



Global South Matters

# DAKSHIN

## Global South Centre of Excellence

2 May-8 May, 2025

### IN FOCUS

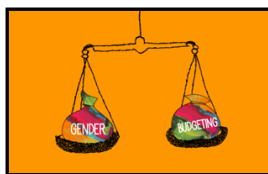


#### Fostering Equitable Health: Global South Takes the Lead at the World Health Summit

*Dr. Monika Kochar - Advisor Health and Porismita Sharma, Intern | DAKSHIN- Global South Centre of Excellence*

The 2025 World Health Summit (WHS) Regional Meeting, held in New Delhi marked a significant milestone as the first WHS regional event in South Asia. The summit, which brought together more than 4,500 representatives from 54 nations, had as its main theme "Scaling Access to Ensure Health Equity." stressed upon the importance of locally produced, culturally based health solutions, and positioned the Global South at front stage in re-evaluating global health governance.

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#### Gender Responsive Budgeting: Making Budgets Work for Women

*Komal Bajpai, Research Intern, DAKSHIN, RIS*

As gender equality shifts from aspiration to urgent necessity, Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) has emerged as a powerful tool to align public finance with inclusive development. GRB goes beyond mere fiscal planning, it ensures that government budgets reflect the distinct needs of all genders, especially women and girls, by linking policy commitments to financial allocations and measurable outcomes.

Unlike traditional budgeting, which often assumes neutrality, GRB actively questions who benefits from public spending and who is left out. It addresses systemic inequalities by prioritizing investment in health, education, and economic empowerment where gender disparities are most acute.

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## Key Developments in the Global South



### India Deepens Ties with Angola

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed Angolan President Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco to India—the first such visit in 38 years—underscoring a renewed commitment to deepen bilateral ties and expand cooperation across sectors. Marking 40 years of diplomatic relations, PM Modi hailed the historic solidarity between the two nations, and outlined a roadmap for future collaboration in energy, defence, digital infrastructure, healthcare, and cultural exchange. PM Modi, along with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, also held a bilateral meeting with President Lourenco at Hyderabad House.

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### Northeast has Tremendous Capabilities, Launch Pad for Global South: Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia

India's Northeastern states -- growing at between 11-12 per cent -- present "tremendous opportunity" as launch pad for all of global South, Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has said underlining its historic and "fundamental" significance in the economies and trade networks of the entire South-East Asian region. Earlier this week the minister met top honchos of India Inc. ahead of the Rising Northeast Investment Summit 2025. Discussions focused on region-specific growth sectors including agro-based industries, textiles, and tourism.

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### Kazakhstan Stresses the Need for Global South Solidarity

Kazakh First Deputy Foreign Minister Akan Rakhmetullin stressed the importance of collective decisions and solidarity of Global South countries amid growing geopolitical tensions and economic instability at the meeting of the BRICS Council of Foreign Ministers in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Rakhmetullin reaffirmed Kazakhstan's commitment to sustainable development goals (SDGs), emphasized the relevance of the climate agenda, and regional cooperation in Central Asia in water resources management, digital transformation, and energy. The meeting was held under Brazil's 2025 BRICS chairmanship theme, Strengthening Cooperation of the

Countries of the Global South for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance.

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## **African Countries Urged to Collaborate to Uplift Female Entrepreneurs**

The African Union Development Agency says African countries must work with banks to dismantle red tape hindering female entrepreneurs from accessing funding. Head of the Youth, Gender and Women Empowerment of AU development agency, Jessica Annor called on banks to remove barriers that hinder women from accessing business funding. “We need to work with the banks to de-risk women business to make sure we have specific products for women, but we also need to support women collectives. We need to support building women banks, having big financial champions at country level that women do no longer suffer to access finance,” says Annor.

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## **UNDP Reaffirms Support for Philippines, Middle-Income Countries**

The UN Development Program has reaffirmed its support for middle-income countries (MICs), including the Philippines, with United Nations Undersecretary General and UNDP Associate Administrator Hao Liang Xu concluding a two-day visit to Manila. In his opening remarks at a conference, Xu underscored the pivotal role of MICs in shaping the global development landscape despite persistent structural challenges and external pressures. “MICs are not just countries in transition – they are engines of innovation, resilience and global progress,” Xu said. In particular, MICs face rising debt pressures, with the median MIC now spending nearly nine percent of government revenue on interest payments alone.

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## **Agricultural Bank of Egypt offers Support to Small Farmers**

The Agricultural Bank of Egypt (ABE) has signed a cooperation protocol with El Ammar Company for Livestock Development to provide subsidised financing to small-scale breeders and farmers for the purchase and rearing of genetically improved high-yield livestock. The initiative is part of the state’s broader strategy to develop livestock production, in line with President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi’s directives to enhance meat and dairy output, close the food gap, and improve rural

livelihoods. Under the agreement, ABE will offer loans at a reduced interest rate of 5%, specifically targeting small breeders and farmers in rural areas.

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### **Sri Lanka Boosts Ties with Vietnam**

Sri Lanka signed one agreement and four Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with Vietnam on bilateral cooperation on customs affairs, machinery and equipment manufacturing, agriculture, and trade promotion, the government said. The MoUs were signed in the presence of President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and Vietnam leader Luong Cuong. The agreement was signed on enhancing cooperation and mutual support in customs affairs between the two countries. In addition, there were four MOUs signed between the two nations too.

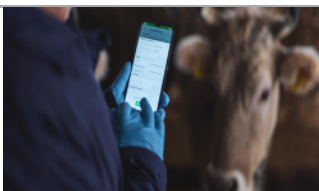
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### **Uzbekistan and Afghanistan Sign Agriculture and Trade Agreements**

During an official visit by a delegation led by Deputy Minister of Agriculture Jamshid Abduzukhurov to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, significant agreements were reached on agricultural and trade-economic cooperation between the two countries. Special attention was given to a meeting with the Governor of Balkh Province, Khoja Mohammad Yusuf Wafa, during which issues of bilateral trade, simplification of agricultural product export and import procedures, as well as plant quarantine and joint management were discussed. The agreed document outlines not only the framework for bilateral cooperation but also mutual commitments in several areas.

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### **North Macedonia Elevates Efforts to Digitalize Agriculture**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy of North Macedonia, organized a national consultation workshop on 28 April in Skopje to accelerate the digital transformation of the agrifood sector. The event gathered around 40 attendees, including farmers, young students and representatives from government institutions, civil society, academia and the private sector, to discuss the current state of digitalization in agriculture and jointly develop concrete policy recommendations for sustainable progress. North Macedonia has a strong foundation for digital transformation, thanks to its robust digital public infrastructure.

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### **Morocco and WHO Strengthen Health Partnership**

The Minister of Health and Social Protection Amine Tahraoui met with Hanane Hassan Balkhi, the World Health Organization's Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean, who is on a working visit to Morocco. The meeting is part of the ongoing cooperation between the Kingdom and the WHO, a key partner in the implementation of health programs and joint projects at both local and regional levels. Speaking to the press, Minister Tahraoui emphasized that Morocco is undergoing a profound and comprehensive reform of its health system.

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### **Kenya and Egypt Deepen Health Cooperation**

Health Cabinet Secretary Aden Duale held bilateral talks with the Egyptian Ambassador to Kenya, Wael Nasreldin Attiya, building on the momentum from President William Ruto's recent State Visit to Egypt. The discussions focused on strengthening cooperation through three key Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs): collaboration in Health and Medical Services; a strategic partnership between Kenyatta National Hospital and the Egyptian National Cancer Institute for Oncology; and enhanced regulatory linkages between the Egyptian Drug Authority and Kenya's Pharmacy and Poisons Board. These agreements aim to boost knowledge exchange, foster institutional linkages, and provide vital technical support across health systems.

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### **Maldives and Malaysia Exchange MoUs**

An exchange of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), and Exchanges of Notes (EoNs) recently took place between the Government of the Republic of Maldives and the Malaysian government. Dr Abdulla Khaleel, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives, and Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, Minister of Health of Malaysia signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of health which seeks to enhance collaboration in human resource development, the advancement of health service delivery systems, the promotion of health tourism, and the development of health information technology.

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## Malaysia Launches National Blockchain Infrastructure

The Malaysian Blockchain Infrastructure (MBI) is expected to position the country as a regional leader in blockchain adoption and development. Malaysia has launched its national Malaysian Blockchain Infrastructure (MBI), which is a core component of Malaysia's National Blockchain Roadmap. MBI is a partnership between MIMOS Berhad (Malaysian Institute of Microelectronic Systems), the national applied research and development (R&D) centre under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), as well as Malaysian e-government solutions provider MY E.G. Services Berhad (MYEG).

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## Ethiopia Gears Up to Host ID4Africa 2025

Ethiopia's digital ID and broader digital transformation efforts are on a good footing thanks in part to the establishment of strategic partnerships in the past several months. These gains come as the country is preparing to host the ID4Africa Annual General Meeting of 2025 from May 20-23 in the capital Addis Ababa. Beyond the Digital Ethiopia 2025 strategy, the country also has a 2025-2030 digital government program whose success is hinged on the national digital ID. Ethiopia has already enrolled 14.6 million people for the Fayda ID, and hopes to reach a target of 90 million registrations by 2030.

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## Nigeria Launches NIN Authentication

The Federal Government has approved the launch of NIMC's NIN Authentication service for secure and seamless identity verification. In a directive aligned with the National Identity Management Commission's mandate to regulate a reliable digital identity system for citizens and legal residents, President Bola Tinubu has mandated the use of NIN authentication across all ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs). The launch of the NIN Authentication (NINAuth), a cutting-edge suite of web, API and mobile services, is aimed at enhancing data security, protecting privacy and simplifying access to government services.

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## DAKSHIN Events



## Workshop on Empowering the Future: Women-Led Development for Inclusive Growth in the Global South

Empowering women as leaders and change makers is vital for inclusive and sustainable development across the Global South. Recognizing this, DAKSHIN - Global South Centre of Excellence organized a workshop on Empowering the Future: Women-Led Development for Inclusive Growth in the Global South. Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator, DAKSHIN, initiated the opening remarks by highlighting the need to center women in decision-making, incorporate diverse feminist perspectives, and advance gender equality in line with the Global South's unique socio-economic contexts.

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