

DIRE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

G20 CALLS FOR CEASEFIRE IN LEBANON AND GAZA

Leaders back UN Resolution 2735, which demands that victims be allowed to return home

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LEADERS of the Group of 20 top economies concluded their meeting with a strong declaration calling for a comprehensive ceasefire in war-torn Gaza and Lebanon, and pressing for the urgent need to increase humanitarian aid in the former.

The joint-statement also expressed unanimous support for United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 2735, which demanded that residents on both sides of the Green Line be allowed to return safely to their homes.

Malaysia's delegation was led by



**KAMARULZAIDI
KAMIS**

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. The country has long been a strong supporter of the Palestinian cause.

It has called for a two-state solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, But Malaysia does not have diplomatic relations with Israel.

The declaration expressed deep concern about the increasingly dire humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

The leaders emphasised the urgent need to expand the flow of humanitarian aid, strengthen the protection of civilians and demanded the removal of all barriers to widespread delivery of

humanitarian assistance.

"We highlight the human suffering and negative impacts of the war.

"By reaffirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, we reiterate our strong commitment to the vision of a two-state solution, where Israel and a Palestinian state live peacefully side-by-side within secure and recognised borders, in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions," the statement said.

The G20 leaders met here from Nov 18 to 19 to address major global challenges and crises, and promote strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

Under Brazil's leadership, the G20 meeting here focused on the theme "Building a Fairer World and a Sustainable Planet".

The declaration reaffirmed the group's commitment to fostering robust, inclusive and balanced growth in cooperating on climate change and poverty reduction.

It criticised the slow progress toward achieving the Sustainable



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim posing with G20 leaders at the launch of the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. PIC COURTESY OF PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Development Goals (SDGs), with many targets lagging or reversing.

In response, initiatives such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty was launched to accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty.

Climate action remained a key focus, with the G20 reiterating its commitment to achieving net-zero emission by mid-century, tripling renewable energy capacity and improving energy efficiency.

Financial support for developing countries to achieve these goals was also highlighted.

Global governance reform was a major subject, with calls to modernise institutions, such as the United Nations Security

Council and multilateral development banks, to address new challenges.

Digital progress and technology were prominently featured, with leaders pledging to bridge the digital divide, promote responsible artificial intelligence, and tackle issues like misinformation and online harm.

Inclusivity and equality were central themes, with the African Union welcomed as a member of the G20, and a strong emphasis placed on gender equality, social inclusion and empowering vulnerable groups.

The declaration concluded with a commitment to continue multilateral efforts, strengthening partnerships and advancing the highlighted priorities.