

SKAO Ministerial Meeting: Chair's Notes of the Meeting (to be issued by the Chair of SKAO Council, Dr Filippo Zerbi, through SKAO, following the meeting).

1. Members and Observers of the Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) organised a special high-level meeting on the occasion of the G20 Research and Innovation Ministerial Meeting in South Africa. During the event, the shared commitment to advancing scientific knowledge, fostering international cooperation, and to build and operate a transformative and compelling research infrastructure for the benefit of all humankind, was reaffirmed.
2. In an era marked by global challenges, science plays a unique role as a unifying force — one driven by a desire to understand our place in the Universe; transcending borders, motivating collaboration, and driving innovation and socio-economic impact. The SKAO embodies these principles in a unique manner. It is a flagship of multilateral collaboration, a beacon of global scientific excellence, and a testament to what nations can achieve when they work together in pursuit of a common vision.
3. Headquartered in the UK, the SKAO is making excellent progress constructing the world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope arrays, SKA-Mid, located in South Africa and SKA-Low, in Australia. Both telescopes have recently 'opened their eyes' on the Universe as the systems are being gradually brought into operation. The endeavour is made possible by an unprecedented international partnership of member countries and institutions and industries, spanning the globe and working together to deliver a complex research infrastructure in challenging physical environments in which community interest and excitement is growing as the commencement of scientific operations draws nearer.
4. G20 delegations will have the opportunity to see this excellent progress and the status of SKA-Mid and the world-leading MeerKAT observatory on the 24th September. Their visit to the site is a unique opportunity to showcase the SKAO to the representatives of the G20 governments as an example of inclusive, responsible and sustainable international cooperation to advance global science and knowledge for which the journey is just beginning.