



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence

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IN FOCUS



India-United Nations Joint Initiatives Empowering the Global South

Dr. Sayantan Ghosal, Consultant, RIS

The week witnessed the launch of the first set of four projects under the "India UN Global Capacity Building Initiative". The launch witnessed participation from the United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator, Mr Shombi Sharp; heads of various UN agencies in India and senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs, India. The four projects that have been identified for implementation during this first phase are; rice fortification and supply chain management in Nepal with support of World Food Programme, digital health platform for Zambia and Lao PDR with support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), census preparedness in Belize, Barbados, St Kitts & Navies, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago with support of UN Population Fund and vocational training programme for South Sudan with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) support. Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training institutes have been identified for the facilitation of such projects.

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Key Developments in the Global South



India Launches Projects under the India-UN Global Capacity Building Initiative

The first tranche of four projects under the aegis of "India UN Global Capacity Building Initiative" was launched on August 01, 2025 by Secretary (West) Shri Tanmaya Lal, Ministry of External Affairs. Heads of Missions of the countries where these projects are being launched, UN Resident Coordinator Mr Shombi Sharp, Heads of various UN agencies in India and senior MEA officials were present during the launch. The initiative was announced in September 2023 on the margins of the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in the presence of Hon'ble External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, following which the Ministry of External Affairs and UN country team in India jointly worked to identify the projects and their implementation to foster south-south cooperation to accelerate SDG goals.

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India and the Philippines Embark on Strategic Partnership

At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, H.E. Shri Narendra Modi, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, H.E. Mr. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., paid a State Visit to India. President Marcos was accompanied by the First Lady, Mme. Louise Araneta Marcos and a high-level official delegation, including several Cabinet Ministers of the Philippines and a high-level business delegation. On 5 August 2025, President Marcos was accorded a ceremonial reception at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, and he visited Raj Ghat to pay floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. This was followed by bilateral talks between Prime Minister Modi and President Marcos. Thereafter, the leaders witnessed the exchange of bilateral documents.

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United Nations Vienna Leaders Forge \$1.2 Trillion AI Investment for Global South

A groundbreaking coalition of corporate leaders emerged from the AI for Developing Countries Forum (AIFOD) summit at the United Nations Office at Vienna, with industry executives declaring that the Global South represents the most significant untapped AI market opportunity of the next decade—potentially worth \$1.2 trillion by 2035. The three-day summit brought together 600 delegates from over 120 countries, including CEOs, senior executives, and investment leaders who participated not as charitable donors, but as strategic partners recognising that developing markets offer AI companies their most promising growth trajectories.

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International Atomic Energy Agency Launches Outlook on Nuclear Power for Development in Africa at G20

IAEA-Group of Twenty cooperation broke new ground this week with the release of a new publication examining the potential for nuclear power in Africa. The IAEA launched the publication at a side event co-organised with the Clean Energy Ministerial and the South African Department of Electricity and Energy on the margins of a key Group of Twenty (G20) energy transitions meeting in South Africa as the bloc explores clean energy options for sustainable development. After participating for the first time as an invited organisation during the G20's Brazilian presidency last year, the IAEA is once again collaborating with the world's largest economic bloc — this time under the South African presidency to advance work on nuclear power.

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UAE, Malaysia and Rwanda Collaborate for Driving Responsible Innovation in the Global South

The UAE, Malaysia, and Rwanda have signed a strategic partnership to accelerate responsible AI adoption across the Global South, expanding a knowledge-sharing initiative that links AI experts, policymakers, and innovators. The agreement, signed under the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) global network, builds on an earlier partnership between the UAE and Rwanda and now includes Malaysia as a key partner. The three countries aim to promote ethical AI governance, cross-border talent exchange, and inclusive technological development. The expanded C4IR AI Fellowship Programme will serve as a platform for coordinated efforts in AI policy, innovation, and sustainable development.

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Nigeria's Health Minister Seeks New Public Health Order for Africa

Nigeria's Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Muhammad Pate, has called for a new vision for global health that places Africa at the core of future governance, trade, financing and innovation. Speaking at the Africa Health Sovereignty Summit in Accra, Ghana, Mr Pate challenged existing frameworks that reduced global health to a narrow set of diseases or priorities largely shaped by external narratives. He said global health is often described through the lens of a few priority issues, like HIV, malaria and tuberculosis, or through specific areas such as health financing or maternal and child health. "Yet these issues are framed by externally driven perspectives, leaving African voices, especially from poorer countries, less acknowledged," he said.

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Africa's Push for HIV Independence Advances

Sub-Saharan Africa has taken a cautious but critical step toward greater health self-reliance as locally produced HIV medicines and diagnostic tests begin reaching national programmes – including, for the first time, procurement of African-made treatment for Mozambique. The development marks a milestone for a region that bears nearly 65 percent of the global HIV burden and has long depended on imports of lifesaving antiretroviral medicines and testing kits. But that may be starting to change. Now, in a major step forward, the Global Fund – a worldwide partnership financing HIV, tuberculosis and malaria responses – is procuring this locally produced HIV treatment for Mozambique.

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United Nations Regional Center Opening Marks New Era of Cooperation in Central Asia: António Guterres

Taking the floor at the UN Regional Center in Almaty, António Guterres expressed gratitude to all those present and said that the opening of the Center marks the beginning of a new chapter for the region on the path to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, Kazinform News Agency learned from the Akorda press service. António Guterres said the opening of the Center symbolises a new era of cooperation in Central Asia, which is based on common priorities and joint solutions. In his opinion, the Center has great potential to demonstrate how strong ties between the leaders of the region can lead to deeper economic integration. He expressed confidence that the Center can become an important innovator in the implementation of the Action Program for such states.

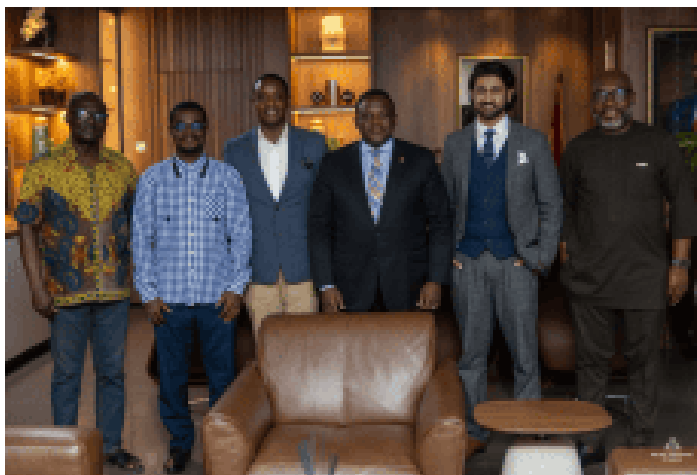
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Ghana and the World Health Organization Strengthen Health Partnership

The Minister for Health, Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, has reaffirmed Ghana's commitment to leading health reforms driven by national priorities rather than donor agendas. This was stated during a high-level meeting with a delegation from the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa, led by Dr Mohamed Yakub Janabi, the Regional Director for Africa. The meeting, which took place ahead of the Africa Health Sovereignty Summit, aimed to strengthen collaboration and align with Africa's evolving health priorities. Minister Akandoh outlined key government initiatives, including the expansion of the National Health Insurance Scheme, the introduction of the Primary Health Care for All policy, and the creation of strategic health financing mechanisms such as the Ghana Medical Trust Fund.

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Ghana Aims for AI Leadership in Africa

The Honourable Samuel Nartey George, Ghana's Minister for Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations, has reiterated the government's commitment to creating a favourable environment for investments in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector. He emphasised the country's aspiration to become a continental leader in Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure and innovation. The Honourable Samuel Nartey George, Ghana's Minister for Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations, has reiterated the government's commitment to creating a favourable environment for investments in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector.

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Egypt and Uganda Push for Stronger Business and Water Security Ties

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni held bilateral talks with Egypt's Foreign Minister, Dr Badr Abdelatty, as the two countries move to deepen economic and diplomatic ties. The meeting held at State House Entebbe saw Dr Abdelatty deliver greetings from the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and propose the formation of joint Uganda-Egypt business council aimed at unlocking investment in key sectors such as construction, energy, and pharmaceuticals. The two leaders explored avenues to boost economic cooperation by encouraging mutual investments in sectors including digitalisation, energy and security. A key topic during the talk was Egypt's concern over water security, a recurring issue in the Nile Basin politics.

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Malaysia and Thailand Strengthen Digital Ties

Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), in partnership with the Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation (MRANTI), has concluded its latest Digital Exports (DEX) Connex Thailand 2025 initiative with the signing of ten memorandums of understanding between Malaysian tech companies and Thai partners. In a statement, the agency said these partnerships are expected to generate over US\$47.2 million (RM200 million) in potential digital export opportunities for local tech companies. Held in conjunction with the Techsauce Global Summit 2025, the flagship programme reflects MDEC's ongoing commitment to strengthening cross-border digital collaboration.

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Zambia and Mozambique Seek to Replicate Ethiopia's Agricultural Transformation

Zambia and Mozambique have expressed keen interest in replicating Ethiopia's agricultural successes, particularly its landmark achievement in wheat production, which has positioned the country as Africa's leading producer. The announcement came during the UN Food Systems Summit +4 Stocktaking Moment held in Addis Ababa, where Zambia's Minister of Agriculture, Mtolo Phiri, and Mozambique's Minister of Agriculture, Environment, and Fisheries, Roberto Mito Albino, held discussions with Ethiopia's Minister of Agriculture, Girma Amente. The visiting ministers praised Ethiopia's rapid strides toward food self-sufficiency and inclusive agribusiness development.

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Egypt and Vietnam Seek Closer Agricultural Ties

Egypt and Vietnam are moving to expand cooperation in agriculture, with plans to sign a memorandum of understanding covering food security, climate change and trade in farm goods, the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture said on Tuesday, August 5, 2025. Egypt's Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Mostafa El-Sayyad, met with Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Vo Van Hung in Cairo to discuss collaboration on agricultural research, investment in value-added production, and adapting to climate change. Talks also focused on leveraging Vietnam's expertise in rice cultivation and aquaculture.

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Mozambique and Brazil Seek to Boost Agricultural Cooperation

The president of the Brazil-Africa Chamber of Commerce, Sinfrônio Júnior, expressed his intention to strengthen cooperation with Mozambique in the agricultural sector. The intention was expressed during an audience granted by the President of the Republic, Daniel Chapo, which served to open up new prospects for the exchange of technologies and investments in the Mozambican agricultural sector. During the meeting, the Brazilian leader highlighted Mozambique's "great agricultural potential" and expressed the commitment of Brazil's rural business community to support initiatives that promote agro-industry, youth employment and the fight against hunger and poverty.

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Moroccan Ambassador Calls for Africa-led Agricultural Trade

The Moroccan Ambassador to Ghana, H.E. Imane Ouaadil, has called for a bold rethink of trade flows between African countries, urging Ghana and Morocco to reduce their dependence on distant markets and strengthen regional agricultural trade. Speaking on the GTV Breakfast Show on August 4, 2025, the envoy questioned why Morocco continues to import bananas from Latin America while Ghana sources tomatoes and onions from Europe. She noted that agriculture remains a strategic priority for both countries, making it essential to build complementary supply chains within Africa. As part of this effort, Morocco is partnering with Ghana to develop a national soil fertility map.

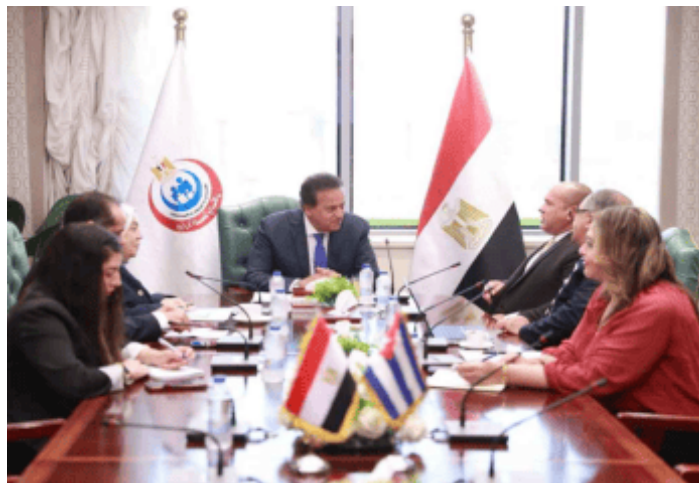
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Cameroon Revitalises Emergency Medical Services

Cameroon is embarking on a transformative journey to revamp its emergency medical services (EMS) system, marking a significant milestone in public health. The Ministry of Public Health, with the unwavering support of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), has validated the 2024 evaluation report that sheds light on the critical state of emergency care across the nation. Conducted from September 1st to October 30th, 2024, and validated in April 2025, the assessment utilised the WHO Emergency and Critical Care System Assessment (ECCSA) tool, systematically analysing the core pillars essential for emergency care. These foundational areas included governance and financing, data and quality improvement, onsite care and transport, hospital-based care and rehabilitation, and emergency preparedness.

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Cuba and Egypt Reaffirm Commitment to Health

Egypt and Cuba reaffirmed their willingness to develop and strengthen cooperation in health and medicine production. As part of the bilateral exchange, Cuban Ambassador to Cairo Alexander Pellicer met with Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health and Population, Khaled Abdel Ghaffar. During the meeting, the Egyptian official highlighted the depth and strength of the historical relations between the two nations, according to the text. Abdel Ghaffar asserted that bilateral cultural and human ties are a basis for developing cooperation in several spheres, especially in health. Health and Population Ministry Spokesperson Hossam Abdel Ghaffar emphasised that several issues of common interest.

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Chad and Burkina Faso Strengthen Tech-Partnership

The International Institute of Water and Environmental Engineering (2iE) in Burkina Faso hosted a significant ceremony, the signing of a Collaboration Framework Agreement with the Agency for Information and Communication Technologies Development (ADETIC) from Chad. This strategic partnership is built on three main pillars. The first involves 2iE, a recognised center of excellence, providing training to Chadian executives in strategic areas such as artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies. Secondly, the agreement facilitates the professional immersion of 2iE trainees in Chad's digital ecosystem through internships at ADETIC. Finally, the partnership will launch joint applied research projects focused on sustainable development, digital governance, and local innovation.

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Sri Lanka Prioritises Global Standards in Biometrics Infrastructure Drive

Sri Lanka is implementing a new system that converts biometric data into a non-reversible cryptographic hash, similar to general cryptographic hashing. This hash value can be compared to verify the identity of the subject. Sanjaya Karunasena, director of ICTA, emphasised the importance of data security in citizen data capture and storage, stating that biometric-backed digital identity provides a reliable, robust identity system in cyberspace. Multiple security testing gates will be applied before public use to ensure security guarantees, in part through a dedicated digital ID sandbox environment. Biometric technology will be used to prevent unauthorised access and protect user data. Each individual will have a digital locker with their important data.

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DAKSHIN Events



Strengthening Agricultural Resilience for the Global South

DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS, together with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics’ (ICRISAT) Centre of Excellence for South–South Cooperation in Agriculture (ISSCA), organised an enriching virtual conference on 31st July 2025 on “Strengthening Agricultural Resilience for the Global South.” The event brought together leading experts, policymakers, and researchers to explore collaborative pathways for sustainable agricultural transformation. The conference featured thematic insights from prominent institutions across five key areas: Digital Agriculture, Crop Improvement and Production Technologies, Livestock Improvement and Production Technologies, Agribusiness and Market Systems, and Natural Resource Management & Climate Resilience.

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