



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence



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In-Focus Article



South–South Cooperation: Successful Lessons from India–Myanmar on Competitive Ecosystems

Dr Thuta Aung, Commissioner, Myanmar Competition Commission, Ministry of Commerce; CEO - HamsaHub Consulting Pte Ltd

In 2024, the Myanmar Competition Commission (MMCC), under the coordination of its Commissioners, worked with the Competition Commission of India and the Indi-an Embassy in Yangon to organise capacity-building engagements for stakeholders central to competition enforcement. These included members of the judiciary, repre-sentatives from the Ministry of Legal Affairs (formerly the Union Attorney General’s Office), and officials from the Bureau of Special Investigation under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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Key Developments in the Global South



EAM Jaishankar Launches Logo, Theme And Website For 4th India-Africa Forum Summit

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched the logo, theme and official website for the fourth edition of the India-Africa Forum Summit, marking a key step towards strengthening India's partnership with African nations. The launch event was attended by African ambassadors and stakeholders associated with India-Africa cooperation, underscoring the growing depth of ties between the two sides.

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Africa Central to India's Foreign Policy, Partnership Guided by Equality: Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Africa occupies a central place in India's foreign policy and New Delhi's engagement with the continent is guided by a clear vision based on equality, mutual respect and shared progress.

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India Reaffirms Commitment to its Neighbourhood First Policy with Sri Lanka

Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan called on Sri Lanka's President Anura Kumara Dissanayake at the Presidential Secretariat. The two leaders held productive discussions on further deepening the multifaceted India – Sri Lanka ties, rooted in shared history and cultural values.

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India Bats for Greater Global South Representation in UNSC

India has underscored the need for greater representation in the permanent membership of the UN Security Council, particularly of countries from the Global South, and called for a fair and inclusive global financial system.

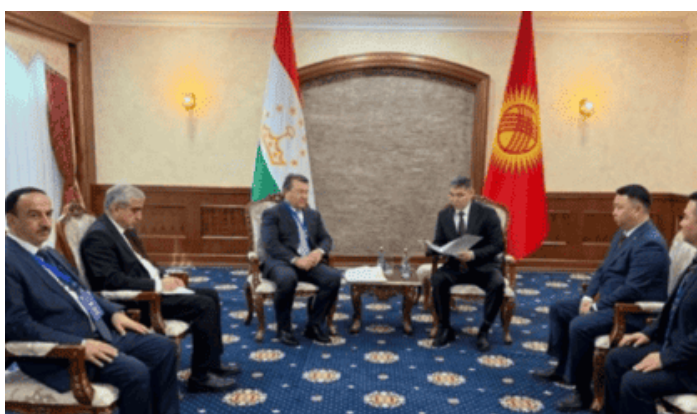
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Mauritania, India Explore Agricultural Partnership to Boost Productivity and Modernization

Means to deepen agricultural cooperation between Mauritania and India were discussed at talks held between Agriculture Minister Mohamedou Ahmadou Mhaimid and Indian Ambassador Neeraj Agrawal. Discussions centred on developing a joint cooperation program aligned with Mauritania’s agricultural priorities, aimed at enhancing productivity and strengthening food sovereignty.

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Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan Seek to Deepen Healthcare Partnership

Health ministers of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan held talks on the sidelines of the 9th meeting of health ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states in Bishkek. The cooperation between the two countries in healthcare and social protection is developing as part of broader friendly relations between their governments.

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Colombo Hosts Sub-Regional Learning hub on Decent Work and the Care Economy

Discussions at the ILO-organized South-4-Care Learning Hub highlighted that progress in the care economy across South Asia is within reach when governments, employers and workers act together through coherent policies and social dialogue.

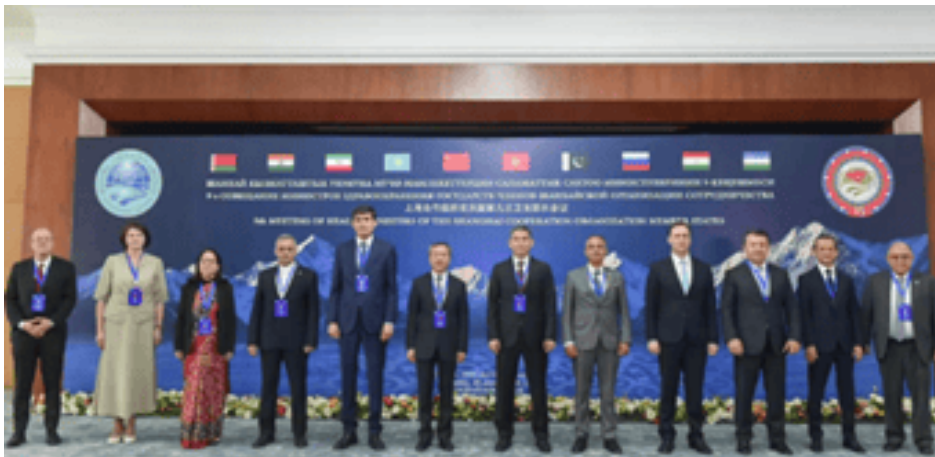
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Mars and Olam Form Strategic Collaboration to Accelerate Net Zero Cocoa in Ecuador

Confectionery and snack giant Mars and global food and agribusiness company Olam Food Ingredients have announced a five-year strategic collaboration in Ecuador to help promote climate-smart and regenerative agriculture practices across their shared cocoa supply chain. After 15 years of working together on sustainable cocoa sourcing and a decade in Ecuador, the latest collaboration was in line with both companies' 2050 Net Zero ambitions.

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Meeting of SCO Member States' Health Ministers Takes Place in Bishkek

On April 20, 2026, the 9th Meeting of Health Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States was held in Bishkek in a hybrid format under the chairmanship of the Kyrgyz side. The theme of the meeting was “Jointly Strengthening Health Systems and Building a Healthy Future in SCO States.”

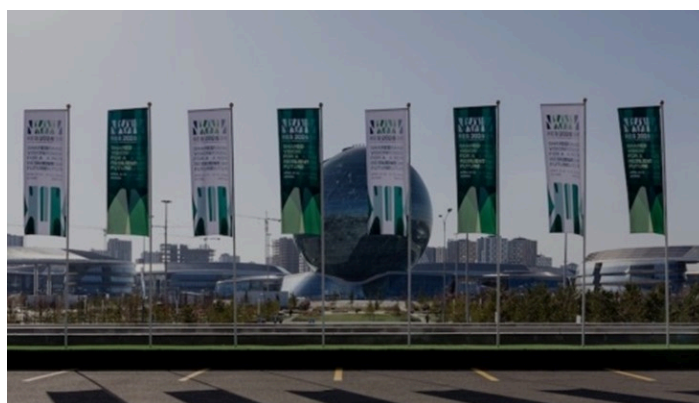
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President of Uzbekistan Outlines Key Areas of Cooperation with WHO

On April 21, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev received Director-General of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, who is in Uzbekistan on an official visit. The discussions focused on further developing cooperation with the organization in modernizing and strengthening the national healthcare system.

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Developing Countries Must Not Bear Climate Burden Alone, Central Asian Leaders say

Leaders from Central Asia and neighbouring countries issued a stark warning that the global shift to a low-carbon economy risks deepening inequality unless it is managed fairly, with stronger support for developing countries that have contributed least to climate change but face some of its most severe consequences.

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AU and EU strengthen their Health Partnership, Launch Initiatives under Global Gateway

The European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU), working through the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), continue to scale up their health partnership with the launch of three new initiatives worth over €100 million under the Global Gateway strategy. These initiatives aim to strengthen national public health institutes, enhance health security, and expand digital health solutions for pandemic preparedness and primary healthcare across Africa.

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UAE Affirms Importance of Securing Agricultural Inputs, Stability of Regional, Global Food Security

The UAE reaffirmed that food security is a sovereign pillar and fundamental to national security, calling for "proactive and adaptive strategies" that strengthen supply chain resilience and shield regional and global food systems from the shocks of a volatile geopolitical and climatic landscape.

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Kagame Discusses Partnerships with Gavi, WHO Officials

President Paul Kagame on Tuesday, April 21, met with Dr Sania Nishtar, Chief Executive Officer of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, and her delegation for discussions focused on ongoing cooperation to strengthen immunisation systems and improve public health outcomes.

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FAO and AfDB Partner to Combat Mali’s Growing Food Crisis

On Monday, April 20, 2026, a high-level meeting in Bamako between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) underscored the intensifying food security pressures facing Mali. AfDB representative Cédric Achille Mbeng Mezui and FAO acting representative Dominique Koffy Kouacou reviewed a landscape of worrying indicators, including forecasts that over 1.12 million children and 91,000 pregnant or breastfeeding women could face acute malnutrition during the 2025–2026 period.

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Senegal to Institutionalise Agroecology

Local stakeholders in Senegal have resolved to making agroecology a sustainable pillar of public policy, with pledges regarding budgets and governance. They had gathered in

Dakar for the opening of the Senegal Agroecology Days (JAES 2026), the Ministers of Agriculture and the Environment, alongside DyTAES.

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Malaysia Shares Healthcare Development Experience With Namibia

Malaysia has shared its experience with Namibia in developing a sustainable healthcare system, particularly in achieving universal health coverage (UHC) for its people. Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad said the exchange took place during a courtesy call by Namibia's Minister of International Relations and Trade, Selma Ashipala-Musavyi.

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**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

Vulnerable Asia-Pacific Nations Push for Faster Agrifood Transformation at FAO Ministerial Meeting

Ministers and senior officials from across Asia and the Pacific gathered at a special high-level meeting during the 38th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Regional Conference to address the growing agrifood challenges faced by some of the region's most vulnerable countries.

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South Africa Plans new Science Diplomacy Offices Abroad

South Africa wants to expand its international science diplomacy footprint with new offices planned in China and Ethiopia, a government official has said. Briefing parliament on 21 April, Daan du Toit, the science department's deputy director-general for international cooperation and partnerships, said the move was in response to geopolitical shifts that have changed the rules of international science collaboration.

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Health Minister, Pfizer Discuss Cooperation in Oncology, Hemophilia, Vaccine Localization

Minister of Health and Population Khaled Abdel Ghaffar held, Tuesday, April 21, 2026, a meeting with representatives of Pfizer Egypt for pharmaceutical and biological products to discuss joint cooperation in vital fields contributing to improving health services, emphasizing the ministry's keenness to coordinate with partners to develop the pharmaceutical sector and upgrade health system efficiency.

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