

DAKSHIN Events

Conference on Global South and Triangular Cooperation: Emerging Facets



The Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) with support from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in partnership with the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) and DAKSHIN organized an international conference on the Global South and triangular cooperation in partnership on 3-4 June 2025 in New Delhi. The conference brought together global leaders, academics, and development practitioners to reinforce solidarity and collaboration among the countries of the Global South. Key themes included inclusive development, sovereign policymaking, sustainable finance, and South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC and TrC). India's pivotal role was underscored, from academic partnerships through the University Connect Hub to initiatives like DAKSHIN and the LiFE mission promoting sustainable lifestyles.

The Presidential Address was delivered by H.E. Mr Santiago Pena Palacios; Hon'ble President, Republic of Paraguay. The Presidential session was also complimented by deliberations from Shri Pabitra Margerita; Hon'ble Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma; Chairperson, RIS and Professor Sachin Chaturvedi; Director General, RIS. The session emphasized the deepening of India-Paraguay relations within the broader context of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (TrC), positioning both countries as advocates for equitable, sovereign, and sustainable development. India's technological and infrastructural advancements—especially in healthcare, defence, and digital innovation—were presented as valuable assets to be shared with partners like Paraguay through enhanced industrial dialogue and collaborative ventures. Both countries reinforced the need to shift away from conditional and debt-driven development models, advocating for

capacity-building based on transparency, solidarity, and mutual respect. India's Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative found strong resonance with Paraguay's sustainability ethos, underscoring the importance of cooperation in clean energy, agriculture, education, and digital infrastructure through Centres of Excellence and institutional partnerships like the DAKSHIN Centre and university MoUs. The session laid out a concrete action agenda to operationalize this vision of development cooperation. It called for advancing TrC in critical sectors like energy, food systems, climate action, and digitalisation by leveraging the unique strengths of each partner. It also stressed the need for multilateral reforms, including joint advocacy for India's permanent membership in the UN Security Council. Establishing Centres of Excellence across agriculture, health, and technology was proposed as a way to foster innovation tailored to regional needs. Lastly, strengthening public-private collaboration in education, research, and cultural exchange was recommended to institutionalize sovereign, inclusive, and sustainable development pathways for the Global South.

The key themes of the conference revolved around inclusive development, sovereign policymaking, sustainable finance, and South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC and TrC). Participants advocated moving beyond traditional donor-recipient models to collaborative frameworks rooted in ethical governance, local ownership, and mutual accountability. Special focus areas included agriculture, digital inclusion, climate resilience, and gender mainstreaming. Action labs and special sessions showcased successful TrC projects in Peru, Cameroon, and Ghana, highlighting scalable innovations in healthcare, agritech, and digital platforms. India's experience in capacity-building across Africa and Asia was repeatedly cited as a replicable model. Panelists stressed the importance of addressing structural barriers—debt, technology access, weak institutions—and enhancing public-private partnerships and localized SDG implementation. The conference concluded with calls to embed sustainability and equity into development strategies, ensure women's and youth's participation, and uphold Bandung principles as the moral compass guiding South-South collaboration in a fragmented world.

Besides, the event also witnessed the signing of a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and DAKSHIN. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, stated that DAKSHIN aims to support stakeholders and partners in discovering and disseminating sustainable and scalable solutions capable of driving meaningful economic and social transformation across countries in the Global South. He further emphasized that the collaboration between ICRISAT and DAKSHIN is expected to play a pivotal role in reinforcing

systems for sustainable agricultural practices, including production and processing, and utilizing digital innovations to advance climate-resilient agriculture throughout the Global South.