“India stands ready to support any effort for a better environment and to further global wellness. Our track record speaks for itself.”

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The 2nd meeting of the G20 Development Working Group (DWG) is being convened from April 6 – 9, 2023 against the backdrop of the tranquil backwaters of Kumarakom in the district of Kottayam, Kerala. Over 80 delegates from G20 Members, 9 invitee countries, and various international and regional organizations attended the meeting.

Day 1: April 6, 2023

The first day of the 2nd G20 Development Working Group (DWG) meeting under the G20 Sherpa Track kick-started with a side event covering the issues of Data for Development (D4D), Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), and green transitions that are globally just, which are the key priority areas for India’s G20 Presidency.

The first part of the side event on the theme, “Accelerating Progress on SDGs with Data for Development (D4D)” began with the remarks of Mr. Nagaraj K. Naidu Kakanur, Joint Secretary (G20) who emphasized that timely, reliable, and accessible data is the key to meaningful policy-making, efficient resource allocation, and effective public service delivery. He emphasised that developing countries today need assistance in building their data capacities
to bring about real development impact, curb data misuse and ensure that data serves a larger social purpose.

The first session on ‘Human-centric approaches to D4D’ saw lively discussions on ensuring that D4D is inclusive, transparent, consent-based, integral, and accountable.

The second session on ‘Need for Capacity Building for D4D’ highlighted the gaps in capacity building in D4D and the role of governments, civil society, and the private sector in D4D capacity building.

The second part of the event was titled ‘Towards a Sustainable Future: Through Lifestyle for Environment and Just Green Transitions’.

The event had two Panel discussions on the themes of - ‘LiFE: An Engine for Growth’ and ‘Just green transitions: A Comprehensive, Integrated Approach

The first panel discussed how the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) approach can drive global growth while meeting ambitious environmental goals. The panelists deliberated ways how to create an environment for the adoption of LiFE through sustainable production and create green ecosystems and infrastructure to empower individuals and the possible international financial instruments for unlocking financing for promoting sustainable lifestyles and intrinsic inter-linkages between the development and environment including climate agenda.
In the second panel, the speakers discussed how to make transitions that are globally just and the need for an international enabling environment that supports a development paradigm that reduces the trade-offs between development, environment, and climate agendas.

The day-long session ended with closing remarks by the co-chairs of the Development Working Group where they emphasized the critical role of G20 in implementing an inclusive vision of green development by providing strong political momentum and coordinating international commitments for a more sustainable future.

**Day 2: April 7, 2023**

Day 2 of the 2nd Meeting of the G20 Development Working Group (DWG) witnessed detailed discussions on the priority areas identified by the Indian G20 Presidency.

The first session on Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) highlighted how to bridge development and environment agenda through Lifestyle for Environment, financing provisions for the greening of the economy, and the impact of LiFE-aligned measures at the global level. Countries pointed out the need to enhance interlinkages between the developmental and environmental agenda, by maximizing the synergies and minimizing the tradeoffs in our efforts to achieve both and deliberated on building a common understanding on Lifestyle for Environment.

In the following sessions, the delegates deliberated on how to strengthen G20’s commitment to achieving the SDGs by recognizing the needs of developing countries and contemporary challenges and how to address those through collaborative and collective G20 actions.
Pushing forward for women-led growth at G20 India, the meeting witnessed discussions aimed at pushing women towards actively driving development efforts. The session focused on enhancing collaboration & knowledge for women to achieve their full potential in every aspect of life.

The Meeting also discussed the need for collective efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda, with a primary goal of overall sustainable growth. Delegates addressed the need for an environment that can promote green transitions that are globally just.

**Day 3: April 8, 2023**

The critical discussions planned for Day 3 were:

1. LiFE: High-Level Principles
2. Accelerating progress on SDGs: High-Level principles
3. Coordination and Partnerships
During the 2nd DWG meeting, a key session was dedicated to promoting the LiFE initiative and developing a roadmap for G20 nations to adopt the recommendations in the fight against climate change.

As part of India’s G20 Presidency, there's a strong emphasis on accelerating progress toward achieving the SDGs while promoting sustainable growth & inclusivity. The 2nd DWG Meeting facilitates meaningful discussions to advance global efforts towards these goals.

Further, discussions on the collective efforts needed for G20 to collaborate and strengthen international partnerships for addressing the impacts of global crises and achieving the SDGs were also held.
Day 4: April 9, 2023

The 2nd Meeting of the G20 Development Working Group (DWG) concluded successfully on April 9, 2023.

Day 4 of the Meeting focused on discussions for the Developmental Ministerial Meeting Communiqué. By working together towards a common goal, G20 India demonstrated its commitment to global cooperation and its ability to tackle complex challenges through collective action.

The agenda for the DWG meeting included discussions on G20’s role in accelerating progress on the SDGs, Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), Digital Principles and Capacity Building for data for development, green transitions that are globally just, women-led development and enhancing international coordination and partnerships. The discussions of the DWG meetings would feed into the deliberations of the G20 Development Ministerial Meeting which will be held in June this year.

G20 countries discussed various development priorities over the 4 days of the 2nd DWG meeting. The meeting successfully concluded with the final session on identifying the way forward and drawing conclusions.
1. After deliberations delegates witnessed the magic of Bhava-Rasa, a well-orchestrated performance of different art forms that symbolize Kerala and nine different bhavas & rasas.

2. Delegates relaxed on a soothing boat cruise through the backwaters of Kumarakom.

3. After a calm boat cruise, the delegates experienced the traditional music which was not just heard, but felt as it filled the aura with harmony!

4. After the rounds of insightful discussions, the delegates savoured traditional delicacies - a medley of flavours & aromas! They relished a diverse range of items served on a banana leaf.
References:

2nd G20 Development Working Group Meeting under the Indian Presidency in the tranquil backwaters of Kumarakom, Kerala

Side Event of 2nd G20 Development Working Group Meeting in Kumarakom, Kerala

2nd G20 Development Working Group Meeting under Indian Presidency.

The 2nd Meeting of the G20 Development Working Group under the Indian Presidency concludes successfully at Kumarakom, Kerala

Twitter links:

A remarkable recap of the 1st DWG Meeting!

Delegates relaxing on a soothing boat cruise through the backwaters

2nd DWG meeting concluded

Video links:

PRESS CONFERENCE On 2nd Development Working Group Meeting, Kumarakom

NR/HP/RK/KG