



# PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT 2023

PARTNERSHIPS FOR RESPONSIBLE, ACCELERATED, INNOVATIVE,  
SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE BUSINESSES

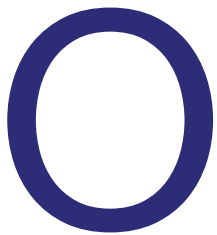
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## CONCEPT NOTE

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Over the past one year, the global economy battled several adverse circumstances that added to a series of supply shocks. Pandemic related disruptions continued in several parts of the world, combined with increased uncertainty due to other geopolitical developments, most notably the Russia-Ukraine war. The world economy, which was on a path of recovery, is now faced with significant risks with respect to overall economic prospects, with volatile commodity and energy prices leading to inflationary pressures and further supply chain disruptions slowing down economic activity.

Importantly, the move towards global cooperation and international solidarity has been a critical feature of the last few years, as global policymakers have prioritized the need for decisive, timely and coordinated global action to address the plethora of challenges arising due to the changing global environment.

Despite the ongoing global economic developments and disturbances, India with a growth rate of 8.7 per cent for 2021-22 has today become an island of macroeconomic stability and a new horizon of opportunities, with a predictable and progressive policy environment. Total trade crossed USD 1 trillion while inward investments touched new peaks, as countries seek to diversify supply chains and seek favorable investment climates.

The Indian economy has made rapid strides owing to the many significant initiatives of the Government of India and solid structural reforms. Ease of doing business, infrastructure policies and initiatives, reduction in corporate tax rates, FDI policy reforms, and Production Linked Incentive schemes for 14 sectors, among others are some of the initiatives that have contributed to making India a leading investment and manufacturing destination in the world, with one of the most open and investment friendly economies.

India has also greatly stepped up its external engagement over the last few years and has signed trade agreements with Australia and UAE, with several others in the negotiation phases. These, in turn, are expected to fuel economic growth by boosting trade and investments and creating jobs for participating economies. The country is likely to continue on its trajectory of investment driven export-led growth and further strengthen economic interaction with the rest of the world.



Given this backdrop, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is organizing the CII Partnership Summit 2023 that will provide an excellent platform for thought leaders, global policymakers and businesses to exchange ideas and perspectives and consolidate partnerships for leveraging emerging opportunities.

This edition of the CII Partnership Summit gains a new salience as India assumes the G20 Presidency. The Business 20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community. Established in 2010, B20 is among the most prominent Engagement Groups in G20, with companies and business organizations as participants. The B20 leads the process of galvanizing global business leaders for their views on issues of global economic and trade governance and speaks in a single voice for the entire G20 business community.

The B20 aims to deliver concrete actionable policy recommendations on priorities by each rotating presidency to spur economic growth and development. B20 bases its work on Task Forces (TFs) and Action Councils (ACs) entrusted to develop consensus-based policy recommendations to the G20 and to international organizations and institutions. The B20 officially conveys its final recommendation to the G20 Presidency on the occasion of the B20 Summit, which takes place back-to-back with the G20 Summit.

CII is tasked to be B20 India Secretariat and will be convening task forces and action councils on identified issues. The discussions at the task forces and action councils will shape the policy papers to be submitted during the G20 India Summit in 2023.

The CII Partnership Summit, held annually since 1995, has been regularly partnered by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The Partnership Summit 2021 convened 250+ speakers from more than 40 countries for a global audience of over 7,000 delegates on the virtual platform. The CII Partnership Summit 2023 will focus on how India's growth story, its reform process and external engagement will help to rebalance the world and impart stability to growth processes. It will also capture global business ideas under the aegis of B20 India.

This year's Partnership Summit will hold high level discussions broadly along the tracks of the global and Indian economy, G20/B20, competitiveness, resilient supply chains, investments, sustainability, start-ups and entrepreneurship, technology and the social dimension. It will focus on the opportunities and imperatives for countries and businesses to drive future strategies for growth, competitiveness, and sustainable and inclusive development.

## Tracks

### 1. Inclusive Global Value Chains for Resilient Global Trade and Investment

The Covid-19 pandemic and other geopolitical developments such as the Russia-Ukraine war have escalated disruptions to global trade and international supply chains, with new bottlenecks arising and intensifying production and efficiency losses. These have reinforced the need for strengthening Global Value Chains (GVCs) for building greater resilience against similar future economic shocks. At the same time, it has highlighted the role of decisive policymaking for enhancing inclusive growth and development.

In line with B20 priorities, this track will cover some key areas including the potential of services trade in enhancing productivity and trade performance, the role of disruptive technologies in transforming global trade and the future of multilateralism in driving efficient trade policies.

### 2. Financing Global Economic Recovery

Building financial resilience today has become an imperative for Governments around the world, as the changing global economic environment have heightened risks to economic recovery. With the Covid-19 pandemic triggering the largest economic crisis the world has witnessed in the past century, strengthening financial protection strategies and financial instruments is critical, for insulating the world from future economic shocks and disasters of similar magnitude.

Given the growing importance of emerging markets in the global economy and their strong linkages to trade and investments, financing growth in these markets will be essential for creating a stable and more resilient global financial system.

This track will deliberate on some of these issues including strengthening innovative finance for a stable, economic recovery.

### 3. G20

As large economies, the collaboration among G20 economies is critical at a time when the world is faced with many global challenges. Higher cooperation and



global action from these economies would facilitate faster transition towards global economic recovery by laying strong foundations of inclusive and sustainable growth.

Enhancing competitiveness of nations as well as businesses has become critical for boosting growth and economic prospects of nations. The G20 can play a vital role in this regard by designing effective policies for promoting competitiveness. The focus must also be on exploring ways of strengthening a more constructive role for the G20's in promoting global action and charting the future trajectory of global growth.

With India assuming the G20 Presidency in 2022, it will play a critical role in coordinating global policy and action in diverse areas and in securing future global inclusive growth and development. The track will discuss the possible policy suggestions in initiating and implementing global policy action at the G20 platform.

#### **4. Future of Work, Skilling and Mobility**

Rapid advances in technology and the recent pandemic have significantly changed the nature of work, bringing to the forefront the importance of skilling, reskilling and upskilling. Bridging the current skilling gap is critical for addressing current and future challenges. Industry will have a key role to play in supporting this transition and in building a productive workforce for the future.

The mapping of emerging and evolving job roles through technology and skill training, talent development, harmonization of skill standards, and fostering cross-border mobility of people are some critical areas of focus and will play an important role in how workplaces evolve over the years.

#### **5. Energy, Climate Change and Resource Efficiency**

Addressing climate change and sustainable management of resources are the foremost priorities during present times and is critical for a cleaner, healthier, and a sustainable future, as countries race to meet commitments under COP26. Urgent policy action that encompasses use of emissions-neutral technologies and a move towards a circular economy approach, are critical for meeting climate action goals, which need to be achieved with scale and speed.

The role of businesses and global cooperation will be essential for accelerating net-zero transitions and stepping up decarbonization efforts.

At the same time building resource efficient and resilient green efficient supply chains will be central for fostering the green transition. Global partnerships can

help secure resource efficient supply chains that focus on promoting sustainable and green practices, and also raise awareness on such practices and their positive impact.

## **6. Financial Inclusion**

Equitable access to finance remains a crucial priority for a sustained and inclusive economic recovery. Accelerating digital mechanisms for reaching the financially excluded, vulnerable sections of society and the use of cost-saving digital technologies are critical for fostering financial inclusion today.

Measures to promote financial literacy, facilitating access to affordable financial services and products through innovative use of digital technologies and the use of best digital practices will help improve financial access and inclusion and enhance economic growth.

Building innovative financial models is key for encouraging greater financing inclusion. The JAM trinity was a landmark initiative in India and globally, which provided relief to millions of people whose livelihoods were impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic. Building future service delivery mechanisms based on learnings from such successful initiatives is also vital for addressing current global challenges.

## **7. Digital Transformation**

Technology today has a central role in making societies and businesses more resilient in the face of sudden shocks and future pandemics. Thus, greater focus on factors such as inclusive internet access and digital literacy are important, which will pave the way for digital transformation. Further, building an inclusive innovation and R&D system is critical for closing the digital divide and for accelerating the pace of digital transformation.

The track will also focus on the market for small and medium businesses (SMB), which has huge untapped potential and represents an enormous opportunity for doing business efficiently through integration of digital tools and technologies. The track will explore ways to enable digital transformation for these enterprises in an inclusive manner, which will help them to scale operations and contribute more to economic growth.



## **8. Technology, Innovation and R&D**

Technology plays a pervasive role across almost every aspect of people's lives today. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated many digital trends including digital payments, facilitating remote work, telehealth etc. Thus, digital technologies today have become a key driver of sustainable growth and development, with advanced and emerging technology trends impacting long-run economic prospects of a nation.

With technology advances taking a huge leap over the past few years, focus on disruptive innovation is not only important for facilitating business growth, but also crucial for business survival.

The role of technology partnerships is also an emerging area of focus today, as businesses are seeking greater growth opportunities, exploring new markets and collaborating on new products and services through such partnerships. Under this track, experts will present their perspectives across some of these areas.

## **9. Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) in Business**

Climate change and environmental concerns have raised the importance of responsible conduct by businesses and the need for mandating due diligence and climate legislation. This has led to an increasing focus of ESG in business.

Supporting the adoption of ESG values in corporates and identifying solutions to ensure ESG compliance is important for enhancing greater transparency.

Businesses around the world are cognizant of the importance of incorporating ESG practices in building resilient and sustainable global value chains. Working together and collaborating on building such GVCs will benefit industries globally.

Another key area is sustainable finance, that encompasses integrating ESG principles into investment and business decisions. This is crucial for building a sustainable future by minimizing the financial risks of climate change.

This track will focus on some of these emerging themes and the way forward for ESG in businesses.

## **10. African Economic Integration**

For bolstering the productivity of its economies, the African countries have embarked upon an ambitious journey to deepen economic integration, which is expected to promote economic dynamism among the member states.

International cooperation would be critical in creating an enabling environment for growth and development in the African continent. In keeping with the overall B20 priorities, the role of global businesses will be key in facilitating international partnerships and promoting greater dialogue in areas including challenges to African economic integration, promoting India-Africa trade integration; enhancing physical and digital connectivity across the African nations and facilitating investments to build regional production networks.

Exploring ways to facilitate African economic industrialization by investing in information and communication technology (ICT), digital technologies and fostering job creation are also critical areas in this regard.

## Conclusion

With a wide-ranging spectrum of discussions under the above tracks, The CII Partnership Summit 2023 sets the pace for intensifying India's external orientation at a critical time when it is leading the G20 group of nations. Strengthening partnerships at a global level has never before been so urgent for the global economy and India, the 5th largest economy in the world, assumes a central role in this endeavor. With industry as a key player in the growth mission, its partnerships will define the trends for the world's future trajectory.



## Confederation of Indian Industry

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering Industry, Government and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, with around 9000 members from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from 286 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

For more than 125 years, CII has been engaged in shaping India's development journey and works proactively on transforming Indian Industry's engagement in national development. CII charts change by working closely with Government on policy issues, interfacing with thought leaders, and enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and business opportunities for industry through a range of specialized services and strategic global linkages. It also provides a platform for consensus-building and networking on key issues.

Extending its agenda beyond business, CII assists industry to identify and execute corporate citizenship programmes. Partnerships with civil society organizations carry forward corporate initiatives for integrated and inclusive development across diverse domains including affirmative action, livelihoods, diversity management, skill development, empowerment of women, and sustainable development, to name a few.

As India completes 75 years of Independence in 2022, it must position itself for global leadership with a long-term vision for India@100 in 2047. The role played by Indian industry will be central to the country's progress and success as a nation. CII, with the Theme for 2022-23 as Beyond India@75: Competitiveness, Growth, Sustainability, Internationalisation has prioritized 7 action points under these 4 sub-themes that will catalyze the journey of the country towards the vision of India@100.

With 62 offices, including 10 Centres of Excellence, in India, and 8 overseas offices in Australia, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, UAE, UK, and USA, as well as institutional partnerships with 350 counterpart organizations in 133 countries, CII serves as a reference point for Indian industry and the international business community.

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