**A MEMO ON THE SIMULATION**

The simulation consists of a simulation game, relating to a transnational negotiation of the G20.

**KEY POINTS**

**Objective**

The G20 negotiation takes place on a particular issue. The objective of the simulation (as of real G20 negotiations) is to reach an understanding on a final communiqué that sets out conclusions and actions to be pursued by the participating governments.

**Subdivision of the students**

Students are grouped in eight groups of three or four students, representing the real-life Sherpa teams of G20 governments: China, Germany, India, Japan, Presidency (Brazil), Russia, Saudi Arabia, and the United States.

Here are the eight groups:

1. Brazil (presidency): Paolo Cadoni, Qincheng Jian, Patrick Chevarie, Yann Bile-Aka
2. United States: Farzam Saki, Pratyaksh Singh, Lucas Chidiak
3. China: Bardia Amirmoini, Rajbir Singh, Ethan Bouzat
4. India: Flavio Musumeci, Lucien Raillard, Valentin Freret, Behzad Fahrizi
5. Germany: Jean Loic Goprou, Youssef Hedda, Haotong Sun
6. Russia: Pitnaree Chongyangyuenvong, Tristan Payen-Merle, Louison Rambeault
7. Saudi Arabia: Gabriel Comte, Victor Bisiaux, Marie-Catherine Deschênes, Fabrice Gélinas Larrain
8. Japan: Alexis Scartabelli, Lamine Touré, Alma Morales Cisneros, Maxime Singer

**The Presidency (Brazil)**

The Presidency’s role is to manage the agenda and coordinate between participants in preparing a final common position. The Presidency is not supposed to promote its national position, but rather to facilitate compromises amongst the various positions, so as to attain a common position acceptable to all (the risk is a final communiqué in the form of “Christmas tree”, and with a lower common denominator text – but this is how things happen in real life). The Presidency will play a key role in organizing the practical evolution of the negotiation, as described below. While the Presidency is largely autonomous in its organizational role, it can still consult the other country/position teams in order to take decisions that work best for everyone.

**The other G20 countries**

The other countries need to negotiate so that the final communiqué represents and promotes their national position.

**SIMULATION’S PHASES:**

**Note:** Starting in Phase 2, the Presidency (Brazil) sets the exact timeline for completing each phase, taking into consideration that the simulation will last for 3 weeks.

**Phase 1: Preparation**

**On October 4, 2024**, each student will be randomly assigned to one of the eight country/positions. Each country/position (except Brazil) will immediately start researching their government’s views on macro topics such as:

* Sustainable Development Goals
* Trade
* Food security
* Global health
* Multilateralism
* Artificial intelligence
* International taxation
* Gender equality
* Geopolitics
* War between Ukraine-Russia
* Palestine conflict

A good place to start looking for important macro topics is the [G20 Delhi New Leaders’ Declaration](https://g20.utoronto.ca/2023/230909-declaration.html#:~:text=We%20welcome%20the%202023%20Update%20to%20Leaders%20on%20Progress%20towards), which is the text that G20 leaders agreed upon last year. However, it is also important to look for documents that explain the distinct viewpoint of your country/position on certain issues. As a starting point, the following website can be helpful in this regard: [G20 Information Centre (utoronto.ca)](https://www.g20.utoronto.ca/) . But you will need to look beyond this document as well. Research well!

During Phase 1, the Presidency will need to carefully study the role of the presidency in G20 meetings and reflect on the best way to run the negotiation game.

**Phase 2: Launching of the simulation**

**On October 11**, the Presidency - currently Brazil - will receive a “**draft zero**” communiqué from the Professors, that already includes actions listed by policy areas, but which includes obvious “mistakes”. The Presidency circulates the draft to the participants on this date.

**Phase 3: Working in teams**

Each country/position team should meet separately and discuss their negotiating position on the basis of the “draft zero”.

In practice, each student should start by pondering the offensive interests and red lines of their country in this negotiation. Students should identify their position by looking for recent statements of the countries they represent in the news and government websites, and by taking into account the socio/economic context of the country. Students may also discuss their views with other country/position teams before the actual negotiation. Doing so, they may be able to agree on common positions or “trade off” their support on a point of their interest, in exchange for their support on a point of your interest.

At the end of Phase 3 each, at the latest on **November 1**, country/position team sends the Presidency comments on the “draft zero” in track changes (= what is acceptable, what is not and what/how you suggest to change).

**Phase 4: First draft of the communique**

After receiving the comments from the country/position teams, the Presidency incorporates such comments in a “**draft one**”, acts as a go- between, and subsequently circulates the draft back to be tested by the parties. This should be done by **November 15** at the latest.

It is up to the Presidency to decide how to compromise between the different positions: it can completely or partly accept/reject each comment. The aim is to craft a “draft one” document that, considering the comments received, should be the most likely to garnish consensus among all the countries during the live plenary.

**Phase 5: Live plenary**

**On November 22**, students should all connect in class and review the document together. As a rule, the most contentious issues are left for this final negotiation and are hopefully resolved during the three-hour class. This should result in a **leaders’ final communiqué**. The final communiqué represents the position of all G20 countries, hence each of them has a *de facto* veto power. Students should try to reach an agreement on the full text. However, in case of strong disagreement on a point, it should be explicitly stated that a specific country does not agree and which different path it decided to take. The practical organization of the live plenary is decided by the Presidency.

**Deliverable**:

* leaders’ final communiqué: to be submitted by the Presidency to the Professors on **November 25**.

**Phase 6: Debrief on the simulation (in class)**

Each country/position team should present an outline and analysis of the simulation experience (process, trade-offs, red lines, challenges, strategies…).

**Deliverables**:

* A short written briefing: each position team will write a short briefing on how they saw the process of negotiations as well as some considerations on their own position;
* A presentation in class: teams will present to the rest of the class their experience drawing from their written briefing.