Anticipating the agenda of the G20 Summit in Seoul, South Korea, in November 2010, the preceding summit held in Toronto, Canada, responded to heavy criticism about its weakness on issues affecting the poor most by announcing its intention to work on a development agenda. The Seoul Summit unveiled the G20's development agenda, which it said needed to be read together with the broader G20 work on international finance and development cooperation. While indications that the G20 is slowly breaking out of its fixation with issues of financial governance as part of its becoming a premier global governance forum, the extent to which this translates into serious progress towards a full developmental agenda and what that would constitute is a subject for continuing debate. The half-day high-level policy dialogue will reflect on the extent to which the G20 has evolved into a platform for a progressive global developmental agenda and if such an agenda holds any promise for Africa and South Africa. It will also discuss the role that might be played by Africa collectively and South Africa as a member state of G20. On this basis, the dialogue will consider possible options for African countries and for civil society formations in promoting a positive evolution of the G20 and its agenda. The dialogue is designed to draw attention to the 2011 G20 Summit in France.

Speakers:

Prof. Geoff Pigman, Bennington College USA, Visiting Professor at University of Pretoria  
*"The evolution of G20 and its impact on international cooperation"*

Dr. Siphamandla Zondi, Director, IGD  
*"The G20's Seoul Development Agenda and Africa: a post-Washington Agenda?"*

Mr. Michael Sachs, National Treasury  
*"The G20, agenda-setting, and South Africa: a commentary"*