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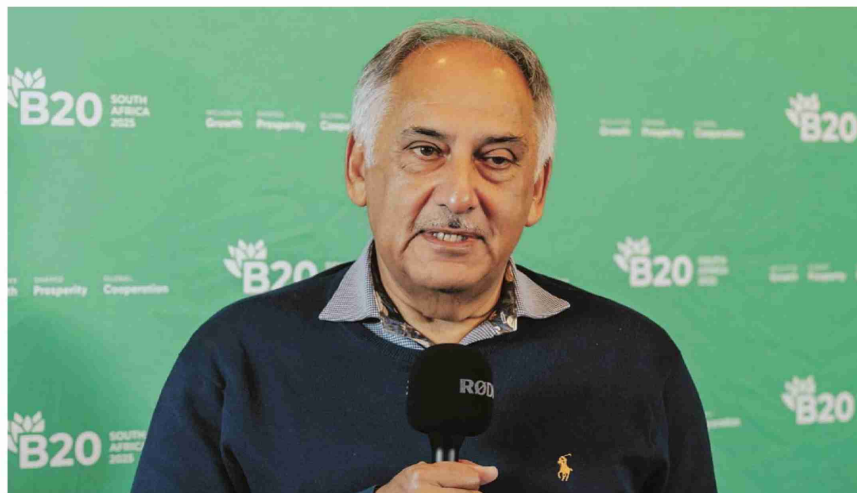
Africa stakes its claim at the G20 table as global fragmentation intensifies

• As geopolitical rifts grow wider and multilateralism comes under strain, the Business 20 (B20) platform, currently under South Africa's presidency, is delivering an unequivocal message: collaboration is not optional and Africa's leadership has never been more crucial.

With just months to go before the B20's official policy recommendations are handed over to the G20 Presidency, South Africa is using its moment at the helm to advocate for bold and pragmatic reforms that prioritise inclusive growth. At a recent high-level briefing in Johannesburg, business leaders shared a preview of proposals aimed at closing Africa's infrastructure gap, tackling systemic corruption and reimagining global trade in a way that genuinely benefits developing economies.

The backdrop to this urgency is stark. Africa is losing up to \$120 billion every year to corruption. Funds that are often borrowed in the name of development but ultimately siphoned off, depriving communities of schools, hospitals and essential services. Simultaneously, the infrastructure deficit persists, with the continent mobilising only \$85 billion of the \$170 billion required annually for roads, energy, water and transport. Meanwhile, the global trade system is faltering under the weight of protectionist policies, weakening institutions, and skewed climate rules that risk locking out emerging markets.

These issues are not unique to Africa, but Africa feels their impact more acutely than most. That is precisely why the continent is



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not only stepping up to voice its concerns but offering collaborative solutions. Under the leadership of B20 South Africa, emerging policy recommendations are being carefully shaped through engagement with global task forces, business councils and development agencies. These proposals will be presented to the G20 Presidency in early September and further unpacked at the B20 South Africa Summit in November.

Cas Coovadia, B20 South Africa Sherpa, highlighted the gravity of this moment. "Africa's voice in the G20 is not just necessary but we must lead, not just occupy a seat at the table. This demands full collaboration with task force leaders across G20 nations,

alongside local and international business advisory councils, to drive meaningful progress."

The recommendations reflect a clear-eyed understanding of what is at stake and a strong belief that economic governance can be reengineered for greater resilience. They call for safeguarding whistleblowers, embedding integrity in climate finance mechanisms, accelerating the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), harmonising investment rules and lowering the cost and complexity of cross-border project financing.

More importantly, they articulate a vision where Africa is not merely a beneficiary of policy outcomes but a co-architect of solutions. This is

not about charity, but about global self-interest: a world facing energy insecurity, climate volatility and digital divides cannot ignore the economic and demographic force that Africa represents.

The B20 platform, traditionally driven by the G20 business community, has for the first time an opportunity to be shaped by African realities. The message coming out of Johannesburg is that this should not be a one-off. With mounting global uncertainty, now is the time to institutionalise Africa's presence at the global policy table, not just as a participant, but as a leader.

An African B20 has never been more important. And if the world is listening, Africa is ready to lead.