



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence



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In-Focus Article



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India–Africa Partnership for Agricultural Transformation

Agriculture remains central to the economies of both India and Africa. It contributes approximately 16 percent to India's GDP and 14 percent to Africa's, while employing 42 percent and 46 percent of their workforces, respectively (FAOSTAT). Smallholder farming dominates both regions, making agricultural growth essential for food security, poverty reduction and rural livelihoods.

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DAKSHIN Network and Collaborations

India's Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Underscores India's Deepening Engagement with ASEAN at the Asean Regional Forum and East Asia Summit



Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Coordinator, DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, had a productive meeting with Dr. Tara de Mel, Executive Director, Bandaranaike Academy for Leadership and Public Policy, a partner institution of DAKSHIN, to explore avenues for strengthening institutional collaboration. The discussion highlighted DAKSHIN's ongoing and upcoming initiatives, with both sides agreeing to pursue joint webinars and collaborative research. Strengthening collaboration through joint research and knowledge exchange will contribute to evidence-based policy solutions and foster shared learning among Global South countries.

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DAKSHIN Upcoming Events

DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence seeks to identify, document and facilitate the exchange of development solutions emerging from across the Global South. With Letters of Association (LoAs) with 164 think tanks and institutions across 95 countries, DAKSHIN has built a broad network for knowledge sharing, research and development cooperation.

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Key Developments in the Global South

India's Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Underscores India's Deepening Engagement with ASEAN at the Asean Regional Forum and East Asia Summit



India's Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Manila, Philippines, on 22–23 July 2026 to participate in Foreign Minister-level meetings under the ASEAN framework, including the ASEAN-India, East Asia Summit (EAS) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Meetings. The visit underscores India's deepening engagement with ASEAN under the Act East Policy and reaffirms our strong commitment to further strengthening the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. It is of particular significance that 2026 has been designated as the ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation. On the margins of the ASEAN-related meetings, he participated in a Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting with his counterparts from Australia, Japan and the United States.

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India Highlights ASEAN Partnership and Maritime Cooperation at Post-Ministerial Conference



India reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening ties with ASEAN during the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference with India in Manila, where India's Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired the meeting alongside Hon'ble Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro. During the conference, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar thanked the Philippines for its role as the country coordinator for the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and endorsed the meeting's

theme, “Navigating Our Future, Together”, as reflecting the shared commitment to peace, stability and development in the Indo-Pacific. He highlighted growing global challenges, including disruptions to supply chains, energy, food and health security, as well as maritime cooperation, stressing that deeper international cooperation was needed to build resilience and diversify partnerships.

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India’s Hon’ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar Holds Talks with Hon’ble Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Wang Yi at ASEAN Regional Forum Meetings in Philippines



India’s Hon’ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar met Hon’ble Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Wang Yi during the East Asia Summit and ASEAN Regional Forum Meetings in Manila in the Philippines. In his opening remarks, Hon’ble External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar emphasised the gradual normalisation of India-China relations while stressing that peace along the border remains a fundamental prerequisite for deeper bilateral cooperation. He said both nations believe that a stable and cooperative relationship can best be developed based on mutual respect, mutual interest and mutual sensitivity. He added that such a relationship can make a valuable contribution to a multi-polar Asia and a multi-polar world. He welcomed several recent confidence-building measures, including the resumption of direct flights, updates to the visa regime, the restart of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra, and the re-commencement of border trade.

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India’s Hon’ble External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar Holds Talks with Hon’ble Leaders from Oman, Brunei, Philippines and Papua New Guinea on the Sidelines of ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting



India's Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar held a series of meetings in Manila on the sidelines of ASEAN-related engagements, with his talks with Oman's Hon'ble Foreign Minister H.E. Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi focusing on the West Asia crisis and the evolving regional landscape. He also called on the Hon'ble Philippines President H.E. Ferdinand R Marcos Jr and met the Hon'ble Foreign Ministers of the Netherlands, Papua New Guinea, Brunei and the UK, among other leaders. During his meeting with Hon'ble President H.E. Ferdinand R Marcos Jr, he conveyed Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's greetings and India's support for a successful ASEAN chairship by the Philippines. He said, "India-Philippines cooperation under the aegis of our Strategic Partnership continues to diversify as we implement the India-Philippines Plan of Action 2025–2029."

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Global Legal Order Must be More Inclusive, Reflect Global South: India's Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar



The international legal architecture must be more democratic, inclusive and sensitive to the realities of the Global South, India's Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar said. In his address at an event marking the 60th anniversary of the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), he argued that international law cannot remain insulated from the fast-changing global landscape and developments. "Today's world is witnessing unprecedented geopolitical volatility, supply chain

disruptions, rapid technological shifts.” “And these developments are affecting how goods, services, capital, and data move across borders, exposing businesses and governments to risks for which no country can be resilient in isolation,” he said. “Amidst the fast-changing global landscape, development of international law therefore cannot remain insulated,” he added.

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16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting Concludes Successfully Under India's BRICS Chairship 2026



The 16th BRICS Health Ministers' Meeting concluded successfully in Chandigarh under India's BRICS Chairship 2026, bringing together Health Ministers, Heads of Delegation, senior officials and public health experts from BRICS member countries to strengthen cooperation in addressing shared public health priorities and advancing a resilient global health architecture. Convened under India's BRICS Chairship theme, "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability," the Meeting provided a platform for member countries to deliberate on key health challenges and reaffirm their collective commitment towards strengthening health systems, promoting innovation, enhancing pandemic preparedness and advancing Universal Health Coverage through sustained cooperation.

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Hon'ble President of Zanzibar H.E. Hussein Ali Mwinyi's Visit to India Reinforces New Delhi's Africa Strategy



At the invitation of Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, Hon'ble Vice President of the Republic of India, H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, Hon'ble President of Zanzibar and Chairman of the Revolutionary Council, accompanied by the First Lady H.E. Mariyam Mwinyi, paid an official visit to India from 17- 20 July 2026. On 19 July, Hon'ble President of Zanzibar H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi held bilateral discussions with the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan. Both leaders reviewed the full spectrum of India-Tanzania relations and explored new avenues to expand the bilateral cooperation in areas such as blue economy, tourism, technology, health and education. The two sides positively assessed recent expansion in bilateral trade and investment linkages and development partnership. Hon'ble President H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi extended an invitation to the Hon'ble Vice President of India to pay an official visit to Tanzania, which was graciously accepted.

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Partnership with India Blueprint for Collective Future of Global South: Hon'ble Mauritius Foreign Minister



Terming the partnership with India as "multifaceted", Hon'ble Mauritius Foreign Minister H.E. Dhananjay Ramful highlighted the active involvement of the Indian government in financing and developing numerous infrastructure projects in the Indian Ocean nation. In an interview with IANS, Hon'ble Mauritius Foreign Minister H.E. Dhananjay Ramful, who is also a Minister for Regional Integration and International Trade, highlighted the growing business ties between both countries. "India-Mauritius partnership is multifaceted, and it's geared towards a steady socio-economic transformation, from infrastructure and capacity building to education, technology, health and various sectors. Many projects in Mauritius bear the footprint of the Indian government. Many of these projects have been financed by the Indian government, either through grants or concessional lines of credit," he told IANS.

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Hon'ble MoS Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh Visits Kyrgyz Republic to Participate in the Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)



Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh undertook an official visit to the Kyrgyz Republic on July 23 and 24, 2026, to participate in the Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The meeting was held in Cholpon-Ata and served as a key preparatory engagement ahead of the SCO Leadership Summit, which is scheduled to take place in Bishkek on August 31 and September 1, 2026. According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the SCO Foreign Ministers reviewed progress across major areas of cooperation within the organisation and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest. The meeting focused on a range of documents and decisions that will be placed before the Heads of State for adoption at the upcoming Bishkek Summit.

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India and UAE Reaffirm their Commitment to Ensuring Safety, Dignity & Well-Being of their Citizens Living in Each Other's Countries



The 7th Meeting of the India-UAE Joint Committee on Consular Affairs (JCCA) was held in New Delhi on 22 July 2026. The meeting was co-chaired by Smt. Sripriya

Ranganathan, Hon'ble Secretary (CPV & OIA) and H.E. Mr. Omar Obaid Mohammed AlHesan AlShamsi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates. India and the UAE enjoy warm and cordial relations that cover all facets of bilateral cooperation, including in the economic, political, defence, technology, cultural, and energy domains, and are anchored in the strong people-to-people ties underpinned by the 4.5 million-strong Indian community in the UAE. Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and His Highness President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, India-UAE relations have continued to scale new heights.

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United Arab Emirates and India Seek New Food Partnerships at Andhra Pradesh Forum



The UAE Food Cluster has stepped up efforts to deepen economic ties with India, bringing together more than 32 Emirati and Indian companies at a business forum in Andhra Pradesh aimed at forging new partnerships across the food, agriculture and agri-technology sectors. Held under the theme 'Building Strategic Partnerships Across Value Chains', the forum focused on strengthening collaboration in food manufacturing, agricultural production, supply chains, advanced farming technologies and integrated value-chain systems as the two countries seek to bolster food security and sustainable growth. The event was organised by the UAE Food Cluster, an initiative launched by the Ministry of Economy and Tourism, in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh government.

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India Targets Preferential Trade Agreement Talks with Philippines



India is aiming to begin negotiations for a preferential trade agreement (PTA) with the Philippines by the end of this year as it looks to significantly expand trade in goods, according to its top envoy. In an interview with the Manila Bulletin on Tuesday, July 28, Hon'ble Indian Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Harsh Kumar Jain said both countries have already agreed on the terms of reference (TOR) for the negotiations. He said talks on the trade deal have not yet started, as the Philippines has been focusing on concluding ongoing negotiations for free trade agreements (FTAs) with other countries. India, on the other hand, has been focusing on the ongoing review of the existing regional FTA between India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which includes the Philippines. "We can look at [PTA] negotiations as soon as the India-ASEAN trade agreement review is concluded," he said.

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Afghanistan Seeks Deeper Trade Ties with India, Pitches for Easier Business Access



Afghanistan's top trading body has called for expanding trade and investment ties with India, stressing the need to ease business procedures, remove administrative barriers and facilitate the issuance of business visas. The proposals were discussed in Kabul during a meeting between Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) Chairman H.E. Sayed Karim Hashemi and Hon'ble Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan H.E. Yatin Patel. The two sides held talks "in the framework of a strategic and diplomatic dialogue", according to a statement released by the trading body. The meeting comes amid a sharp decline in Afghanistan's transit trade with neighbouring Pakistan, which fell to USD 367 million in FY26 from about USD 5 billion in FY21, as Kabul increasingly shifted to alternative trade routes, including through Iran.

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India Strengthens Global Digital Cooperation through Digital Public Infrastructure Partnerships with 24 Countries



Over the past decade, the Government of India has built a robust ecosystem of open, interoperable and inclusive digital platforms that have transformed public service delivery, promoted financial inclusion, fostered innovation and created new opportunities for citizens and businesses. The government's vision now extends beyond domestic digital transformation towards building a globally connected, trusted and inclusive digital ecosystem. In furtherance of this vision, the Government of India has signed MoUs with 24 countries for cooperation in sharing successful population-scale digital solutions to accelerate digital transformation globally. These MoUs provide a framework for cooperation in capacity building, knowledge and best-practice exchange, joint workshops and expert consultations, feasibility and e-readiness assessments, and the development, piloting and scaling of proven digital solutions.

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DAANVEER Initiative Launched to Boost Digital Infrastructure Across India's Gram Panchayats



DAANVEER, a citizen participation initiative to strengthen the digital infrastructure of Gram Panchayats across the country, was launched by Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, Hon'ble Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in New Delhi. According to a release from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, DAANVEER is a platform designed not just to close the immediate computer gap in the Gram Panchayats but to evolve into a long-term, citizen-powered ecosystem for strengthening local institutions. It is a transparent, end-to-end digital and verifiable platform that enables citizens and organisations to contribute towards the identified technology and infrastructure needs of Gram Panchayats in India. The initiative institutionalises the spirit of voluntarism in society by providing a structured, accountable and seamless mechanism for supporting grassroots digital infrastructure. An initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, it has been developed in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and DigiHaat.

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India Donates Ebola Preparedness Supplies to Strengthen Kenya's Health Security



Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Health, Hon. Aden Duale, received a humanitarian consignment of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) preparedness commodities from the Government of the Republic of India, reinforcing Kenya's national health security architecture and enhancing the country's preparedness to prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies. The five-tonne donation comprises Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), rapid diagnostic kits, infrared thermometers and other emergency response supplies. The commodities will replenish the National Public Health Emergency Strategic Stockpile, strengthen protection for frontline healthcare workers, support rapid outbreak detection and response, and equip the country's 22 designated Ebola isolation units. The support comes as Kenya continues to maintain heightened vigilance against the regional Ebola threat despite having recorded no confirmed case.

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India Donates Malathion to Combat Dengue



India has donated a consignment of the insecticide malathion to Sri Lanka to bolster dengue control efforts after health authorities found that the chemical currently used for mosquito fogging is proving ineffective in some areas, the National Dengue Control Unit (NDCU) said. Responding to questions from The Daily Morning, Acting Director of the NDCU, Dr Kapila Kannangara, said the request for malathion had been made by the Health Ministry after Public Health Inspectors (PHIs) reported that the chemical currently being used for fogging is not proving sufficiently effective against mosquitoes in some areas. “Earlier, they used malathion, but we don’t have malathion at the moment,” Dr Kannangara said.

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India Donates Humanitarian Aid to the Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)



According to a statement issued by ANDMA, the aid was provided as part of humanitarian cooperation to support the authority’s efforts in assisting victims of natural disasters. Additionally, the aid packages included flour, rice, cooking oil, beans, mung beans, lentils, sugar, macaroni, soap, dishwashing liquid, and biscuits. The items have been allocated for use in humanitarian programs and to assist people affected by natural disasters. ANDMA officials expressed appreciation for the cooperation of the Embassy of India, stating that the assistance will significantly contribute to strengthening the capacity for rapid and effective assistance to people affected by disasters.

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India Explores Digital Land and Credit Infrastructure Integration



India's Department of Land Resources (DoLR) is exploring closer integration between digital land governance systems and digital lending infrastructure to improve access to formal credit in rural areas. During a recent high-level meeting with the RBI Innovation Hub (RBIH), officials discussed how authenticated digital land records could support faster, consent-based loan delivery for farmers and rural citizens while improving transparency and reducing operational risks in lending. The discussions, detailed in an official government release, focused on the potential convergence of digital public infrastructure (DPI) for land administration with the Unified Lending Interface (ULI). The initiative aligns with wider national efforts to strengthen digital public infrastructure and improve public service delivery through interoperable digital systems.

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India's First Privately Developed Orbital Rocket, Vikram-1 Launched Successfully from Satish Dhawan Space Centre



India's first privately developed orbital rocket, Vikram-1 under Mission Aagaman, has successfully reached orbit after completing its final burn and injecting payloads into a 450 km orbit. The lift-off took place at 12.05 pm from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The milestone makes India the third country in the world to achieve private orbital launch capability. Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi congratulated Skyroot Aerospace for the achievement. He spoke to Team Skyroot by phone and lauded the historic space feat. He also invited Team Vikram-1 to meet him. Hon'ble Union Minister of Science and Technology Shri Jitendra Singh also celebrated the success. Vikram-1 is India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle, designed and built by Hyderabad-based aerospace startup Skyroot Aerospace.

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Brazil and World Food Programme Strengthen Partnership to Advance Food Security and Resilient Food Systems in Namibia



The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) welcomed a USD120,000 (NAD 1.97 million) contribution from the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil to help improve food security and production, strengthen livelihoods, improve nutrition, and build resilient food systems across Namibia, reinforcing a partnership that began in 2019. The funding is expected to benefit more than 1,000 people. Brazil has worked alongside the Government of the Republic of Namibia and WFP to support communities affected by climate shocks for the past six years. More than USD 2 million (NAD 3.5 million) in funding, as well as in-kind assistance, has helped address malnutrition and build strong

food systems across the country. This latest tranche of funding will support the continuation of five Integrated Food Systems Projects in Otjozondjupa, Omaheke, Hardap, Kunene, and Ohangwena regions.

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Nigeria's Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, H.E. Senator Abubakar Kyari, Urges Africa to Drive Homegrown Agricultural Innovation for Food Security



Nigeria's Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, H.E. Senator Abubakar Kyari, has called on African countries to take the lead in developing homegrown agricultural technologies, stressing that science, innovation and knowledge will determine the continent's ability to achieve sustainable food security. He made the call at the 9th Africa Agriculture Science Week (AASW) and the 10th General Assembly of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) in Abuja. He said Africa must move beyond relying on imported technologies and instead become a global hub for agricultural innovations tailored to its environmental conditions, production systems and development priorities. He described knowledge as the most valuable resource in modern agriculture, noting that harnessing science, technology and innovation is critical to transforming the continent's agricultural sector.

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Ethiopia: Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa to Extend \$2 Million for Pioneering Energy-Agriculture Mini-Grid Project



The African Development Bank Group's Board of Directors has approved a \$2 million reimbursable grant from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) to support the development of two renewable power mini-grids in Ethiopia under the Distributed Renewable Energy and Agriculture Modalities (DREAM) programme. Approved on 17 July, this financing forms part of the \$8 million programmatic financing envelope for DREAM approved in May 2024. It will support the Lelicho and Murche mini-grid sub-projects, developed by RVE.SOL ETH Energy Generation Solutions PLC, and will contribute up to 50% of mini-grid project capital expenditure. The programme was developed in collaboration with the Government of Ethiopia, the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) and other stakeholders.

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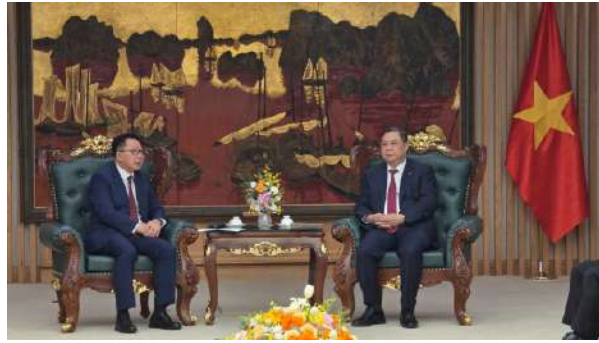
Uzbekistan and Food and Agriculture Organization Discuss Expanding Agricultural Innovation Partnership



Uzbekistan and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) discussed expanding cooperation on agricultural modernisation, scientific research, and climate-resilient farming. This was reflected in the statement by the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan following a meeting between Minister Ibrokhim Abdurakhmonov and FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu. According to the Ministry, the meeting, held as part of the 30th session of the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG) in Rome, brought together agriculture ministers, representatives of international organisations, and experts to discuss issues of global food security and sustainable agriculture. The Uzbek delegation outlined ongoing reforms aimed at modernising agriculture, strengthening food security, improving water management and promoting farming practices adapted to climate change.

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Laos and Vietnam Deepen Cooperation in Agriculture and Environmental Protection



H.E. Linkham Douangsavanh, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Environment of the Lao PDR, led a high-level delegation on an official visit to Vietnam from July 13–17 to strengthen bilateral cooperation in agriculture, forestry, environmental protection, and investment. During the visit, the Lao delegation held official talks with Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment and paid a courtesy call on H.E. Pham Gia Tuc, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam and Member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam, to review progress in bilateral cooperation over the past five years. Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Pham Gia Tuc reaffirmed the importance of the longstanding special relationship between Laos and Vietnam and expressed continued support for expanding cooperation in agriculture and environmental management.

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Egypt and Tanzania Sign Cooperation Deals, Advance Plans for Shipping Corridor, Agricultural Project

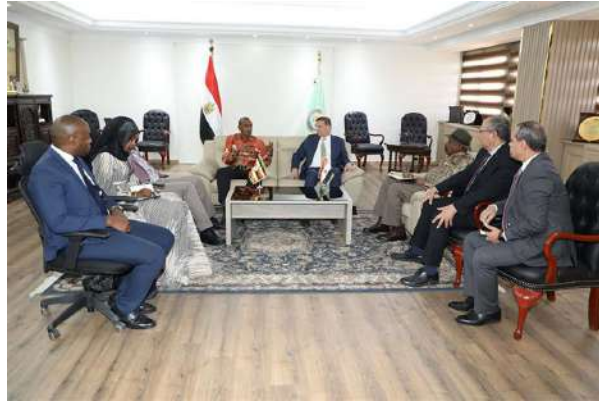


Hon'ble Egyptian President H.E. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi and Hon'ble Tanzanian President H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan discussed plans to launch a large-scale agricultural land reclamation project, establish a new maritime shipping route, and expand cooperation in port development, as the two countries moved to strengthen economic, trade and investment ties. According to the Egyptian presidency, the two leaders also witnessed the signing of two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) covering transport, electricity and renewable energy following their talks in the Tanzanian capital. Speaking at a joint press conference, Hon'ble Egyptian President H.E. Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi said the discussions focused on increasing bilateral trade, encouraging mutual investment and expanding private-sector cooperation across key sectors, including construction, roads, maritime

transport, ports, logistics, electricity, agriculture, irrigation, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies.

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Egypt and Uganda Eye Broader Agricultural Cooperation, Livestock Vaccine Partnership



Egypt and Uganda plan to deepen agricultural cooperation, expand joint investment and strengthen bilateral food security initiatives, Egypt's Agriculture Ministry said after Hon'ble Agriculture Minister H.E. Alaa Farouk met his Ugandan counterpart, H.E. Frank Tumwebaze, in Cairo. The meeting, attended by Uganda's Hon'ble State Minister for Animal Industry, H.E. Bright Rwamirama, focused on accelerating the implementation of bilateral agreements covering agriculture, livestock, fisheries and veterinary services, the Ministry said. The ministers reviewed progress on a jointly operated 500-hectare integrated crop and livestock farm in Uganda and agreed to expand the cultivation of strategic crops, including maize, soybeans, beans, wheat and sunflower. They also discussed increasing the farm's role in transferring Egyptian expertise in livestock feeding, agricultural mechanisation, seed production and silage, the Ministry said.

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Bangladesh and Malaysia Eye Stronger Cooperation in Agriculture Sector



Bangladesh and Malaysia's Sarawak state have discussed strengthening cooperation in agriculture, particularly in agricultural technology and food security, alongside initiating a process to formulate a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the sector. The issues were discussed during a meeting between a Bangladesh High Commission delegation, led by Deputy High Commissioner Ms. Mosammat Shahanara Monika, and Datu Sirai Anak Daba, Permanent Secretary of Sarawak's Ministry of Food Industry, Commodity and Regional Development (M-FICORD) in Sarawak. During the meeting, the two sides explored potential areas of agricultural cooperation, with particular emphasis on sharing experience, expertise and technology.

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Uzbekistan and El Salvador Discuss Boosting Agricultural and Trade Cooperation



Uzbekistan and El Salvador discussed prospects for expanding investment, trade and agricultural cooperation. This was reflected in the statement by the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan following a meeting between Mr. Nuriddin Kushnazarov, adviser to Uzbekistan's Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, and H.E. Yuri Pavel Santacruz Perdomo, El Salvador's Hon'ble Ambassador to Russia. The talks focused on attracting investment, strengthening trade and economic ties, and broadening cooperation in areas of mutual interest. "The parties exchanged views on further intensifying cooperation in investment, trade and economic relations, agricultural education, scientific research, export-import activities and the implementation of promising joint projects in the agricultural sector," the Ministry said in a statement.

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Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan Expand Collaboration on Sustainable Agriculture



Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan discussed expanding cooperation in agriculture. This was reflected in the statement by the Ministry of Agriculture of Uzbekistan following a meeting between Hon'ble Uzbek Deputy Agriculture Minister H.E. Kakhramon Yuldashev and Hon'ble Kyrgyz Deputy Minister of Water Resources, Agriculture and Processing Industry H.E. Mirbek Duysheev. The talks took place during a working visit by an Uzbek delegation to Kyrgyzstan and focused on strengthening bilateral cooperation across several areas of the agricultural sector. "The parties agreed to further intensify cooperation in the agricultural sector, expand direct dialogue between relevant institutions and consistently implement joint initiatives," the Ministry said in a statement. Discussions focused on developing potato farming, producing and supplying high-quality seed potatoes, and strengthening cooperation between agricultural research institutions in the two countries.

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African Union Health Summit: Egypt Calls for Stronger African Cooperation on Healthcare



Egypt called for stronger African cooperation to address the continent's health challenges, expand vaccine production and strengthen healthcare systems during the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Health in Accra, Ghana. The July 21-22 summit was held under the theme: "Advancing Justice, Equity and Universal Health Coverage: Ending AIDS, TB, Improving Maternal Health, and Addressing Endemic Non-Communicable and Neglected Tropical Diseases and Conditions in Africa." Hon'ble Deputy Foreign Minister for African Affairs H.E. Mohamed Abubakr led the Egyptian delegation, highlighting Egypt's experience in healthcare reform, disease prevention and control, and local pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing. The delegation outlined Egypt's efforts to combat communicable and non-communicable diseases, expand access to healthcare services and

advance universal health coverage as part of the country's sustainable development agenda.

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Kabul and Tashkent Discuss Health Sector Cooperation



Afghan and Uzbek officials have discussed expanding health sector cooperation, including treatment of Afghan patients, pharmaceutical development and medical equipment production, the Ministry of Public Health said. In a statement, the Ministry said H.E. Mawlawi Hamdullah Zahid, Hon'ble Deputy Minister for Food and Drugs, met Uzbekistan's Hon'ble Deputy Health Minister H.E. Ilhomjon Umurzakov and discussed the exchange of expertise and cooperation in treating Afghan patients, especially those suffering from cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. The two sides stressed expanding health cooperation, launching joint initiatives and strengthening technical ties, the statement added. Uzbek officials expressed readiness to further expand cooperation in health, pharmaceutical and medical products sectors, reaffirming their commitment to continued collaboration, the statement said.

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Mental Health Leaders Commit to Expanding Rights-Based Care Across West and Central Africa



Mental health experts and policymakers from 26 countries across West and Central Africa have pledged to accelerate the expansion of dignified, rights-based mental health services and fast-track progress towards the WHO African Region's 2030 mental health targets. The commitment was made at the West and Central Africa Mental Health Inter-country Learning Gathering in Lomé, convened by the WHO Regional Office for Africa with support from the Akwaaba Trust. "Every person living with a mental health condition

deserves to be treated with dignity, respect and compassion,” said H.E. Dr Benido Impouma, Director of Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Control at the WHO Regional Office for Africa. “While progress has been made, we must accelerate efforts to strengthen rights-based, community-centred care and build resilient health systems that ensure no one is left behind.”

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Accra Declaration Pledges Health Reform as Somalia’s Primary Healthcare Faces Funding Crunch



Somalia’s Hon’ble Minister of Health and Human Services, H.E. Dr. Ali Haji Adam, has represented Hon’ble President H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud at the 25th Extraordinary Session of the African Union Assembly in Accra, Ghana, where he reaffirmed the government’s commitment to strengthening primary healthcare and building resilient health systems. The summit, held under the theme “Advancing Justice, Equity and Universal Health Coverage: Ending AIDS, TB, Improving Maternal Health, Addressing Endemic Non-Communicable and Neglected Tropical Diseases and Conditions in Africa,” brought together African heads of state, health ministers, policymakers, and development partners to chart a new course for the continent’s health sector. In his address, H.E. Dr. Ali Haji Adam, Hon’ble Minister of Health and Human Services, told the assembly that Somalia has made the delivery of Primary Health Care (PHC) a national priority, treating it as the foundation on which quality, equitable health services reaching the whole population are built.

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The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and the International Organization for Migration Sign New Partnership to Strengthen Africa’s Health Security



The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) have signed a new Cooperative Agreement to strengthen Africa’s capacity to prevent, detect and respond to public health threats across the continent. The agreement sets out how the two organisations will work together from 2026 to 2028, combining Africa CDC’s leadership in public health and IOM’s global operational expertise in supporting the health of migrants, displaced people and mobile populations. Together, they will support African Union Member States to strengthen preparedness, improve disease surveillance, expand equitable access to health services and build stronger public health systems. The partnership comes at a time when disease outbreaks, climate-related health risks and population movements increasingly shape Africa’s public health landscape. Stronger cross-border collaboration will help countries detect threats earlier, coordinate responses more effectively and protect communities wherever they live or move.

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Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan Deepen Healthcare Cooperation Through Digital Health and Investment Partnerships



Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan have strengthened their healthcare partnership with a series of agreements and initiatives aimed at expanding cooperation in virtual care, health financing, digital transformation, healthcare investment and workforce development. The agreements were announced during Hon'ble Saudi Health Minister H.E. Fahad AlJalajel's official visit to Uzbekistan, where he participated in a healthcare sector roundtable in Tashkent alongside Hon'ble Uzbek Deputy Head of the Presidential Administration for Healthcare Reform H.E. Tamila Aliyeva, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Jamshid Khodjaev and Hon'ble Health Minister H.E. Eldor Edilov. The discussions focused on expanding bilateral cooperation across the healthcare sector, with particular attention to investment opportunities, knowledge exchange, technology adoption and the development of more advanced healthcare services.

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South Africa's Hon'ble Deputy Health Minister H.E. Dr Joe Phaahla Calls for African Self-Reliance on HIV Response Financing



South Africa's Hon'ble Deputy Health Minister H.E. Dr Joe Phaahla says African countries must move towards self-reliance in financing their HIV responses. He was speaking to SABC News on the sidelines of the 26th International AIDS Conference in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. Delegates at the conference are discussing the future of the global HIV response. This includes sustainable funding, equitable access to new prevention and treatment technologies as well as strategies to end AIDS as a public health threat. He said the reduction in international donor funding has highlighted the urgent need for countries to mobilise domestic resources to sustain critical programmes. He also says advances in HIV treatment are offering incredible hope, but global access remains a problem. He said it is important for South Africa to be part of the global conversation because it is carrying one of the world's highest HIV burdens.

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Thailand Strengthens Vaccine, ASEAN Biopharma Push



Thailand is strengthening its vaccine security and accelerating its ambition to become Southeast Asia's leading biopharmaceutical hub through the National Biopharmaceutical Facility (NBF), a state-backed center designed to support research, development, Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) production, and contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) services. Ahead of CPHI South East Asia 2026, Thailand welcomed an international media delegation to the National Biopharmaceutical Facility at King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) in Bangkok, providing a firsthand look at the country's integrated biopharmaceutical ecosystem—from laboratory research and bioprocess development to analytical testing, GMP manufacturing, and technology transfer.

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Abuja Declaration Sets New Digital Investment Agenda for Africa



Abuja has strengthened its position as a key hub for Africa's digital economy following the adoption of the 2026 Abuja Declaration on Meaningful Connectivity for Africa, a landmark agreement expected to drive investment in telecommunications infrastructure, broadband expansion and digital inclusion across the continent. The declaration was unanimously adopted by member-states at the conclusion of the Seventh Ordinary Session of the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) Conference of Plenipotentiaries, hosted by the Federal Government in Abuja. The agreement outlines a common continental strategy to bridge Africa's digital divide by improving access to affordable internet services, particularly in rural, remote and underserved communities. It also seeks to create a more attractive environment for investment by promoting technology-neutral regulation, harmonised telecom policies and fair access to critical infrastructure such as spectrum and fibre networks.

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H.E. Dasuki Ibrahim Arabi, Director General, Bureau of Public Service Reforms Calls for Stronger Digital Public Infrastructure To Enhance Governance And Economic Growth



The Director-General of the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR), H.E. Dasuki Ibrahim Arabi, has emphasised the urgent need for Nigeria to strengthen its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a critical driver of economic growth, national security, transparency, and efficient governance. Speaking in Abuja at the ITGOV 2026 Conference themed “Building Nigeria’s Digital Public Infrastructure for Economic Growth, Security, and Governance Efficiency,” he said the future of governance depends not only on sound policies but also on the effective deployment of innovation and technology to deliver citizen-centred public services. He noted that governments across the world are increasingly investing in Digital Public Infrastructure as a foundation for improved service delivery, enhanced transparency, stronger national security, and sustainable economic development.

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Cambodian Transport Ministry Accelerates Digital Infrastructure Drive

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) is scaling up its digital transformation, expanding a centralised management system to bolster how the nation handles vital engineering data. General Department of Technical Affairs Director-General H.E. Heang Vutha opened a workshop on the Technical Document Management System (TDMS), signalling a push to move beyond traditional record-keeping. The platform acts as a digital repository for infrastructure projects, designed to streamline how departments store, search, and share technical documentation. The transition aims to improve operational efficiency and foster data-driven decision-making across the Ministry’s road infrastructure projects. The initiative marks a significant step in the Ministry’s broader strategy to digitise public infrastructure management, prioritising transparency and smarter resource allocation in a rapidly developing transport sector.

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Thailand Unveils ‘Siam Silica’ Plan to Drive Regional Chip Hub



Thailand’s Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI) has unveiled the “Siam Silica Framework”, a comprehensive roadmap to build a domestic semiconductor ecosystem while positioning the nation as a central hub within an integrated ASEAN supply chain. Presented at the National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO) meeting, the framework targets five strategic domains: Photonics Fabrication, Advanced Packaging, Silicon Design, Quantum Photonics, and Power Devices. To accelerate implementation, MHESI is launching specialised “Higher Education Sandbox” degree programs alongside its STEMPlus platform to upskill traditional manufacturing workers into deep-tech roles. Chairing the meeting, Hon’ble Deputy Prime Minister and Hon’ble MHESI Minister H.E. Dr Yodchanan Wongsawat confirmed that semiconductor development has been designated a national priority.

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Egypt Deepens World Bank Digital Partnership



Egypt is strengthening its digital economy and artificial intelligence (AI) strategy through expanded cooperation with the World Bank Group (WBG), with a focus on digital infrastructure, skills development and innovation. The initiative follows talks in Cairo between H.E. Raafat Hendy, Hon’ble Egypt’s Minister of Communications and Information Technology, and Mr. Paschal Donohoe, WBG’s managing director and chief

knowledge officer, according to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). The meeting reviewed Egypt's digital transformation plans and identified digital skills, AI and innovation as priority areas for future cooperation between the government and the WBG. The WBG said it would draw on its global expertise to help Egypt adapt international best practice to its national priorities, supporting the country's efforts to build a more competitive digital economy and create jobs.

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Morocco Partners With UNDP to Launch Women's Leadership Academy for the Digital Era



Morocco has announced a new Women's Leadership Academy for the Digital Era in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), positioning the initiative as part of the country's broader effort to close the gender gap in senior technology, public administration and executive roles. The Academy is designed to equip women leaders with digital, leadership and innovation skills, with a stated focus on preparing participants to steer both public and private sector organisations through fast-moving technological change. Details on cohort size, launch date, curriculum structure and funding were not disclosed in the announcement. The initiative adds a new institutional layer to a digital-inclusion agenda Morocco has been building out in visible steps over the past year.

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Benin Launches National Digital Public Infrastructure Roadmap



Benin has launched the development of a national roadmap for Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), marking a new step in its digital transformation strategy. The Information Systems and Digital Agency (ASIN) held the roadmap's launch workshop in Cotonou on July 16. The workshop brought together representatives from the microfinance, insurance and banking sectors, GSM operators, civil society organisations and international partners. Participants sought to define a governance framework that will strengthen digital identity, digital payments and secure data exchange. One of the initiative's guiding principles is the "Once Only" approach. Under this model, citizens provide information to the government only once, while public institutions subsequently share that information across administrations. The initiative also supports Hon'ble President H.E. Romuald Wadagni's digital transformation agenda.

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Irembo Highlights Role of Digital Public Infrastructure in Advancing Health Equity at Butaro Dialogues



Rwanda's digital services platform Irembo has highlighted the role of citizen-centred digital public infrastructure in strengthening healthcare systems and improving equitable access to services during the inaugural Paul Farmer Butaro Dialogues on Health Equity and Innovation. Irembo Chief Executive Officer Mr. Israel Bimpe participated in the event, hosted by the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) and the Consortium of Medical Schools-Africa (COMS-A), in partnership with the Gates Foundation. The inaugural dialogue, held under the theme "Closing the Gap Between Proven Innovations and Their Implementation in Maternal and Newborn Health," brought together leaders from government, academia, healthcare and technology sectors to discuss ways of translating proven innovations into practical solutions that improve health outcomes.

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United Arab Emirates PASS Sets Global Benchmark for Digital Public Infrastructure, Says World Economic Forum



The World Economic Forum (WEF) has recognised UAE PASS as a global benchmark for digital public infrastructure, highlighting the UAE’s progress in building integrated, user-centric government services powered by a unified digital identity. The recognition appears in the WEF’s latest report, *The GovTech Compass: Ten Principles for the Responsible Implementation of GovTech and Digital Public Infrastructure*. UAE PASS is featured under the report’s seventh principle, *From Digital Maximalism to Digital Pragmatism*, which encourages governments to replace fragmented digital systems with shared, reusable national infrastructure that can be deployed across public agencies. According to the report, UAE PASS demonstrates how a common digital platform can enable government entities to share digital capabilities, improve service delivery, strengthen cross-government integration, and create a more seamless user experience.

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Center for Digital Public Infrastructure Extends Digital Public Infrastructure Bootcamp to Dominican Republic

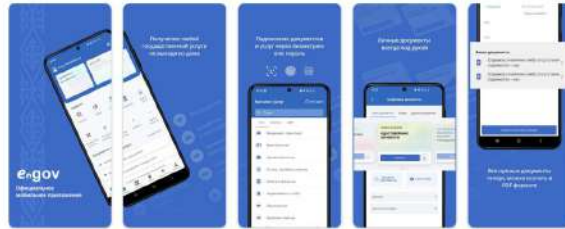


The Dominican Republic is working on new digital public infrastructure as official institutions look to use verifiable credentials and improve the delivery of public services. The Ministry of Public Administration (MAP), together with the Center for Digital Public Infrastructure (CDPI) and the Government Office of Information and Communication Technologies (OGTIC), has launched a week-long “VC Bootcamp” in Santo Domingo. Supported by the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, the initiative brings technical teams from multiple agencies to design and implement real use cases for issuing and verifying verifiable credentials. Participating agencies include those from the environment, agriculture, SISALRIL, the Central Electoral Board, the tax authority DGII

and INFOTEP. The bootcamp compresses the full cycle from concept to production into five days. By the end of the program, the country is expected to have functional infrastructure deployed on national servers.

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Kazakhstan Bets DPI Will Drive its Next Phase of Growth, Private Sector Innovation



Kazakhstan has a fast-growing economy and one of the most mature DPI ecosystems in Central Asia. The country has a National Digital Strategy, which emphasises public-private partnerships to foster financial inclusion and innovation; it is developing a national biometric authentication system under Hon'ble Prime Minister H.E. Oljas Bektenov, and has built biometrics-based digital IDs for users to navigate digital government as well as private services. “This ranking is a significant indicator of our digitalisation and public administration progress. The survey, conducted every two years, looks at key areas such as e-services, human capital, and telecommunications infrastructure,” said Hon'ble Minister of Digital Development, Innovations, and Aerospace Industry H.E. Zhaslan Madiyev.

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South Africa and Namibia Strengthen Ties with Seven New Agreements



South Africa and Namibia have taken another step towards strengthening their long-standing relationship, with the two neighbouring countries signing seven new agreements aimed at boosting economic growth, trade and regional cooperation. The agreements were finalised during the fourth session of the South Africa-Namibia Bi-national Commission in Pretoria, where government leaders from both nations gathered to discuss ways to

deepen collaboration across key sectors. Rather than focusing solely on diplomatic talks, the meeting delivered practical commitments that could help unlock new business opportunities, improve public services and strengthen economic ties between the two countries. The agreements span a range of important areas, including employment and labour, legal cooperation, public administration and a new partnership between the South African and Namibian chambers of commerce.

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Ethiopia Assumes Presidency of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, Sets Agenda for Stronger South-South Cooperation

Ethiopia has assumed the Presidency of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), according to the Ministry of Finance. The Presidency was assumed during the OACPS Council of Ministers Meeting that brought together ministers and senior government officials from the organisation's 79 member states to discuss key policy, institutional, and strategic priorities from July 15-16. Following the official handover of the Presidency, Hon'ble Finance State Minister H.E. Semereta Sewasew said Ethiopia is committed to a results-oriented chairmanship focused on expanding economic opportunities, mobilising sustainable financing, strengthening partnerships, and delivering tangible benefits to citizens across OACPS member countries. She reaffirmed Ethiopia's commitment to reinforcing the OACPS as a dynamic platform for economic cooperation, sustainable development, and coordinated engagement on global issues.

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The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Estimates Implementation of South-South trade Agreement Could Generate Welfare Gains of up to \$27 Billion

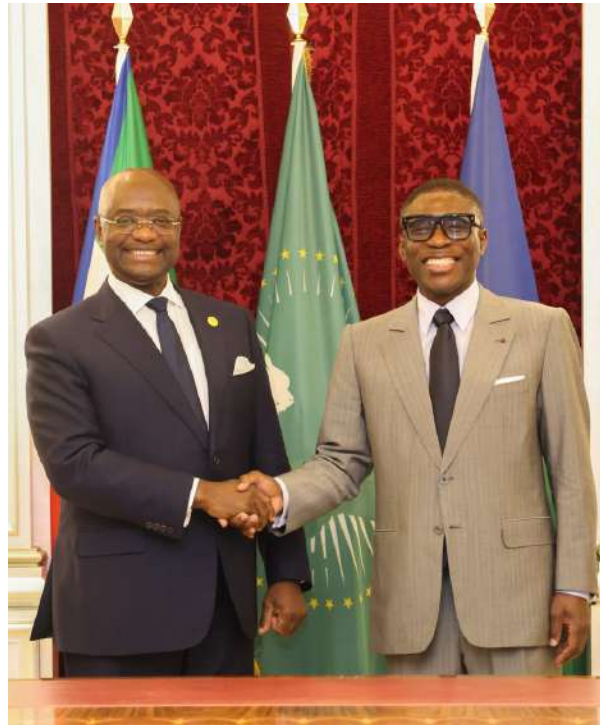


The Sao Paulo Round Protocol is now one ratification away from entering into force, bringing developing countries closer to realising one of the most ambitious South-South trade agreements after nearly three decades of efforts. At a time of growing geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions and economic fragmentation, the agreement offers

developing countries a practical way to expand trade opportunities, diversify markets and strengthen economic resilience. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimates that implementation of the agreement could generate welfare gains of up to \$27 billion across participating economies. For many countries, the benefits go beyond trade. Deeper South-South economic integration can support industrial development, economic diversification and inter-regional value chains.

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Afreximbank and Equatorial Guinea Expand Partnership to Drive Industrial Growth and Trade



The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and Equatorial Guinea have strengthened their partnership to support industrialisation, energy development and the expansion of intra-African trade. The renewed commitment follows discussions between Afreximbank President and Chairman Dr George Elombi and Equatorial Guinea's Hon'ble Vice President H.E. Theodoro Obiang Nguema Mangué in Malabo, where both sides reviewed opportunities to advance the country's economic transformation agenda. Dr Elombi said Afreximbank remains committed to supporting Equatorial Guinea through innovative financial solutions aimed at accelerating industrial development, promoting local value addition and supporting sustainable economic growth. The discussions also highlighted progress on strategic projects, including Afreximbank's role as financial adviser in mobilising capital for the US\$4.5 billion EG-27 liquefied natural gas (LNG) project developed by the Sociedad Nacional de Gas de Guinea Ecuatorial (Sonagas).

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About DAKSHIN

The word “DAKSHIN” (दक्षिण) is of Sanskrit origin, meaning “South.” The Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence in November 2023. The initiative was inspired by the deliberations of Global South leaders during the Voice of the Global South Summits. DAKSHIN stands for Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative. Hosted at the RIS, DAKSHIN has established linkages with leading think tanks and universities across the Global South and is building a dynamic network of scholars working on Global South issues.

DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence, emerging from the vision articulated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, at the 1st Voice of Global South Summit in January 2023, seeks to advance human-centric and inclusive development across the Global South. Standing for Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative, DAKSHIN works to facilitate the identification, exchange and implementation of scalable, sustainable and locally relevant solutions to shared development challenges. As an accelerator and multiplier for the Global South towards the realisation of Agenda 2030 and the localisation of the SDGs, DAKSHIN promotes cross-continental knowledge exchange, evidence-based policymaking, peer learning, global public goods and transformative development partnerships.

Inaugurated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister during the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit in November 2023, DAKSHIN, hosted by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, brings together governments, institutions, think tanks and knowledge partners to foster dialogue, mutual learning and capacity building. Through its growing network of partners across the Global South, DAKSHIN facilitates collaborative research, policy dialogue and joint initiatives, supporting stakeholders in developing context-specific pathways towards sustainable development and strengthening globally inclusive partnerships.

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