

Event Report

Multilateralism in the Age of AI: Shaping the Future of Global Health Governance



DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS convened a panel “*Multilateralism in the Age of AI: Shaping the Future of Global Health Governance*” in partnership with NIMS University, India. The discussion was held on 12 January 2026 as Panel I of the Winter Dialogue on Responsible AI for Synergistic Excellence (RAISE), at the Research and Innovation Park, IIT Delhi, New Delhi. The 90-minute panel brought together senior voices from diplomacy, multilateral organizations, health systems strengthening, academia, and implementation practice to examine how global health governance must evolve in response to the rapid integration of artificial intelligence into health systems. The discussion underscored that AI in health is not merely a technological shift, but a governance and diplomatic challenge with significant implications for equity, sovereignty, and global cooperation.

Panelists explored the role of AI diplomacy in strengthening multilateral health cooperation without exacerbating geopolitical competition, highlighting the importance of South–South collaboration in shaping inclusive AI standards. Perspectives from the panellist emphasized the challenges of translating global AI norms into country-level guidance that remains inclusive of women, children, and marginalized populations. From a health systems lens, speakers stressed the need to align AI investments with long-term institutional capacity building, rather than fragmented, project-based interventions.

The panel also examined governance issues arising from public–private partnerships, power asymmetries between states and technology providers, and the growing importance of interoperability and data sovereignty. Universities were highlighted as trusted intermediaries capable of contextualizing global AI frameworks within national health system realities.

Overall, the session reinforced that effective multilateralism in the age of AI will depend on moving beyond aspirational principles toward implementable standards, institutional trust, and shared stewardship, particularly for the Global South. The dialogue set a strong foundation for subsequent discussions during RAISE on translating responsible AI into equitable health outcomes.