

DAKSHIN Network and Collaborations

DAKSHIN Participates in a Workshop at the The Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance



DAKSHIN at RIS joined the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance at the University of Cape Town in an international conference held at Cape Town, South Africa on 26-27 May 2025 to discuss mutual supportiveness of trade and sustainability as South Africa heads towards the final months of its G 20 Presidency. Atul Kaushik of RIS discussed sustainable industrialization and inclusive growth in Africa in a panel partnering with Dr Rob Davies, former Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition of South Africa, Prof. Wei Liang from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, USA, and Ms. Poorva Karkare of the European Centre for Development Policy Management, and moderated by Dr Clara Brandi of the German Institute of Development and Sustainability. The panel emphasized identification of sectors of export interest for Africa and efforts required to add value at home before exporting, and focused on the technology and capacity building needs important sectors like agriculture, minerals and digital economy. DAKSHIN has been working with more than five dozen African think tanks spread over more than 40 countries to work together on these issues.

Nexus between climate change and trade, critical minerals and extended value chains, the social dimension in global governance, a vision for trade system reform for sustainable development, debt and finance were some of the other issues debated. Several innovative ideas were explored

by experts from across the world, where South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation figured prominently. Dr Mzukisi Qobo, South Africa's Permanent Representative to the WTO and Dr Wamkele Mene, Secretary General of the AfCFTA Secretariat added further heft to an already illustrious gathering of experts on the subjects discussed.

After two days of intense discussions, Prof. Faizel Ismail, Director of the Nelson Mandela School crystallized the conversations into a practical and concrete work programme by suggesting setting up of four work group, one each on inclusive growth; evolving solutions for sustainable industrialisation of Africa in collaboration with experts from Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and Mexico; strengthening African development banks for resource mobilisation; and reimagining cooperation (including through South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation) for cohesive global governance to meet climate challenges.

Coming before the two-day international conference on Global South and Triangular Cooperation: Emerging Facets being organised by RIS on 3-4 June at New Delhi, India, the deliberations are going to be very useful for the several invited African delegates.