What is the G20 Interfaith Forum?

The G20 Interfaith Forum—known as IF20—brings together religious leaders, scholars, and faith-linked organizations to help shape global policy. It operates alongside the formal G20 process, meeting each year in the Summit's host country near the time of the gathering itself.

IF20's purpose is straightforward: to ensure that faith-informed perspectives and lived experience have a seat at the table when the world's most urgent challenges are discussed.

Who Participates

The IF20 draws from a wide range of voices. Those voices include interfaith and intercultural organizations; religious leaders and scholars; development and humanitarian groups; and business and civil society actors. Together, they reflect the rich diversity of perspectives and values that religious communities bring to world affairs.

What IF20 Covers

Since its founding in Australia in 2014, the Forum has convened annually and tackled a broad set of issues. The topics have included economic systems, climate and the environment, health, education, humanitarian aid, human rights, global security, freedom of religion or belief, and the needs of women, families, and children.

Each year's agenda is shaped by two forces: the priorities outlined by that year's G20 host government and the topics recommended by networks of religious actors. Past Forums have been held in Turkey (2015), China (2016), Germany (2017), Argentina (2018), Japan (2019), Saudi Arabia (2020), Italy (2021), UAE (2022), India (2023), Brazil (2024), and South Africa (2025).

IF20's Impact

IF20 contributes meaningful insight and recommendations designed to influence the broader G20 policy agenda. Above all, the Forum seeks to promote dignity, responsibility, and care for the most vulnerable—convening individuals and groups around shared objectives and amplifying global voices of faith and partnership.

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How does IF20 relate to the G20?

The Group of 20—known as the G20—is an international forum where the world's largest economies come together to tackle shared financial, economic, and political challenges. It was founded in 1999 amid a wave of global economic crises and has convened at least once a year since 2008.

Its members include 19 sovereign countries, the European Union, and the African Union. Together, they represent a majority of the world's gross income, international trade, land area, and population.

How the G20 Works

Each year, heads of state, senior officials, and representatives from international organizations gather at the G20 Leaders' Summit. Throughout the year, smaller ministerial meetings and engagement groups develop economic and political initiatives. The Summit itself is where leaders review and act on that work.

Over time, the G20's focus has expanded beyond economics. Recent summits have addressed climate change, energy, global health, counter-terrorism, and refugee issues. In 2015, the organization began incorporating the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its agenda, formalizing that commitment the following year.

The Interfaith Forum's Role

The Forum contributes faith-informed insight and recommendations designed to shape the G20's policy agenda. Its process is deliberate: through ongoing working groups and open dialogue, the Forum develops policy briefs grounded in research, lived experience, and the collective wisdom of diverse religious and cultural communities.