



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence



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DAKSHIN Think Tank Partner News



IICA signs agreement with Costa Rican gov't to bolster country's agriculture industry

The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) of Costa Rica has entered into a formal partnership with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), marking a significant step forward in the country's efforts to enhance its agricultural sector. This collaboration aims to support and implement the government's strategic initiatives to modernize and strengthen agricultural practices across the nation. As part of this agreement, IICA reports that it will assist in executing the Verification Strategy for the Program for Sustainable and Competitive Agriculture, also known as Payment for Results (PfR). The organization stated via press release that this program is an important tool designed to ensure rigorous technical oversight, promote transparency, and achieve key strategic goals within Costa Rica's agricultural landscape.

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Key Developments in the Global South



PM Modi welcomes World Leaders at Bharat Mandapam during India AI Impact Summit 2026

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday warmly welcomed several world leaders at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, as the global leaders in tech and policymaking on Artificial Intelligence (AI) converged in the national capital for the ongoing India AI Impact Summit 2026. Among the dignitaries received were Pedro Sanchez Perez-Castejon, President of Spain; Peter Pellegrini, President of the Slovak Republic; Olzhas Bektenov, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan; Petteri Orpo, Prime Minister of Finland; Anura Kumara Dissanayake, President of Sri Lanka; and Alar Karis, President of Estonia. Prime

Minister Modi also welcomed Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius; Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan; Sebastien Pillay, Vice President of Seychelles; Dick Schoof, Prime Minister of the Netherlands; Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece; and Andrej Plenkovic, Prime Minister of Croatia. Global institutions were represented by Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, as well as Vice Presidents Bharrat Jagdeo of Guyana and Edmand Lara Montano of Bolivia.

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PM Modi holds bilateral meetings with several world leaders on sidelines of India AI Impact Summit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a series of bilateral meetings with world leaders on the sidelines of the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi. During the discussions of PM Modi with his Bhutanese counterpart, Tshering Tobgay, the two leaders reviewed the progress in bilateral cooperation in energy, connectivity, development partnership and people-to-people connect. They expressed support for harnessing AI for inclusive and human-centric progress and agreed to further strengthen cooperation in AI and digital tech space. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work closely to further strengthen the India-Bhutan partnership anchored in trust, goodwill and mutual respect.

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Global South cooperation takes centre stage at India AI impact summit 2026

At the AI Impact Summit in India, policymakers and technology leaders from across the Global South have gathered to strengthen cooperation in artificial intelligence and explore collaborative pathways for economic and social development. Representatives from Indonesia, Uganda and Ghana highlighted the importance of shared learning, regulatory alignment and infrastructure partnerships as AI continues to evolve globally. Kautsarina Adam from the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, Indonesia, underscored the broader diplomatic and economic value of the summit.

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Senegal launches AgriConnect Compact to transform its agriculture sector creating 800,000 jobs in process

The Government of Senegal, in partnership with the World Bank Group, have launched what is to be known as the AgriConnect Senegal Compact. This strategic initiative aims to transform the country's agri-food systems and improve food security for millions of Senegalese. It is aligned with the Senegal National Agenda for Transformation 2050 and the Food Sovereignty Strategy (SSA 2025- 2034). The AgriConnect Pact is a harmonized implementation mechanism mobilizing the Government of Senegal and the World Bank Group - through the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) - as well as technical and financial partners, the private sector and producer organizations.

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The AfCFTA Secretariat and AGRA seal new partnership to fast-track Intra-African Trade and agricultural growth

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat and AGRA have reinforced their strategic partnership to accelerate intra-African trade, positioning agriculture as a central engine of farmer prosperity, value addition, and regional food security. At a high-level event on the 14th of February on the margins of the 39th African Union Summit, Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, and Alice Ruhweza, President of AGRA, formalised this commitment through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding marking a new phase of cooperation with a strong focus on translating the AfCFTA legal framework into practical outcomes for African agricultural markets. The partnership comes at a pivotal moment as Africa advances implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.

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India's 'AI for All' plan can push development: World Bank VP Sangbu Kim

Artificial intelligence governance cannot be an either or choice between global rules and national regulation, said Sangbu Kim, World Bank Group's vice president for digital & AI. It has to be both. Kim, who is in India to attend the ongoing India Impact AI Summit in the national capital, also said India's 'AI for All' approach has great potential to advance development. "Countries need regulation tailored to their own context, companies must step up on self-regulation, and we need global agreements because AI is borderless," he said.

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Azerbaijan, UAE eye enhanced agrarian cooperation, agree to establish joint working group

During a meeting with Azerbaijan's Minister of Agriculture Majnun Mammadov, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak Al Shamsi expressed her country's willingness to enhance agrarian cooperation with Azerbaijan. Majnun Mammadov highlighted the significant potential for expanding cooperation between the two countries. He noted that bilateral discussions create opportunities to explore collaboration in the agricultural sector and establish new partnerships. The minister stressed the importance of exchanging information on export-oriented products and ensuring mutual participation in international exhibitions held in both countries.

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Africa CDC sets strategic health priorities at 39th AU Summit as continent advances Africa Health Strategy

As African Heads of State and Government convene in Addis Ababa for the 39th African Union Summit, continental health leadership takes centre stage with an official press briefing by the Director General of Africa CDC, H.E. Dr Jean Kaseya. Held on 11 February 2026, the high level engagement places Africa's public health agenda firmly within the broader framework of Agenda 2063 and continental integration. During the official press briefing, Dr Jean Kaseya is expected to outline Africa CDC's priorities and progress under the Africa Health Strategy.

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Regulating AI is not the role of UN, says UN Chief Antonio Guterres

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that regulating Artificial Intelligence is not the role of the United Nations, as the world body plans to convene an annual global dialogue on AI with participation from governments, the private sector and civil society. Ahead of his visit to New Delhi for the India AI Impact Summit, Guterres outlined three key initiatives under the Global Digital Compact to strengthen global cooperation on AI.

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African leaders launch ACHIEVE Africa during AU Summit to drive vaccine research, development, and self-reliance

On the sidelines of the 39th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, African leaders today launched ACHIEVE Africa—Accelerating Health Innovation, Equity, and Development of Vaccines and Biologics in Africa—an initiative designed to build the continent’s end-to-end research and development ecosystem for vaccines and therapeutics. The event was convened by the Government of Zambia and co-convened by African Union Member States including Ethiopia, Egypt, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, and Zambia; the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC); and the International Vaccine Institute (IVI). The African Medicines Agency (AMA) was a special guest institution.

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39th AU Summit: Morocco reiterates commitment to contributing to collective African action in line with royal vision

The 39th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), held on February 14–15 in Addis Ababa, provided an opportunity for Morocco to reaffirm its commitment to actively contributing to the strengthening of collective African action, in line with the enlightened Royal vision. This Summit, preceded by the 48th session of the AU Executive Council on February 11–12, was marked by strong recognition of Morocco’s vision, under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, in promoting the nexus of peace, security, and development in Africa, through the Kingdom’s election, in the first round and for the third time, to serve on the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC).

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Ayush emerges at the centre of global healthcare discourse at International Ayush Conference & Exhibition 2026

“Ayush is no longer at the margins but at the centre of global health discourse,” says Union Minister Shri Prataprao Jadhav. The Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Ayush, Prataprao Jadhav, inaugurated and later addressed the valedictory session of the 3rd International Ayush Conference & Exhibition (IACE 2026) held in Dubai, marking a major milestone in the global acceptance of traditional and integrative healthcare systems. The Minister conveyed greetings on behalf of the Government of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and highlighted India’s commitment to building an integrated, preventive and sustainable global health ecosystem. Addressing international dignitaries, researchers, industry leaders and practitioners from around the world, Shri Jadhav stated that Ayush systems — Ayurveda, Yoga, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy — are increasingly recognised as holistic approaches addressing physical, mental and social wellbeing in harmony with nature.

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European Union and United Nations launch regional programme to advance gender equality and prevent gender-based violence in Central Asia

The European Union and the United Nations, in partnership with governments across Central Asia, have officially launched an EU-funded UN Multi-Country Programme (MCP) aimed at strengthening efforts to prevent gender-based violence and advancing gender equality across the region. The programme, titled “Challenging Harmful Attitudes and Norms for Gender Equality (CHANGE)” will be jointly implemented by UNDP, UNFPA and UN Women, working closely with national authorities, civil society organizations and the private sector.

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Global commitment on display as countries negotiate key annex to the Pandemic Agreement

Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) concluded a weeklong round of negotiations on draft annex for Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) – a key component of the WHO Pandemic Agreement. The fifth meeting of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the WHO Pandemic Agreement (IGWG) – set up by the World Health Assembly (WHA) last year to negotiate the PABS annex – wrapped up over the weekend after productive discussions from 9–14 February 2026.

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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.

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