



**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR MATHU JOYINI, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
DURING THE MINISTERIAL SCENE SETTER
SECOND SESSION OF THE FFD4 PREPCOM
3 DECEMBER 2024**

Chairperson

South Africa is honoured to be the first African country to assume the Presidency of the G20.

Under the motto “**Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability**”, our Presidency will focus squarely on the development needs of Africa and the South, and will drive the following three high-level deliverables:

- Inclusive Economic Growth, Industrialisation, Employment and Inequality.
- Food Security.
- Artificial Intelligence and Innovation for Sustainable Development.

During our Presidency, we will strive to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to find a global financing solution that leaves no one behind, including reducing debt vulnerability, injecting FDI into developing nations. and creating consensus on reform of the international financial architecture.

Chairperson

Despite economic growth in the past two decades, as many as 8 in 10 workers remain in informal employment in Africa.

Addressing this requires aligning all economic policy behind the goals of achieving high employment, decent work and inclusive economic growth through industrialisation and reindustrialisation.

South Africa will propose the creation of a **Task Force** to build the capacity of developing countries to boost productivity in agro-processing, manufacturing and services, and focus on reducing infrastructure gaps and bottlenecks, regional trade integration, and domestic and regional financing, with a special emphasis on investment.

Chairperson

Despite the fact we produce more than sufficient food globally, much of the world goes hungry.

South Africa will therefore also establish a **Task Force on Food Security**, building on the Global Alliance Against Hunger, to address food security at the regional and global levels, including drivers such as speculative activities, market concentration, and the financialization of the food trading system.

Chairperson,

The transformative economic potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is widely acknowledged.

South Africa will propose the establishment of a **Task Force on Artificial Intelligence** to align the South's perspectives and needs into the international discourse on AI governance and ensure AI serves all in support of the SDGs.

Deliverables will include the launch of an AI for Africa Initiative, the creation of a Technology Policy Assistance Facility to support the South, and the development and dissemination of accessible AI technologies, low resource tools, and new minimal compute resources.

Chairperson

The G20 has an important role to play in fulfilling the aspirations of the United Nations, especially in Financing for Development.

South Africa will build on the efforts and successes of previous presidencies to champion the developmental agenda and mobilise support for Africa and the developing economies of the global South.

I thank you.

(402 words)