



# STUDY GUIDE

## EKMUN 2025

### G20

**Topic A: Climate change and the Paris Agreement.**

**Topic B: The impact of the fast fashion industry on the global economy and the climate crisis.**



## **1. Welcome Letters**

1.1 Message from the Secretary-General

1.2 Message from the Under Secretary-General of the G20 Committee

## **2. Climate Change and the Paris Agreement**

2.1 Introduction

2.2 The Emergence and Historical Context of the G20

2.3 The Evolution and Milestones of the G20

2.4 The Significance and Roles of G20 Members

2.5 Current Goals of the G20

2.6 Historical Background of Climate Change

2.7 Causes of Climate Change

2.8 Historical Conferences and the Role of the G20

2.9 Questions to be Addressed

## **3. Fast Fashion Industry and Its Impact on the Global Economy and Climate Crisis**

3.1 Definition and Global Context

3.2 G20 Perspectives on Fast Fashion

3.2.1 United States

3.2.2 China

3.2.3 European Union

3.2.4 Türkiye

3.2.5 India

3.2.6 Japan

3.2.7 Germany

3.2.8 France

3.2.9 United Kingdom

3.2.10 Italy

3.2.11 Canada

3.2.12 Brazil

3.2.13 Russia

3.2.14 Saudi Arabia

3.2.15 Indonesia

3.2.16 South Korea

3.2.17 Australia

3.2.18 Mexico

3.2.19 South Africa

3.3 Fast Fashion, Climate Change, and the G20's Collective Responsibility

3.4 Conclusion

3.5 Questions to be Addressed

#### **4. References**



Dear Delegates,

As the Secretary-General of EKMUN'2025, it is my greatest honor to welcome you to this year's conference. Soon, we will come together to engage in discussions that mirror the complexity and importance of real-world diplomacy. Each one of you brings a unique perspective, a distinct voice, and an ambition to create change and it is exactly this diversity that makes Model United Nations such a powerful experience.

Over the upcoming days, you will find yourself not only debating international matters but also stepping into the shoes of world leaders, policymakers, and diplomats. The preparation, dedication, and curiosity you bring to this conference will shape not just your experience, but the overall atmosphere of cooperation and respect that defines EKMUN'2025

Throughout this conference, you will not only have the opportunity to discuss global issues but also to develop essential skills such as critical thinking, teamwork, and negotiation. Remember that Model United Nations is not just about reaching resolutions it is about understanding perspectives, fostering respect, and finding common ground among differences.

I strongly encourage each one of you to be bold, respectful, and solution-oriented during your sessions. Let this conference be a place where your voices are heard, and your ideas make an impact.

I wish you all productive debates and unforgettable memories.

Warm regards,

Ayliz Çolak

Secretary-General of EKMUN'2025

**Dear Delegates,**

Welcome to MUN'25 as the USG of the G20 committee, I am very happy to be with you. I am Bahar Tekelioğlu. Throughout my MUN experience, every conference has offered a different opportunity for learning and discussion I believe we will have much to learn from each other this time too. I expect open minded, well prepared, and respectful debates during these three days. Come prepared for the agenda present your ideas clearly, with evidence, and in a solution-oriented manner. Let's all contribute together to make the conference both educational and enjoyable.

If you have any questions, you can reach me via email: [bahartekelioglu739@gmail.com](mailto:bahartekelioglu739@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Bahar Tekelioğlu

Uunder Secretary General

# Climate Change and the Paris Agreement

## Introduction

The Emergence and Historical Context of the G20 The G20 was established in 1999 following the Asian Financial Crisis to restore stability in the global economy.

The crisis demonstrated that developing countries needed greater representation in the global financial system. During this period, Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin and US Treasury Secretary Larry Summers proposed a new platform. The goal was to establish a structure where not only G7 countries but also rising economies could make their voices heard.

The first G20 meeting was held in Berlin, Germany, on December 15–16, 1999. At this meeting, German Finance Minister Hans Eichel summarized the core spirit of the G20 by stating, “Everyone has a responsibility in the global financial architecture.” Over time, this forum evolved into a summit attended not only by finance ministers but also by country leaders.

The 2008 Global Financial Crisis, in particular, fundamentally changed the role of the G20. With the US mortgage bubble at the center of the crisis, G20 leaders convened in Washington in November 2008 and issued a declaration called the “Washington Declaration.” This declaration emphasized reforming the financial system, protecting free trade, and increasing economic coordination. Following this summit, the G20 began to address not only economic crises but also multidimensional global issues such as energy security, climate change, digital transformation, and sustainable development.

The Evolution and Milestones of the G20 In the first years after its establishment, the G20 only convened at the finance ministers’ level.

However, the 2008 Global Financial Crisis elevated the G20 to the position of a “guardian of financial stability.” At the heart of the crisis was the collapse of the US mortgage market.

Lehman Brothers’ bankruptcy created a domino effect; the financial system began to collapse.

At that time, G20 countries met at the Washington Summit in November 2008 and issued the historically significant “Washington Declaration.” This declaration contained the following commitment: “We commit to strengthening transparency, integrity, and accountability in the financial markets.” This summit is a turning point where the G20 transitioned from a

“technocratic” financial meeting to the main global policy forum where heads of state gather.

The 2009 London Summit demonstrated the G20’s power in resolving the crisis. At the time, UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced that \$1.1 trillion in resources would be

provided to the IMF and that protectionism would be prevented. The 2010 Seoul Summit introduced the concept of “Inclusive Growth.” The 2015 Antalya Summit, hosted by Türkiye, for the first time placed issues such as migration, sustainability, and energy security at the center of the economic agenda.

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, G20 leaders held an “extraordinary virtual summit.”

Global solidarity was emphasized at the meeting hosted by Saudi Arabia. The 2022 Bali Summit was dominated by the Russia-Ukraine war. For the first time, the following phrase was included in the declaration: “Most members strongly condemned the war in Ukraine.”

This statement was recorded as a diplomatic breaking point in the history of the G20. The Significance and Roles of G20 Members The G20 represents 65% of the world’s population, 75% of global trade, and 85% of global GDP. The role each member plays at the G20 table is related to both its economic capacity and diplomatic influence: United States

- The center of the global financial system; determinant in the G20’s monetary stability agenda due to the dollar’s status as a reserve currency.
- Ensured the G20 became the “main platform for global economic coordination” during Barack Obama’s term (2009 Pittsburgh Summit).
- Rejoined the Paris Agreement and announced the 2050 net-zero target under the Joe Biden administration. China
- The world’s largest exporter and second-largest economy.
- Seen as the voice of developing countries in the G20.
- Hosted the 2016 Hangzhou Summit; Xi Jinping brought the concept of “Green Growth” to the agenda. European Union  
Represented as an economic bloc, not a single country.  
The President of the EU Commission advocates for “Green Deal” policies in G20 sessions.  
Its pledge to reduce carbon emissions by 55% by 2030 set the framework for G20 targets. Türkiye

● Hosted the 2015 Antalya Summit. Emphasized the theme of “Inclusive Growth,” drawing attention to the financial access of developing countries.

-Strategic position within the G20: energy corridor, manufacturing hub, regional leadership in agriculture and climate policies. India

● Hosted the 2023 New Delhi Summit.

● Presented a holistic approach, combining environment, development, and human rights with the theme “One Earth, One Family, One Future.” Current Goals of the G20  
The G20’s current vision is to ensure that economic growth is not only present but also fair, sustainable, and inclusive.

● Global Financial Stability: Providing coordination during crises, supporting IMF reforms, establishing a framework for regulating crypto assets.

● Combating Climate Change: 2050 net zero target; green finance, carbon tax, renewable energy transition.

● Energy Security: Ensuring energy diversity in the face of wars and supply chain crises.

● Digital Economy: Creating common standards for digital tax systems, data protection laws, and artificial intelligence ethics.

● Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction: Developing policies aligned with the UN’s 2030 Sustainable Development Goals .

Inclusiveness: Increasing the participation of women and youth in economic decision-making processes (the main agenda of the 2014 Brisbane Summit).

● Global Health: Strengthening the resilience of healthcare systems post-COVID-19; ensuring vaccine equity.



## ***HISTORICAL BACKGROUND***

The concept of climate change emerged in the 19th century when the Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius discovered the heat trapping effect of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. However, it was not understood that this situation was a global crisis until the late 20th century. 1972 Stockholm Conference It was the first environmental conference in the history of the United Nations. Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme laid the foundation for modern environmental diplomacy by stating, “Economic growth should not be at the expense of environmental destruction.” The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) was established as a result of the conference. 1988 Establishment of the IPCC The UN and the World Meteorological Organization established a scientific body called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This panel provided climate data to governments, basing decision making processes on scientific evidence. The first IPCC Report, published in 1990, contained the following statement: “There is clear evidence that human activities are substantially increasing the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases.” 1992 Rio Summit (Birth of the UNFCCC) The “Earth Summit” in Rio de Janeiro ensured that environmental issues found a place in international law.

- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted.
- The principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” was defined.
- According to the convention, all parties must fight climate change, but developed countries must bear a greater burden. 1997 Kyoto Protocol Kyoto is a turning point in climate negotiations.
- Brought legally binding emission reduction targets for 37 developed countries.
- Established emissions trading and carbon credit systems. However, the US withdrew, citing “damage to the economy.” This created a major break in global climate diplomacy. 2009 Copenhagen Summit (COP15) Expectations were very high, but the results were disappointing. Global binding targets could not be set due to

conflicts of interest between China and the US. Nevertheless, the “2°C limit” entered the international literature for the first time with the document called the “Copenhagen Accord.” 2015 Paris Agreement (COP21) At the summit hosted by France, 196 parties agreed on the goal of “keeping the global temperature increase well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C.” French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius struck the table with his small green gavel while approving the agreement and said: “A small hammer for a big deal.” The Paris Agreement was flexible, unlike Kyoto. Each country set its own Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target. The three main pillars of the agreement:

- Emission reduction

- Adaptation

- Finance (Green Climate Fund) CAUSES OF CLIMATE CHANGE The fundamental cause of climate change is the increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The underlying economic and structural reasons for this situation are as follows:

- Fossil Fuel Use Coal, oil, and natural gas still constitute 80% of the world’s energy production. The burning of fossil fuels releases CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O. The US, China, India, and Russia are responsible for 60% of total emissions.

- Industry and Manufacturing Activities Increased production since the Industrial Revolution has dramatically raised carbon intensity. The cement, steel, and chemical sectors account for 20% of total emissions.

- Deforestation While the Amazon forests have the capacity to absorb 1 billion tons of carbon per year, the rate of deforestation in Brazil increased by 22% between 2019–2021. The destruction of forests accelerates not only carbon emissions but also biodiversity loss.

- Agriculture and Livestock

- The livestock sector accounts for 14.5% of global greenhouse gases.

- The use of fertilizers, methane emissions, and land degradation cause this rate to increase.

-Transportation The entire transportation sector, including aviation and shipping, is responsible for 14% of global emissions. The transition to electric vehicles is progressing very slowly in G20 countries.

-Consumer Culture and Overproduction The economic system based on the “take, make, waste” model rapidly consumes natural resources. Especially the textile, technology, and food sectors are the areas with the highest carbon intensity.

## **HISTORICAL CONFERENCES AND THE ROLE OF THE G20**

The fight against climate change has become not only an environmental but also an economic and diplomatic issue over the last 50 years.

In this transformation process, every international conference has opened a new chapter in world politics. G20 countries especially those with high economic power, technology capacity, and energy consumption have been the main actors shaping both the cause and the outcome of these summits.

© **1972 Stockholm Conference** – “The Birth of Environmental Awareness” It was the first major environmental conference organized by the United Nations. The 113 participating countries opened the concept of the “human environment” for discussion at the international level. At that time, the world was in the bipolar atmosphere of the Cold War. Developed countries advocated for environmental protection, while developing countries viewed these demands as “hindering economic development.” At the conference, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme brought up the environmental devastation caused by napalm bombs in Vietnam and criticized the US. This was the first moment when climate discussions gained a political dimension. The document called the “Stockholm Declaration” was adopted at the end of the conference; it consisted of 26 principles and defined the principle of “responsibility for the human environment.” The legacy of this conference was the establishment of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) in 1973. UNEP later prepared the institutional groundwork for the Kyoto, Paris, and COP summits.

© **1992 Rio Summit** – “The Era of Sustainable Development” The Rio Summit, held 20 years later, was the summit where environmental issues first became part of the

global economic order. Many countries, including G20 members such as the US, China, Brazil, India, Japan, the EU, and Türkiye, took an active role in Rio. Three key documents adopted at this summit:

● **Rio Declaration on Environment and Development**

-Agenda 21 (Global action plan for sustainable development)

● **UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change)** At the conference, the principle of “Common but differentiated responsibilities” (CBDR) gained official status. This principle acknowledged that developed countries historically had higher emissions and therefore bore greater responsibility in the climate crisis. US President George H. W. Bush used the following phrase while joining the agreement: “The American way of life is not up for negotiation.” This sentence is an iconic example showing that the US always prioritizes economic concerns in its environmental policies. Following Rio, climate diplomacy progressed in two directions:

-Strengthening of scientific evidence (IPCC Reports),

-Increase in political and economic resistances.

● **1997 Kyoto Protocol** – “The Beginning of Legal Binding” The Kyoto Protocol is the first agreement that imposed legal obligations on carbon emissions. The Protocol set a target of a total 5.2% emission reduction for 37 industrialized countries for the 2008–2012 period. The EU spearheaded this target; Japan and Canada also joined. However, the US Senate rejected the protocol, citing “damage to the economy” and the fact that it did not impose burdens on developing countries like China. This decision created a break in global climate policies and weakened the US’s international climate leadership for 10 years. Australia, a G20 member, adopted a similar stance and did not sign the protocol until 2007. In contrast, the EU established its own model by creating the carbon trading system (EU Emission Trading System). The important outcome of Kyoto was the emergence of the concept of the “carbon market.” This mechanism allowed countries to meet their targets by purchasing “carbon credits” if they could not reduce their carbon emissions. 10/33

● **2007 Bali Summit** “The Foundations of Post-Kyoto” As the end date of Kyoto approached, the search for a new framework began. The conference (COP13) held on the island of Bali, Indonesia, adopted a negotiation plan called the “Bali Road Map.”

In Bali, fierce discussions took place between developed and developing countries. When the US delegation stated they “did not want to be bound by emission targets,” the representative of Papua New Guinea uttered the historic words: “If you are not willing to lead, get out of the way.” This phrase became a symbol of global climate diplomacy. The most important result of Bali was the birth of the concept of a finance mechanism: developed countries must provide adaptation and green technology funds to developing countries.

2009 Copenhagen Summit “The Disappointment of Great Expectations” Copenhagen (COP15) is the most debated conference in history. World leaders included Barack Obama, Wen Jiabao, Angela Merkel, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Lula da Silva. However, negotiations turned into chaos; no binding agreement emerged. Nevertheless, the “2°C limit” target was accepted for the first time in Copenhagen. Obama said in his speech: “For the first time in history, the world came together to recognize the urgency of climate change.” But this historical step remained a political declaration, not a legal one. The G20 was indirectly split during this process:

- The US, China, and India advocated the approach that “economic growth is a priority.”

- The EU, Japan, and Canada said, “There can be no progress without legal commitment.” The years following Copenhagen led the G20 to establish its own “climate-focused sub-forums.” At the 2010 Toronto and 2011 Cannes summits, the G20 officially put “Clean Energy and Green Growth” on its agenda.

● **2015 Paris Agreement** – “The Triumph of Global Consensus” Paris is the climax of climate diplomacy. The 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21), led by French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, produced an agreement in which, for the first time in history, all 196 countries agreed on a common text. The key difference of the Paris Agreement:

- Instead of top-down quotas like Kyoto, each country sets its own NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) target.

- The targets are flexible, but updating them every five years is mandatory.

- Wealthy countries will provide annual \$100 billion Green Climate Fund (GCF) support by 2020. At the moment of the agreement’s adoption, Fabius struck the table with a small green gavel and said: “A small hammer for a big deal.” This moment

entered modern environmental history. G20 countries played a decisive role in this process:

- The US (Obama administration) actively supported it.
- China presented its 2030 emission peak target.
- India emphasized the concept of “climate justice.”
- Türkiye requested the status of a “developing country with special circumstances.”

2021 Glasgow Summit (COP26) – “The Beginning of the Coal Phase-Down” It was the first major summit held after COVID-19. Here, the phrase “coal phase-down” entered the decision text for the first time.

### **The Significance and Roles of G20 Members**

The Group of Twenty (G20) brings together the world’s largest advanced and emerging economies, representing approximately 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and 65% of the global population.

- Each member state contributes to the G20’s agenda based on its economic power, diplomatic leverage, geographic position, and strategic priorities.

While all members share the same global platform, their approaches often reflect national interests, development stages, and political philosophies.

#### ***United States***

- As the largest economy and the issuer of the world’s primary reserve currency, the United States plays a leading role in defining the G20’s financial and security agenda.

- The U.S. traditionally promotes free markets, trade liberalization, and financial transparency. During the Obama administration, the G20 was elevated to the status of the premier forum for international economic coordination (2009 Pittsburgh Summit).

- In recent years, climate change has become a central element of U.S. diplomacy. The country withdrew from the Paris Agreement in 2017 under President Trump but rejoined in 2021 under President Joe Biden, committing to net-zero emissions by 2050 and a 50–52% reduction by 2030.



● The U.S. also leads initiatives on energy transition, technology innovation, digital governance, and global health security, emphasizing multilateral cooperation with allies while maintaining a cautious approach toward China's economic rise.

### ***China***

● China is the world's second-largest economy and the leading exporter, representing a bridge between developed and developing nations.

● It uses the G20 platform to advocate for economic equity, South-South cooperation, and green growth.

● China hosted the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, which introduced the idea of "Innovative, Invigorated, Interconnected, and Inclusive Growth."

● Beijing emphasizes the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" in climate diplomacy, highlighting historical inequalities in emissions.

It pledged to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

● China also promotes infrastructure development through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and seeks to align this with global sustainability goals by introducing the *Green Silk Road* concept.

### ***European Union (EU)***

● Representing multiple member states as a single economic bloc, the European Union acts as the strongest advocate for global environmental action and human rights-based economic governance.

● The EU's leadership in climate diplomacy is anchored in its European Green Deal, which aims to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

● It spearheaded the Fit for 55 packages, committing to cut emissions by 55% by 2030 and implementing a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) to regulate imports based on carbon intensity.

● The EU promotes multilateralism, rule-based trade, and fair taxation of multinational corporations, often working in coordination with France and Germany as its primary voices within the G20.

### ***Türkiye (Turkey)***

● Türkiye occupies a strategic geographic and economic position linking Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

● It hosted the 2015 Antalya Summit, which emphasized “Inclusive Growth” and highlighted the importance of SME development, energy security, and refugee protection.

● In recent years, Türkiye has focused on sustainable industrialization, renewable energy expansion, and green finance.

● After ratifying the Paris Agreement in 2021, Türkiye announced its Net Zero by 2053 target and launched the Green Development Revolution, aiming to integrate environmental and economic policies.

● Within the G20, Türkiye often positions itself as a voice for developing and middle income economies, calling for equitable access to climate finance and technological innovation.

### ***India***

● As the world’s most populous nation and a rapidly growing economy, India’s influence in the G20 has risen dramatically.

● It hosted the 2023 New Delhi Summit under the theme “One Earth, One Family, One Future.”

● India champions the concept of climate justice, asserting that developing countries should not bear the same burden of emission reduction as industrialized nations.



● Its national policies, such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), reflect its ambition to balance economic growth with environmental responsibility.

● India aims to reach net-zero emissions by 2070 while expanding renewable energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030.

● It also plays a mediating role between the Global North and South, often facilitating consensus in contentious climate and trade negotiations

### ***Japan***

● Japan is one of the founding advocates of multilateral economic frameworks and a long-time proponent of technological solutions to environmental problems.

● At the 2019 Osaka Summit, Japan prioritized data governance, innovation, and plastic waste reduction.

● Tokyo's climate agenda includes carbon neutrality by 2050 and leadership in hydrogen and energy-efficiency technologies.

● Japan also supports global supply-chain resilience and disaster-risk reduction critical issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

● Its development assistance programs frequently focus on sustainable infrastructure and digital transformation across Southeast Asia.

### ***Germany***

● Germany plays a central role in the EU's internal and external coordination.

● As the world's fourth-largest economy, Germany emphasizes climate mitigation, renewable energy, and industrial innovation.

● The Energiewende (Energy Transition) policy is one of the most ambitious clean energy plans globally.

- Germany consistently promotes multilateral dialogue and fiscal responsibility, often bridging gaps between economic growth advocates and climate focused nations.
- It hosted the 2017 Hamburg Summit, focusing on global trade, digitalization, and sustainable development.

### ***France***

- France is a diplomatic leader in global environmental policy, most notably for hosting the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- It actively pushes for climate finance mechanisms and the integration of social justice principles into global trade and economic frameworks.
- Paris advocates for global taxation reforms, particularly targeting multinational corporations and digital companies.
- France's G20 stance combines environmental multilateralism, human rights advocacy, and strategic autonomy within the EU.

### ***United Kingdom***

- The UK's influence in the G20 extends through its financial sector and diplomatic legacy.
- After hosting COP26 in Glasgow (2021), the UK reinforced its role as a leader in climate finance, green innovation, and net-zero transition.
- Its Net Zero by 2050 target and policies like the Green Industrial Revolution Plan underline a commitment to decarbonization.
- London also promotes financial transparency and global tax cooperation, working closely with the OECD.

## ***Italy***

- Italy's priorities in the G20 focus on sustainable development, youth empowerment, and cultural diplomacy.
- As host of the 2021 Rome Summit, Italy emphasized People, Planet, Prosperity as its main pillars.
- Rome has been a strong advocate for renewable energy transition in the Mediterranean region and actively supports the European Union's climate commitments.
- Italy also highlights the role of education, culture, and inclusive recovery in post-pandemic rebuilding efforts.

## ***Canada***

- Canada promotes inclusive, sustainable, and gender-responsive economic growth.
- It consistently prioritizes clean energy, indigenous rights, and environmental protection within the G20 framework.
- Canada supports carbon pricing as a market-based climate solution and maintains one of the highest national carbon taxes in the world.
- Ottawa also focuses on biodiversity conservation, Arctic policy, and technological innovation.

## ***Brazil***

- Brazil is a key actor in both the environmental and agricultural sectors.
- As home to the Amazon rainforest, it carries global ecological significance.
- Brazil's stance within the G20 often reflects the balance between economic growth and environmental preservation.

- Under President Lula da Silva, Brazil re-committed to combating deforestation and re-entered the Paris Agreement leadership circle.
- It advocates for sustainable agriculture, green finance, and biodiversity protection while emphasizing social inclusion and poverty reduction.

### ***Russia***

- Russia's participation in the G20 is shaped by its energy dominance and geopolitical considerations.
- As one of the world's largest oil and gas producers, it has historically resisted strict emission-reduction targets.
- However, Moscow has pledged carbon neutrality by 2060 and joined discussions on methane reduction and energy diversification.
- The Russia–Ukraine conflict (2022) heavily influenced recent G20 dynamics, as energy security and supply chains became top concerns for member states.

### ***Saudi Arabia***

- As the largest oil exporter, Saudi Arabia has a unique position in the G20, balancing fossil-fuel dependence with climate commitments.
- Through its Saudi Green Initiative (SGI) and Middle East Green Initiative (MGI), the country has begun diversifying its economy under Vision 2030.
- It emphasizes carbon-capture technology, circular-carbon economy principles, and investment in renewables.
- Saudi Arabia hosted the 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit, which focused on pandemic response and energy market stabilization.

## ***Indonesia***

- Indonesia plays a pivotal role as a Southeast Asian representative and one of the world's largest emerging economies.
- It hosted the 2022 Bali Summit under the theme “Recover Together, Recover Stronger.”
- Indonesia's climate policies focus on reducing deforestation, transitioning to renewable energy, and phasing down coal.
- As an archipelagic nation vulnerable to rising sea levels, it advocates for climate adaptation funding and sustainable ocean management.

## ***South Korea***

- South Korea emphasizes innovation, digital transformation, and green technology.
- Its Korean Green New Deal aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, promoting smart grids, electric mobility, and green infrastructure.
- Seoul also plays a mediating role between advanced and developing economies, particularly in Asia, promoting inclusive technological exchange and sustainable urbanization.

## ***Australia***

- Australia's role in the G20 reflects its position as a resource-rich developed nation with complex climate politics.
- It has faced international scrutiny over its coal exports but has recently committed to net zero by 2050 and greater investment in renewables.
- Canberra emphasizes energy security, regional cooperation, and climate adaptation across the Pacific.

● Australia's policies increasingly align with G20 priorities on clean energy innovation and economic resilience.

### ***Mexico***

● Mexico advocates for social inclusion, regional cooperation, and sustainable trade.

● It integrates environmental sustainability into its national economic policies and supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

● Mexico's commitments focus on reducing emissions in the transport and energy sectors and advancing reforestation programs.

● It also plays a key diplomatic role in bridging Latin American perspectives with the wider G20 agenda.

### ***South Africa***

● As Africa's only G20 member, South Africa represents the African continent's collective economic and environmental priorities.

● It emphasizes climate justice, equitable finance, and fair energy transitions for developing nations.

● Pretoria's *Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP)* supported by G7 countries aims to reduce coal dependence while protecting workers' rights.

● South Africa also calls for debt relief, vaccine equity, and stronger representation for the Global South in international financial institutions.

### ***Questions to be Addressed***

- How can G20 member states strengthen their commitments to the Paris Agreement to ensure global temperature rise remains below 1.5°C?

- What strategies can be implemented to enhance transparency and accountability in carbon emission reporting?
- How can developed countries provide greater financial and technological support to developing nations for climate adaptation?
- What role should renewable energy play in achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement?
- How can G20 countries encourage private sector investment in green technologies?
- What measures can be taken to ensure a just transition for workers affected by the shift away from fossil fuels?
- How can nations improve international cooperation to prevent climate-induced migration and displacement?
- What steps can be taken to integrate climate education and awareness into national policies?
- How can global carbon markets be regulated to prevent exploitation and ensure fairness?
- What policies can be introduced to strengthen climate resilience in vulnerable regions most affected by global warming?

## **FAST FASHION INDUSTRY AND ITS IMPACT ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMY AND CLIMATE CRISIS**

### **Definition and Global Context**

The fast fashion industry represents one of the most visible reflections of modern consumer culture. Built on a model of constant change, low-cost production, and rapid consumption, it emerged in the 1990s through brands such as Zara, H&M, Topshop, and Forever 21, and was later revolutionized by digital platforms like Shein and Fashion Nova.

While this system allows consumers to access trends within weeks, it also accelerates environmental destruction and labor exploitation. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the fashion industry accounts for approximately 10% of

global carbon emissions, 20% of wastewater, and 35% of global microplastic pollution. Each year, nearly 92 million tons of textile waste are generated, of which only 15% is recycled the rest ends up in landfills or oceans.

The fast fashion model not only shapes global consumption but also reinforces an unequal economic structure where developing countries bear the environmental cost while developed nations capture most of the profit.

### ***G20 Perspectives on Fast Fashion***

The G20 countries sit at the core of the fast fashion system, both as major producers and dominant consumers. Their economic policies and industrial priorities determine whether the global textile sector can transition toward sustainability.

#### ***United States***

The United States is one of the largest fast fashion markets, with the average consumer purchasing around 37 kilograms of clothing annually. Under President Biden, climate-oriented legislation such as the Clean Energy and Jobs Act has expanded environmental accountability, yet private sector regulation remains limited. The proposed New York State Fashion Sustainability and Social Accountability Act aims to require brands to disclose supply chains and carbon footprints.

#### ***China***

China is the world's largest textile producer and exporter, hosting global fast fashion giants like Shein. As of 2022, over 35% of global apparel production occurs in China. The government aims to peak carbon emissions by 2030 and achieve neutrality by 2060. Under the "Made in China 2025" strategy, Beijing has promoted green manufacturing, waste reduction, and recycling technology in textile production.

#### ***European Union***

The European Union leads international efforts to regulate fast fashion. Its 2022 Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles mandates that, by 2030, all textile products placed on the EU market must be durable, repairable, and recyclable. The Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) also imposes tariffs on imports with high carbon intensity. The EU



allocates substantial funding to circular economy initiatives and cross-border green technology partnerships.

### ***Türkiye***

Türkiye is among the G20's top textile exporters, serving as a key production hub for European markets. After ratifying the Paris Agreement in 2021, Türkiye announced its Net Zero by 2053 target. Through the Green Deal Action Plan, the government promotes energy efficiency and sustainable manufacturing; however, much of the industry remains dependent on fossil fuels. Green finance and technology transfer are essential for the transition process.

### ***India***

India is one of the world's largest cotton producers and a central hub for textile exports. Within the framework of the 2023 New Delhi Summit theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future," India integrated sustainable textile production into its national strategy. The Project SU.RE (Sustainable Resolution) commits major brands to reducing emissions and water usage. Despite this, labor exploitation and waste management remain major challenges.

### ***Japan***

Japan combines innovation with environmental policy in its textile sector. Through the Green Growth Strategy toward Carbon Neutrality by 2050, the government promotes bio-textiles, hydrogen-powered production facilities, and advanced fibre recycling. Brands like Uniqlo now embrace "Life Wear" principles that emphasize longevity, functionality, and minimal waste.

### ***Germany***

Germany champions sustainable textile policies within the EU. The 2021 Supply Chain Act (Lieferkettengesetz) obliges German companies to monitor human rights and environmental standards throughout their global supply chains. The "Green Button" certification guarantees compliance with ethical and ecological criteria, reinforcing Germany's commitment to transparent production.

## ***France***

France has positioned itself as a diplomatic leader in sustainable fashion since hosting the 2015 Paris Agreement. The 2020 Anti-Waste for a Circular Economy Law bans the destruction of unsold clothing and requires recycling of textile waste. Under the “Textile Recyclage 2030” initiative, France invests in repair culture, second-hand markets, and extended producer responsibility.

## ***United Kingdom***

The United Kingdom, following its leadership at COP26, prioritizes the decarbonization of the fashion industry. The parliamentary report “Fixing Fashion” identified the textile sector as key to achieving the Net Zero by 2050 goal. The UK aims to recycle 50% of its textile waste by 2025 while strengthening ethical supply chain oversight.

## ***Italy***

Italy remains the heart of global fashion, with luxury brands like Gucci, Prada, and Armani driving the economy. Under the theme “People, Planet, Prosperity” at the 2021 Rome Summit, Italy created a Green Transition Fund to support sustainable textile innovation. The Italian fashion sector increasingly emphasizes craftsmanship, longevity, and “slow fashion” values.

## ***Canada***

Canada integrates sustainability across its textile and apparel industries. With strong carbon pricing and bans on single-use plastics, it supports the development of circular materials. The Circular Economy Leadership Coalition promotes partnerships between government and private sectors to scale up fiber recycling and low-emission textile technologies.

## ***Brazil***

Brazil is the largest textile producer in Latin America. As guardian of the Amazon rainforest, it recognizes the dual challenge of industrial growth and environmental protection. Under President Lula da Silva, Brazil relaunched programs supporting sustainable cotton, low-impact dyes, and local supply chains.

## ***Russia***

Russia's fashion and textile sector remains heavily tied to fossil fuel production. However, recent initiatives such as the Eco Russia Program aim to promote recycling and improve energy efficiency within manufacturing facilities.

### ***Saudi Arabia***

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 seeks to diversify its oil-dependent economy, with sustainability emerging as a new industrial focus. The Saudi Green Initiative encourages investment in circular carbon economies, including low-emission textile manufacturing and renewable energy integration.

### ***Indonesia***

Indonesia, host of the 2022 Bali Summit, highlighted sustainable manufacturing under the theme "Recover Together, Recover Stronger." The country targets a major reduction in coal dependence by 2030 and promotes renewable energy in its textile sector.

### ***South Korea***

South Korea's Green New Deal prioritizes green technology and smart textile innovation. The government encourages "eco-fibre" production and aims for carbon neutrality by 2050. South Korea serves as a bridge between advanced and developing economies in sustainable trade and technology transfer.

### ***Australia***

Australia is a major cotton producer and long a supplier for global fast fashion chains. After criticism for its reliance on fossil fuels, it launched the National Waste Policy Action Plan to cut textile waste by 80% by 2030. The government now funds research into biodegradable fibers and water-efficient production.

### ***Mexico***

Mexico plays a vital role in the North American textile supply chain. Through its Clean Production Program (Programa de Producción Limpia), the country has introduced energy efficiency standards and sustainable practices in garment manufacturing, especially for exports to the United States.

## ***South Africa***

As Africa's only G20 member, South Africa links sustainability goals with social justice. Through the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), it integrates the textile sector into broader green reforms. The policy aims to protect workers while phasing out high-emission industries and expanding renewable energy usage.

## **Fast Fashion, Climate Change, and the G20's Collective Responsibility**

The fast fashion industry is not only an economic phenomenon but also a driving force behind the climate crisis. G20 nations collectively account for about 80% of global carbon emissions, and the fashion sector contributes significantly to that figure.

As leaders of global trade and industry, G20 countries hold the capacity and the moral obligation to transform fashion's linear "take, make, waste" model into a circular, sustainable system.

## ***CONCLUSION***

Fast fashion embodies the paradox between economic growth and environmental sustainability. While it generates employment and trade, it simultaneously accelerates climate change, depletes natural resources, and perpetuates labor exploitation.

For G20 countries, transitioning toward sustainable fashion is not merely an environmental duty but an economic necessity.

Future G20 priorities must therefore focus on:

- Expanding circular economy investments
- Implementing carbon pricing and border adjustment mechanisms
- Supporting fair trade and ethical labor practices
- Advancing green finance and technology transfer

The G20's leadership will determine whether the world can replace fast fashion with responsible production and conscious consumption. This transformation extends beyond the fashion industry it redefines the ethical foundation of the 21st-century global economy.

### ***Questions to be Addressed***

- How can G20 nations regulate fast fashion companies to reduce environmental damage caused by mass production?
- What sustainable alternatives can replace harmful textile production practices?
- How can international trade laws be adapted to ensure ethical labor standards in the fashion supply chain?
- What actions can governments take to promote consumer awareness about the environmental cost of fast fashion?
- How can recycling and circular economy models be effectively implemented in the fashion industry?
- What financial incentives could encourage brands to adopt more sustainable manufacturing processes?
- How can developing countries reduce dependency on fast fashion exports while protecting their economies?
- What role should the media play in discouraging overconsumption and promoting sustainable fashion choices?
- How can fashion corporations be held accountable for waste, pollution, and labor exploitation?

10. How can G20 cooperation foster global standards for sustainability and transparency in the fashion industry?

### ***References***

- United Nations. (1972). *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference)*. United Nations Publication.
- United Nations. (1992). *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). (1997). *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). (2015). *The Paris Agreement*.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). (2021). *Emissions Gap Report 2021: The Heat Is On*. Nairobi: UNEP.
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2021). *AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*. Geneva: IPCC.
- G20. (2008). *Washington Declaration: Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy*. Washington D.C.
- G20. (2009). *Pittsburgh Summit Leaders' Statement*. Pittsburgh: G20 Secretariat.
- G20. (2015). *Antalya Summit Communiqué*. Antalya: Presidency of the Republic of Turkey.
- G20. (2020). *Riyadh Summit Declaration*. Riyadh: G20 Secretariat.
- G20. (2023). *New Delhi Leaders' Declaration: One Earth, One Family, One Future*. New Delhi: Ministry of External Affairs of India.
- European Commission. (2019). *The European Green Deal*. Brussels: European Union.
- International Energy Agency (IEA). (2023). *Global Energy Review 2023*. Paris: IEA.
- World Bank. (2022). *World Development Indicators*. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- United Nations. (2023). *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023*. New York: United Nations.

- Fabius, L. (2015). *COP21 Closing Speech, Paris Climate Conference*. Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France.
- References
- United Nations. (1972). *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference)*. United Nations Publication.
- United Nations. (1992). *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development: Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). (1997). *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). (2015). *The Paris Agreement*.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). (2021). *Emissions Gap Report 2021: The Heat Is On*. Nairobi: UNEP.
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2021). *AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*. Geneva: IPCC.
- G20. (2008). *Washington Declaration: Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy*. Washington D.C.
- G20. (2009). *Pittsburgh Summit Leaders' Statement*. Pittsburgh: G20 Secretariat.
- G20. (2015). *Antalya Summit Communiqué*. Antalya: Presidency of the Republic of Turkey.
- G20. (2020). *Riyadh Summit Declaration*. Riyadh: G20 Secretariat.
- G20. (2023). *New Delhi Leaders' Declaration: One Earth, One Family, One Future*. New Delhi: Ministry of External Affairs of India.
- European Commission. (2019). *The European Green Deal*. Brussels: European Union.
- International Energy Agency (IEA). (2023). *Global Energy Review 2023*. Paris: IEA.



- World Bank. (2022). *World Development Indicators*. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- United Nations. (2023). *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023*. New York: United Nations.
- Fabius, L. (2015). *COP21 Closing Speech, Paris Climate Conference*. Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France.
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). (2018). *Putting the Brakes on Fast Fashion*. Nairobi: UNEP.
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation. (2017). *A New Textiles Economy: Redesigning Fashion's Future*. London: EMF.
- International Labour Organization (ILO). (2019). *The Supply Chain of Fashion: Decent Work and Sustainability*. Geneva: ILO.
- European Commission. (2022). *EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles*. Brussels: European Union.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). (2015). *The Paris Agreement*.
- World Bank. (2019). *How Much Do Our Clothes Cost to the Environment?* Washington, DC: World Bank.
- Greenpeace. (2020). *Fast Fashion and the Environment: The Hidden Cost of Trends*.
- G20. (2021). *Rome Leaders' Declaration*. Rome: G20 Secretariat.
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). (2021). *AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*. Geneva: IPCC.
- UNEP. (2023). *Sustainability and Textiles: Global Review Report*. Nairobi: UNEP.
- OECD. (2022). *Global Value Chains in Textiles and Apparel: Policy Responses for Sustainability*. Paris: OECD.
- McKinsey & Company. (2020). *Fashion on Climate: How the Industry Can Act for a Sustainable Future*.