

## THE ROLE AND FUTURE OF G8

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**Abstract:** The Group of Eight (G8) or the G-8 is the world's major economic powers. This paper is an attempt to appear the role of world's future. As well as, the research as an theoretical trying to increase information and knowledge about the G8 in terms of the conception and nature, as well as increasing the knowledge of how to create and the goals and aspirations of the group and determine its future, also it was based on the descriptive approach by examining the nature of the roles played by the international organizations and the global conglomerates. In conclusion, establishment and future of the G8 is two belongings that are sensitive to energy sources, especially oil and its prices.

**Keywords:** *Group of Eight (G8), Informal organization.*

### **Introduction**

The Group of Eight (G8) or the G-8 is the world's largest economic powers. It was born in 1975 as the Group of Six (France, the United States, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom and Japan) in response to the need to provide a forum for informal dialogue between heads of state and government of major industrial democracies. The first objective was to confront the economic crises of the mid-1970s in an open and constructive spirit, particularly the oil shock, and the reform of the world monetary system after the end of the Bretton Woods system and the abandonment of the dollar-to-gold system. The first meeting was held at the initiative of the French government in Rambouillet on the outskirts of Paris. The composition was later

expanded by the accession of Canada in 1977 and Russia, which was first invited to participate in the Naples Summit in 1994.

The G8 is not an international organization, but rather a framework for informal meetings at the highest level, which has gradually been structured over the years. Ministers of foreign affairs (including the ministries of environment, energy, development, labor, justice, home affairs, scientific research and agriculture), as well as several working groups on various issues , from health to development through issues related to nuclear energy. The ministers of economy and finance continue to meet in the formation of the seven countries (G7), maintaining their specific competence in the economic and financial issues, which distinguishes them from the G8 .

Correspondingly, the expansion of issues and levels of cooperation in the formation of the G8, statements by heads of state and government at the G8 summit event have been further elaborated. Although the statements do not have binding nature, they are of great importance because they constitute political commitments at the highest level and identify major trends of industrial democracies on critical issues such as finance, development, peace and the environment.

### **Research aims**

the research as an academic annoying to increase information and knowledge about the G8 in terms of the concept and nature, as well as increasing the knowledge of how to create and the goals and aspirations of the group and determine its future, according to the estimates of researchers and politicians thinkers in the world.

### **Research problems**

International political and economic conditions have played an important role in the growth and development of international organizations and unions and their increasing numbers. The most prominent of these factors are the situations of international and regional wars that have taken place in the world. This requires the establishment of entities that defend the oppressed people, especially during the war. Some international organizations play an important role in promoting the creation of more such confederacies.

The group was founded in the mid-seventies of the last century as a global economic bloc, and our problem in this research consists of a number of questions of the researcher and tries to answer the research, that is :

1. What is the G8 and what are its objectives?
2. Is the Group of Eight structurally structured as an economic bloc or as an international organization?

3. How is its global standing for the G-8 and its future?
4. Are there any major economic blocs in the world except the G8?

### **Research Methods**

The study was based on the descriptive approach by examining the nature of the roles played by the international organizations and the global conglomerates such as the G8. The theoretical approach was also used to analyze the goals and the future of the group.

### **Definition and founding of G8**

The Group of Eight (G8) is an informal forum consisting of eight countries United States, Russia, Italy, France, Britain, Germany, Japan and Canada to address the risks to the global economy oil prices, the global financial crisis, see figure 1. In addition to consultation and strengthening consensus on global issues such as energy conservation and the use of alternative energy, as well as the promotion of economic growth (Dimashq, 2017). In addition, the group of eight (G8) has been a plan for other groups of countries seeking to coordinate regulates, such as the G20 or the G77 (Nitsch, 2006).



**Figure 1 The Group of Eight countries (Web page)**

The member countries represent about 12% of the world's population, 50% of GDP and two thirds of world trade (Al-Jazeera Media Network, 2018).

On other hands, it's an informal economic forum that includes the governments of the countries with the most developed economies in this world bears the name of the number of its member states, the G8.

The G8 was formed in 1974 to counter the repercussions of the global oil crisis, which occurred as a result of the threat of the Gulf Arab oil countries to reduce oil production and reduce the proportion of exports to countries that support Israel such as the United States, Britain, France, following the October 1973 war, In October 1973, there were five countries, and then the number rose to six countries in seven countries, and then seven countries returned after the freezing of the membership of Russia after the annexation of the Crimea to its territory in 2014.

As well as in mid-1973 proposed US treasury secretary Schultz addition of Japan to the group.

### **From the G-5 to the G7**

“The roots of the G7/8 can be briefly summarized in the uncertain years following breakdown of the Bretton Woods system of fixed international exchange rates tied to the price of gold and the 1973 oil crisis, the requirement for better coordination of economic and financial policy at the highest level became evident” (Smith, 2011).

In 1975, French president Valery Giscard d'Estaing invited the leaders of the governments of West Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States of America to a summit in French Rambouillet where they agreed to organize an annual meeting under rotating presidency among member states, Six years later, in 1976, Canada joined the Group of six on the recommendation of US president Gerald Ford and became known as the G7. Beginning in 1977, the European Commission became the EU representative in the group without taking the position of member.

### **G7 plus one**

After the end of the cold war as a result of the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia became the legitimate heir to this union. Then attend the Naples summit of the seven states in 1994 as an observer. This summit was known as the G7 +1 before Russia formally joined the group was initiated by then US President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair in 1997 and has since become known as the G8.

### **G8 returns to G7**

Through the end of the cold war and the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia began to attend meetings of the group that became known as the G7 plus one. At the initiative of former US President Bill Clinton, Russia officially joined the group in 1997 to become the G-8. The G-8 is neither an institution nor an international organization; it is like a club discussing a number of international issues.

The Group's chairmanship is traded annually among member states, and the term of office begins on January 1 of each year.

On the other hand, the group is an annual forum, without a general secretariat or a fixed structure. The three-day annual summit of the leaders of member states will be held at the mid-year annual summit and the host country will be responsible for planning and hosting the pre-summit preparatory ministerial meetings (Al-Jazeera Media Network, 2018).

### **Does the G-8 have an organizational structure?**

The members rotate to chair the group each year, in a specific order starting with France, the United States, then the United Kingdom, Russia, Germany, Japan, Italy. The

European Union participates in the meetings of the Group and is represented by the president of the European Commission. There is no fixed structure for the group. The host country is responsible for the preparation of the conference through ministerial meetings and meetings of senior officials and experts, as well as responsibility for coordination and communication with international organizations and organizations (Al Jazeera Media Network, 2018).

However, since the founding of the G-8, its agenda has been determined by the personal tastes of the host, as well as the ability to respond immediately to any crisis. But the efforts of British prime minister David Cameron have effectively resulted in the G8's return and agenda to its economic assets, as planned at the 39th summit in Loch Irene, Northern Ireland, by setting up an agenda focusing on trade, (Dobson, 2013).

### **Mechanism and areas of G8's working**

Al Jazeera Media Network (2018) affirms that the group in its documents pushes the development of the world, consolidate the foundations of the international economy, and unite efforts with all major international parties to ensure security and safety in different regions of the world.

The group, which is one of the world's largest industrial powers, is seeking to implement and implement the terms of the agreements signed to reduce carbon dioxide to counter global warming that threatens the planet's climate.

As well as, Hilary (2013) “points out, these countries will not cease to impose free trade and investment agreements that will benefit transnational capital operations, despite the acknowledged problem that such policies have resulted in less competitive economies, it has millions of jobs”.

The last round of those agreements came out of their usual framework (including the comprehensive transatlantic trade and investment partnership concluded last year). In his famous book, *The Group of 7/8*, (Dobson, 2013). Similarly, there are the official summit meetings of the G8 until now:

**1. The Rambouillet Summit 1975**

Leaders of France, the United States, the United Kingdom, West Germany, Japan and Italy will meet at the Rambouillet palace in Paris at the first summit of the Group of Six.

**2. San Juan Summit, 1976**

Canada joins the group to become the Group of Seven.

**3. London Summit, 1977**

Chairman of the European commission joins the group.

**5. Tokyo Summit, 1979**

The G7 summit is being held in Asia, which was then called the "Energy Summit" and ended with an agreement on oil consumption after 11 hours of discussions.

**6. Versailles summit, 1982**

President of the Council of the European Union attends summit meetings.

**7. Bonn Summit, 1985**

G7 leaders fail to reach agreement on new round of negotiations on international trade.

**8. Tokyo Summit, 1986**

Regular meetings of finance ministers of the G7 countries begin with the governors of the Central Bank.

**9. London Summit, 1991**

Mikhail Gorbachev meets G7 leaders to facilitate Russia's accession to the group summit.

**10. Birmingham Summit, 1998**

Although Russian president Boris Yeltsin attended the group of eight summit in Denver the previous year, the Birmingham summit comes as the first official G8 summit, with all the summits to be followed by a meeting of finance and foreign ministers separately from the leaders.

**11. Kyushu Okinawa Summit 2000**

Initiatives to discuss infectious disease and digital divide issues.

**12. Genoa Summit 2001**

Italian student Carlo Giuliani dies after being shot by police, and the summit marks the launch of the new partnership for Africa's development (NEPAD).

**13. Evian Summit 2003**

Invited a number of emerging powers, such as Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, to meet G8 leaders as part of the outreach process.

**14. Gleneagles Summit 2005**

All over the world ahead of the summit. And the London bombings on the second day of the summit. G8 leaders are reaching an agreement on doubling aid to Africa's poorest provinces by 2010.

**15. St. Petersburg Summit, 2006**

Russia hosts the G-8 summit for the first time in its history as part of Russia's first summit.

**16. Tokyo Summit 2008**

G8 leaders agree to achieve 50% reduction in emissions by 2050.

### **17. Canada Summit in 2010**

Canada hosts the G-8 summit and the G-20 summit together (the G-20 summit has been held at the leader's level since 2008). And the G8 summit first before joining the leaders of the G-3 summit in Toronto. A number of G8 countries are failing to meet commitments they made at the Gleneagles summit on African aid.

### **18. Loch-Erin Summit 2013**

The G8 summit is being held for the 39th time in its history, chaired by British Prime Minister David Cameron, and discussions are focused on tax, transparency and trade issues.

### **The G8s objectives**

The group does not take measures of a mandatory nature since it has no legal personality, nor does it have a general secretariat, and focuses on the protection of its economic and political interests at the expense of the interests of countries in the path of growth and of people under poverty and the absence of democracy .

The ambitions of the G-8 member states do not stop at this point, as they seek to increase the interests of companies by pursuing market liberalization policies around the world. They are no longer realistically linked to trade at all, but have targeted environmental, labor and social standards that are "barriers" to the operations of transnational corporations, in accordance with G8 standards. Absolutely, this will destabilize important social security measures as millions of people fall below the poverty line as a result of austerity programs in the G-8 countries themselves.

While, the G-8 may be less important and more effective in the future, it can do great damage at the moment. It is now in the hands of citizens all over the world to demand an end to the G-8 and demand a more democratic forum that is in the hands of global economic governance (Hilary, 2013).

### **Position and future of G8**

At the beginning of 2006, Russia took over the G8 presidency. They suggested to the partners that we should focus on three serious and pressing issues: global energy security, infectious disease control, and education.

It is clear that the establishment of a reliable and comprehensive energy security system is one of the strategic objectives of the G-8 and of the global community as a whole.

According to McRae (2008) "the fast-forward to 2050 and the world mandate looks utterly different. And the top eight will be: China, US, India, Brazil, Russia, Indonesia, Mexico and the UK in that order. Yes, no Japan, no Germany, no France. The UK still would squeak into this new G8 club because we would have become the largest Western European economy, but perceptibly our comparative situation in the world would have slipped a lot" (Putin, 2006).

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“The uneven development of health systems, as well as the unequal financial capacity and scientific capacity to combat epidemics, lead to an uneven distribution of global resources for disease control. By distinguishing it with a different degree of intensity in different regions, infectious diseases, which act as a burden test, expose social and economic risk” (Putin, 2006).

### Conclusions

The G8 is an informal forum consisting of eight countries: the United States of America, Russia, Italy, France, Britain, Germany, Japan and Canada, with the aim of facing the risks that the global economy could face. To consult and promote consensus on global issues such as energy conservation and the use of alternative energy, as well as the promotion of economic growth, in other hands, it's an informal economic forum, which includes governments of countries with the most developed economies in this world, the name of the number of its member states.

In addition, the member countries of the group represent about 12% of the world population, 50% of GDP and two-thirds of world trade. Furthermore, it has no organizational structure similar to the other state organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank. There are no Secretariat for this group and no offices. In turn, member states rotate to chair the Group of Eight each year. The leaders of France, the United States, the United Kingdom, West Germany, Japan and Italy meet at the Rambouillet Palace in Paris at the first summit of the Group of Six in 1975, and then held more than a dozen other meetings so far. On the other hands the

composition of the group of the six countries changes to seven and finally to eight after the end of the Cold War in 1991, and then the group retreated by withdrawing Russia to the seven withdrawals, especially after the Crimean crisis in 2014. Moreover, establishment and future of the G8 is two belongings that are sensitive to energy sources, especially oil and its prices. Therefore, it can be said that energy alone will not solve the problem of poverty. At the same time, the lack of energy resources in various regions severely hinders economic growth, while their unsustainable use may lead to ecological catastrophe on a global scale rather than local scale.

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