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Weekly Newsletter



Global South Matters

# DAKSHIN

## Global South Centre of Excellence



14 June – 20 June 2026

### In-Focus Article



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## G7 Summit 2026: Spotlight on Global South

### Introduction

The 52nd G7 Summit in Évian, France, hosted by President Emmanuel Macron from 15 June to 17 June 2026, witnessed the coming together of global leaders to discuss the evolving geopolitical and economic landscape. The theme “Working Together to Address Major International Challenges” reflects the importance of collective global action in the rising global uncertainties. The summit was attended by leaders of the G7 countries, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the US; the European Union and international institutions. India attended the summit, along with other nations including Brazil, Egypt, Kenya and South Korea as outreach and partner countries. The discussions centred around the contemporary issues such as international peace and security, emerging technologies, global economic growth and stability, health, and the fight against organised crime and illicit flows.

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### DAKSHIN Events



DAKSHIN-Global South Centre of Excellence, RIS, and the NIMS Institute of Public Health and Governance, NIMS University Rajasthan joint organised an ‘Expert Consultation on Advancing Health Diplomacy Capacity in the Global South’ on 18 June 2026 at G. Parthasarathi Conference Hall, RIS, New Delhi. The consultation brought together experts from academia, government, policy institutions and think tanks. Followed by the Opening Session, the consultation featured two sessions; ‘Development of Case Studies Specific to the Global South in Health Diplomacy’ and ‘Development of Capacity Building Booklets in Health Diplomacy for the Global South’.

The inaugural panel was graced by Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS; and Dr Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Coordinator, DAKSHIN, RIS. Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma, Director General, RIS, Ms Geetu Joshi, Economic Adviser, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India and Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Coordinator, DAKSHIN. Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma emphasized the growing importance of health diplomacy as a Global South priority and highlighted the need for stronger institutional partnerships and mutual learning to ensure equitable health outcomes. Anchoring on ‘Health Diplomacy in the Global South: Opportunities, Challenges, and Strategic Priorities’, Ms. Geetu Joshi highlighted the opportunity for the Global South to emerge as an architect of a more equitable, resilient, and inclusive global health system through innovation, digital health, and South-South cooperation in her special remarks. Prof. Dr. Sanjay Pattanshetty, Professor and Director, NIMS Institute of Public Health and Governance, represented NIMS University Rajasthan, Jaipur in the absence of Prof. (Dr.) Balvir S Tomar, Founder and Chancellor, NIMS University Rajasthan, Jaipur in the Opening Session. He highlighted the importance of investing in education, research, and institutional capacities to enable the Global South to shape international health agenda. Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna stressed the role of health diplomacy in fostering cooperation and advancing practical, Global South-oriented capacity-building initiatives.

The first session witnessed participation from Ms Isabelle Tschan Harada, Deputy

Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, New Delhi, India; Professor Teo Yik Ying, Vice President (Global Health), Dean (Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health), National University of Singapore; Prof. (Vaidya) Pradeep Kumar Prajapati, Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, Dr Atul Kaushik, Visiting Fellow, RIS; Dr Grace Achungura, Team Leader (Health Systems), World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office for India, New Delhi; Mr Kashish Aneja, Global Health Law and Policy Expert, O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law, Georgetown University; Maj Gen (Prof) Atul Kotwal, SM, VSM (Veteran) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR); Dr Nida Faruqi, Programme Lead - Strategic Alliance, Office of Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India and Mr LM Singh, Managing Director India and Global Head – Partnerships and Innovative Finance, Vital Strategies. The discussions highlighted that strengthening health diplomacy requires moving beyond technical solutions to understand the political dynamics, financing structures, negotiations, and power relationships that shape global health decisions and equity outcomes. The dialogue also underscored the value of traditional knowledge systems and culturally acceptable approaches to preventive healthcare, including yoga, diet, and lifestyle-based practices, and the importance of sharing and adapting such experiences across countries. Collective action, coalition-building, and strategic diplomacy were recognised as essential tools for amplifying the voice of the Global South. Ensuring affordability, availability, equity, safety, and quality standards, supported by robust governance, resilient supply chains, and sustainable financing models, was identified as central to strengthening health systems across the Global South. The role of science, technology, and strategic alliances was highlighted, with emphasis on ensuring that innovation reaches people on the ground, in line with the principle of last-mile connectivity.

The second session was graced by Dr Suwit Wibulpolprasert, Senior Advisor on Global Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand; Dr Vashima Shubha, Principal Advisor and Pillar Head, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) & Partnership Management, Capacity Building Commission, Government of India; Dr Sarin Nambeeshan Sasikumar, Coordinator, Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM), RIS; Dr Jaya Jumrani, Senior Scientist, ICAR - National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (ICAR-NIAP), New Delhi; Dr Jai Ganesh Udayasankaran, Executive Director, Asia eHealth Information Network (AeHIN); Ms Sandhya Venkateswaran, Visiting Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), New Delhi; Ms Lakshmy Ramakrishnan, Associate Fellow, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi; Dr Manonmani Soundararajan, Associate Editor, Nature Health, Pune and Dr Shalini Garg, Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet Regional Health – Southeast Asia. Discussions focused on the development of practical, accessible, and context-specific capacity-building resources that can equip countries of the Global South. It was highlighted that strengthening health diplomacy requires investments at the individual, institutional, and network levels, enabling countries to develop their own expertise, collaborate effectively, and participate confidently in international negotiations. It was also emphasized that the Global South possesses a rich repository of experiences and innovations that can inform future health diplomacy. Successful models such as India's digital public infrastructure and nutrition initiatives, Brazil's food security programmes, and other context-driven innovations demonstrate the potential of South-South cooperation to transform countries from

knowledge recipients into co-creators of solutions. The importance of viewing health holistically and recognizing its interlinkages with climate and broader development priorities was emphasized. The importance of traditional knowledge and traditional medicine was also highlighted. The need for strengthening training and capacity-building initiatives for synergising knowledge, experiences, and expertise can help build communities of practice and strengthen collaboration on digital health and digital public infrastructure was duly stressed too.

This consultation assumes importance as health challenges become increasingly intertwined with trade, technology, climate, and regional cooperation, thus, calling for strengthening of health diplomacy efforts. The discussion was fruitful in exploring pathways for strengthening health diplomacy capacities, fostering institutional collaboration, and advancing Global South perspectives in global health governance.

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## Key Developments in the Global South

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### **Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Calls for Safety Net for Global South at G7 Summit 2026**

Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi urged global financial institutions to establish stronger support mechanisms to help countries in the Global South withstand economic shocks triggered by geopolitical crises, particularly the ongoing West Asia conflict and its impact on fuel, fertiliser, and food supply chains. Speaking at an outreach session of the G7 Summit in France, he warned that disruptions in critical global corridors were disproportionately affecting developing economies. The outreach session brought together India, Brazil, Egypt, Kenya, and South Korea as invited partner countries alongside G7 leaders.

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### **Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Meets Kenya's Hon'ble President H.E. William Ruto, Vows Stronger Global South Partnership**

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Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said India and Kenya will continue to strengthen their longstanding partnership, anchored in the aspirations of the Global South, following his meeting with Hon'ble Kenyan President H.E. William Ruto. The two leaders interacted on the sidelines of the Group of Seven (G7) Summit, where India was invited as a partner country. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi described the meeting as “glad to have met Hon'ble President William Ruto of Kenya,” and emphasised that both nations remain committed to working together for the well-being of their people. India and Kenya share deep historical and cultural ties, with relations dating back to the pre-independence era. The Indian diaspora in Kenya, numbering over 80,000, has played a significant role in shaping bilateral relations. Over the years, the two countries have collaborated in areas such as trade, agriculture, education, defence, and healthcare.

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## **Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Egyptian President H.E. El-Sisi Reaffirm Historic India-Egypt Friendship at G7 summit 2026**

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Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met Hon'ble Egyptian President H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi on the sidelines of the Evian G7 Summit, reaffirming India's longstanding friendship with Egypt and underlining the importance of strengthening bilateral ties. “India cherishes the long-standing friendship with Egypt,” Hon'ble Prime

Minister Shri Narendra Modi said after his meeting with Hon'ble President H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, highlighting the depth of relations between the two nations. India and Egypt share a relationship that dates back centuries, rooted in civilisational exchanges and strengthened during the Non-Aligned Movement era when leaders Jawaharlal Nehru and Gamal Abdel Nasser worked closely to shape the post-colonial world order. In recent years, ties have expanded across defence, trade, culture, and strategic cooperation.

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## **Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Meets Hon'ble President of the United Arab Emirates, H.H Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the Sidelines of the G7 Summit 2026**

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Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with Hon'ble President of the United Arab Emirates, H.H Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian, France. This was the third meeting between the two leaders in 2026, reflecting the strong and vibrant India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The two leaders reviewed the progress and positive developments in bilateral cooperation, including in the areas of technology, trade, investment, energy, and defence flowing from the visits of Hon'ble President H.H Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to India in January 2026 and that of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the UAE in May 2026. The two leaders also exchanged views on regional and global developments of mutual interest.

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## **"Innovation is Embedded in India's DNA": Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Champions 'AI for All' at Bharat Innovates 2026**

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Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, alongside Hon'ble French President H.E. Emmanuel Macron, inaugurated the Bharat Innovates 2026 conclave, signalling a transformative shift in India's global technological footprint. Addressing a gathering of international investors, industry leaders, and startup founders, the Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister framed India's rapid technological evolution as a historic extension of its ancient heritage. Connecting the modern startup ecosystem to India's past he drew a direct line between ancient wisdom and future-tech. He highlighted the early advancements in mathematics and astronomy to the timeless practices of medicine and yoga, and described these achievements as foundational to humanity.

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## India Announces USD 10 Million Support for Ebola Response at African Union Summit

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Hon'ble Indian Union Health Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda announced India's support of USD 10 million towards preparedness, response and recovery efforts amid the ongoing Ebola outbreak in Africa, reaffirming the country's commitment to strengthening health security across the continent. The announcement was made during a Virtual Summit of African Heads of State and Government and Partners, organised by the African Union and chaired by Burundi's Hon'ble President and African Union's Hon'ble Chairperson H.E. Évariste Ndayishimiye. Sharing details of India's participation, he said

the country remains committed to supporting Africa-led efforts to contain the outbreak and build resilience against future health emergencies. He highlighted that India has already delivered 45 tonnes of medical supplies to support affected regions and stands ready to provide further assistance.

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## India Surpasses 100 Crore Health Records Linked to ABHA, Strengthening the World's Largest Digital Health Ecosystem



India has crossed a major milestone in its digital health transformation journey, with more than 100 crore health records now linked to Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). The achievement marks a significant acceleration in the adoption of interoperable digital health infrastructure, with the number of linked records doubling from 50 crore to 100 crore in just 15 months. According to data released by the National Health Authority (NHA) the milestone reinforce India's position as one of the world's largest digital health ecosystems, enabling citizens to securely access and share their health information across participating healthcare providers and digital platforms. Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the leading contributor, accounting for over 15 crore linked health records, reflecting strong adoption across both public and private healthcare networks.

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## "Our Partnership Characterised by Shared Values, Mutual Trust": Hon'ble Indian MoS Shri Sanjay Seth on India-Philippines Ties



Hon'ble Indian Union Minister of State (MoS) Defence Shri Sanjay Seth highlighted the strengthening India-Philippines relationship, describing it as a 'multi-dimensional and impactful engagement' during a Diplomatic Reception marking the 128th Anniversary of Philippine Independence. He also expressed condolences over the devastation caused by the earthquake in Mindanao and extended wishes for the speedy recovery of the injured. He said India and the Philippines are cooperating across multiple sectors, including defence, security, trade, science and technology, and tourism, and noted that the partnership has been boosted by increased connectivity and people-to-people ties.

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## India Donates Sh30 Million Scientific Books to Boost Tanzania's Research Capacity

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Tanzania's drive to strengthen science, technology and innovation has received a boost after the Government of India donated 429 scientific books worth more than Sh30 million to the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST). The donation, handed over at the weekend, 2026, is expected to enhance research, teaching and innovation at the institution as Tanzania positions itself for a knowledge-based economy under its long-term development agenda. The books cover key fields including data science, engineering, information technology, artificial intelligence and industrial innovation, alongside selected works on Indian history and culture. They were jointly selected by Indian authorities and NM-AIST management.

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## Dhaka Seeks Cooperation with Delhi Despite Challenges: Hon'ble Bangladeshi Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser



Hon'ble Bangladeshi Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Adviser Shri Humaiun Kabir said Bangladesh wants cooperation and good working relations with India based on mutual respect despite the challenges facing the bilateral relationship. "We want cooperation with India, but it must be based on mutual respect. We should have a good working relationship with India," he said while responding to a question during a panel discussion. Organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh in collaboration with the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), the conference brought together senior government leaders, heads of diplomatic missions, development partners and representatives from the private sector to chart a forward-looking agenda for Bangladesh's economic engagement.

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## Under India's Chairship, 16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting Concludes in Indore, Madhya Pradesh



The 16th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting was successfully convened on 12–13 June 2026 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, India, under the Presidency of India. The meeting concluded with unanimous adoption of the BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Joint Declaration, reflecting the collective vision, shared commitments, and consensus achieved through extensive consultations among member countries. The Joint Declaration places

special emphasis on farmer-centric approaches, recognizing the pivotal role of farmers, emphasising smallholder farmers in ensuring global food security, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and fostering inclusive rural development, while reflecting a shared vision among BRICS member countries to strengthen resilience in agriculture and food systems through Agriculture Working Group (**AWG**) under India's Chairship, RIS is honoured to be associated with this important process and looks forward to continued engagement.

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## **African Development Bank and Brazilian Cooperation Agency Sign Pact to Boost Africa's Food Systems and Enhance Resilience**

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The African Development Bank Group and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency have agreed a new strategic partnership in Abidjan to expand cooperation in food systems, job creation, climate resilience, health systems, and private sector development across Africa. H.E. Martin Fregene, Officer in Charge of the Vice Presidency for Agriculture, Human and Social Development signed a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Bank Group. H.E. Paulo de Souza Amado, Charge d’Affaires of Embassy of Brazil in Côte d’Ivoire, signed for the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, which manages planning, coordination, and implementation of Brazil’s international technical and development cooperation programmes. The agreement will seek to leverage the African Development Bank Group’s financing, convening power, and regional reach and Brazil’s experience in tropical agriculture, renewable energy, public health systems, skills development, and enterprise growth.

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## **Malaysia to Deepen Food Trade, Agricultural Cooperation with Uzbekistan**

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Malaysia is looking to deepen food trade and agricultural cooperation with Uzbekistan and the wider Central Asian region as part of efforts to diversify supply sources and strengthen long-term food security amid global geopolitical and supply chain uncertainties. Hon'ble Agriculture and Food Security Minister H.E. Datuk Seri Mohamad Sabu said food security was among the key areas discussed during his six-day official visit to Uzbekistan from June 11 to 17, at the invitation of Hon'ble Uzbekistan's Minister of Agriculture, H.E. Ibrokhim Abdurakhmonov. He said business-to-business (B2B) cooperation between companies from both countries was already underway, particularly involving food imports such as cherries and dried food from Uzbekistan.

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## African Leaders Rally Support for \$518M Response Plan to Combat Spread of Ebola

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African leaders convened a high-level virtual summit to rally support for the continent's \$518 million response plan to curb the Ebola outbreak in East Africa. Noting that the outbreak had 800 cases and 200 new deaths, the summit emphasized the importance of improving national and regional response plans, strengthening cross-border coordination, and increasing preparedness, surveillance, and containment measures. "Delayed action has the potential to escalate a localized outbreak into a regional and global crisis. That is why our response must focus on breaking the transmission and stopping Ebola at its source," Hon'ble South African President H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa said while announcing his country's pledge to increase contributions to the cause from \$5 million to \$13.5 million. H.E. Jean Kaseya, Hon'ble Director General of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), said the outbreak must be stopped as soon as possible to avoid a

worse scenario than what occurred in West Africa and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo during previous continental outbreaks.

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## Egypt and Libya Explore Expanded Healthcare Cooperation



Egypt and Libya have discussed expanding cooperation in the healthcare sector, with a particular focus on pharmaceutical supply, medical industry localisation, training programmes, and healthcare infrastructure, during a meeting between senior officials from both countries. Chairperson of Egypt's Unified Procurement Authority (UPA), Mr. Hisham Stait, received Hon'ble Libyan Minister of Health H.E. Mohamed Al-Fouj and his accompanying delegation as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen bilateral cooperation and exchange expertise in the healthcare sector. The Libyan delegation included Mr. Mohamed Al-Atouq, Advisor to the Minister for Pharmaceutical Affairs; Mr. Adel Al-Tajouri, Director of Planning; Mr. Sondos Azzam, Director of International Cooperation; Mr. Adnan Issa, Director of the Minister's Office; and Mr. Hannibal Khamaj.

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## Africa Health Conference Concludes in Cairo with Call to Localize Pharmaceutical Industry



The Africa Health Conference concluded in Cairo by issuing a comprehensive framework of strategic recommendations, spearheaded by a continental mandate to localise medicine and vaccine manufacturing across Africa. H.E. Dr. Adel Adawy, former Hon'ble Egyptian Minister of Health and Chairman of the conference's scientific committee, announced that the event gathered global medical institutions, healthcare centers, and international bodies, led prominently by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). H.E. Dr. Adel Adawy, former Egyptian Minister of Health and Chairman of the conference's scientific committee, announced that the event gathered global medical institutions, healthcare centers, and international bodies, led prominently by the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC)., Government representatives, international organizations, academic bodies, and private sector stakeholders united to ratify a joint agenda targeting continental healthcare sovereignty.

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## **Egypt and Kenya Discuss Health Cooperation and Pharmaceutical Security**

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Hon'ble Minister of Health and Population H.E. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar met Kenya's Hon'ble Health Minister H.E. Aden Bare Doley to discuss expanding bilateral health cooperation and strengthening Africa's pharmaceutical security. The talks focused on boosting local production of medicines and vaccines, supporting the African Pooled Procurement Mechanism (APPM), and enhancing collaboration between Egyptian and Kenyan pharmaceutical companies. H.E. Abdel Ghaffar highlighted Egypt's progress in pharmaceutical regulation and the role of Vaccines and Biotechnology City, which is expected to meet around 22% of Africa's vaccine needs. The two sides also discussed cooperation in rare diseases, cancer care, medical training, and universal health insurance, as well as expanding medical tourism through Egypt's "Tour 4 Cure" platform.

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## **African Telecommunications Union Explores Digital Platform Partnerships to Drive Africa's Digital Agenda**

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The African Telecommunications Union (ATU) has held discussions focused on strengthening collaboration with digital platforms to support Africa's ongoing digital transformation efforts. The engagement was led by Hon'ble ATU Secretary General Mr. John Omo, who received Ms. Mercy Ndegwa, Hon'ble Director of Public Policy for East and Horn of Africa at Meta, for a high-level exchange on the role of digital platforms in advancing the continent's development priorities. According to the ATU, the discussions highlighted the growing significance of digital platforms in shaping how people across Africa communicate, access information, conduct business, and engage in increasingly digital societies. The parties explored opportunities for deeper collaboration to ensure that platform technologies contribute more effectively to Africa's economic and social development agenda.

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## SEACOM Launches Nairobi–Kampala Terrestrial Network to Boost East Africa Digital Connectivity



SEACOM has announced the live launch of the Nairobi–Kampala Terrestrial Network, marking a major milestone in strengthening East Africa's digital infrastructure and regional connectivity. The new corridor is designed to enhance the movement of data between Kenya and Uganda, which has long supported enterprises, telecom operators, and cloud service providers across the region through coastal landing stations and inland transmission routes. According to SEACOM, the upgraded network introduces a more resilient and scalable architecture tailored to the region's growing digital demand. It

features dual routing with two border crossings and automated failover capabilities that activate in under 50 milliseconds, significantly improving reliability and service continuity.

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## African Parliaments Urged to Accelerate Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development

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African parliaments and governments must enact laws and policies to accelerate the use of modern technology and digital tools to respond to the radical technological shift of the fourth industrial revolution. This call was made on the final day of the 19th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) African Region, in Gauteng, South Africa. A conference motion moved by the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of Namibia, Mr Phillipus Katamelo, on “Leveraging Technology and Digital Tools for Effective and Sustainable Development”, proposed that African parliaments must move with urgency to embrace new technologies and encourage their governments to introduce modern digital tools to accelerate service delivery, provide access to information and increase public participation.

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## Kazakhstan and World Bank Bolster Partnership in Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity

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As part of his visit to Kazakhstan, Mr. Sangbu Kim, Vice President for Digital and AI, World Bank Group met with Hon'ble Kazakh Prime Minister H.E. Olzhas Bektenov to discuss partnership in digitalisation, AI, GovTech and telecommunications infrastructure development. It should be noted that Kazakhstan is in the group A of the GovTech Maturity Index (GTMI), which measures the state of four GovTech focus areas worldwide using key indicators to inform operations, research and analytics. Kazakhstan and the World Bank are implementing joint projects to develop human capital in AI and accelerate digitalisation for an inclusive economy. Against this backdrop, Kim said Kazakhstan is already seeing “impressive progress” in many areas, including digital government and innovation, which provides a strong base to build on.

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## Portugal and Saudi Arabia Aim for Joint Tripartite Cooperation Projects with Africa

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Portugal and Saudi Arabia identified construction, tourism, renewable energy, and defence as primary sectors for bilateral development today, while mapping out new avenues for triangular cooperation across Africa, Hon'ble Portuguese Foreign Minister H.E. Paulo Rangel revealed. Hon'ble Saudi Foreign Minister H.E. Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, who was received at the Necessidades Palace in Lisbon, “expressly requested” focused attention on the construction sector, recognizing the high reputation and quality of Portuguese engineering firms. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is currently executing numerous urban megaprojects under its massive “Vision 2030” economic diversification framework, spearheaded by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Additional key target areas highlighted during the ministerial meeting included tourism, renewable energy infrastructure, water desalination and management, and the expanding defense industry.

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