

Summit commitments is enhanced by having ministers on site during (or closely linked to) the three-day event, for three important reasons. First, finance and foreign ministers will generally have a clearer understanding of the context and more specific aspects of the economic and political commitments and will thus be able to suggest implementation, monitoring and enforcement strategies. Second, with ministers present on site, or otherwise closely linked to the summit, leaders can immediately instruct them to contribute resources from their respective ministries at the earliest possible stages in the implementation process. And third, ministers can advise heads of state and government immediately of unrealistic commitments and thus prevent them from making commitments that cannot be kept. Thus, in order to enhance compliance under the new leaders format, it is important to devise a strong mechanism to ensure the closest consultation and coordination among heads and foreign and finance ministers, especially in formal or de facto coalition governments (Germany, Italy and Japan), where the ability of the head to command is not assured. It may be useful for heads to consider draft, unpublicized communique passages from the foreign and finance ministers meetings before. Each head should commit to a national post-Summit meeting with ministers immediately afterward. Sherpas, ideally with finance and foreign ministry deputies (where different) should hold a follow-up meeting at seven/eight in the immediate post-Summit period to discuss coordinated implementation.

These seven suggestions for reform provide a guide as to what issues should be on the Summit agenda by explicitly recommending a more streamlined and focused agenda as well as a more coherent and directed communique and appropriate use of the supporting ministerial and sherpa machinery. The final declarations should contain fewer commitments, and ones of higher quality and greater credibility. In this regard,