



Global South Matters

# DAKSHIN

## Global South Centre of Excellence



21 March - 27 March, 2026

### IN FOCUS

## WORLD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2026

*Multilateralism Under Pressure*



### **WORLD TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT (WTDR) 2026: Multilateralism Under Pressure**

Reinforcing a secure and predictable, inclusive, and rule-based multilateral trading system is essential for ensuring that global trade continues to contribute to shared prosperity and sustainable development. In this context, WTDR 2026 draws upon the outcomes of a rigorous and extensive consultative process through a Brainstorming Series comprising 12 thematic sessions that brought together more than 100 distinguished experts, policymakers, trade negotiators, diplomats, and scholars. The discussions were designed to bring together academic research and policy practice, ensuring that the Report is firmly grounded in negotiating realities and development priorities. It focuses on issues that lie at the heart of the developmental concerns of the Global South, contributing an informed analysis of how the multilateral trading system can better respond to contemporary challenges while advancing inclusive development outcomes.

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## Key Developments in the Global South

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### **EAM Jaishankar Calls for UN Reforms, Raises Global South Issues at G7 Meet**

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar highlighted the urgency of UNSC reforms, streamlining peacekeeping operations, and strengthening humanitarian supply chains at the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting (G7 FMM) session. The G7 FMM is being held at Abbaye des-Vaux-de-Cernay in France. Dr Jaishankar said in a social media post that he spoke about reform of global governance. He specifically raised the Global South's concerns about energy challenges, fertiliser supplies and food security.

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### **India Backs Focus on Global South in WTO Reforms**

India came out strongly for WTO reforms to be carried out through a transparent, inclusive and member-driven process that keeps the special rights of developing countries at its core in accordance with the foundational principles and objectives of the multilateral organisation.

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### **India, Chile Review Progress in Proposed Trade Pact Talks Ahead of WTO Meet**

India and Chile reviewed the progress of negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA), with both sides discussing ways to accelerate talks and deepen bilateral economic engagement, reported PTI.

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## **Digital innovation and South-South Cooperation key to Global Development Goals**

At the 61st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, the Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health (CIWEH) hosted a side event exploring how digital innovation and South-South cooperation can advance the Right to Development.

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## **MEA Secretary Stresses Need for WTO Reforms as Global South Drives Growth**

Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Sudhakar Dalela, said that the global economy is navigating an extraordinary period marked by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical conflicts, and disruptions in supply chains, energy, and trade flows. He made these remarks while addressing the International Conference on Multilateralism Under Pressure: Roadmap to the WTO Ministerial Conference in New Delhi.

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## **Egypt Donates Hepatitis C Vaccines to Ghana Boost Africa Health Cooperation**

The Government of Egypt has donated 9,500 doses of hepatitis C vaccines, valued at nearly \$80,000, to the Government of Ghana. Presenting the donation, the Egyptian Ambassador to Ghana, Wael Fathy Ahmed, described the gesture as a reflection of the growing cooperation between Ghana and Egypt. He emphasised the importance of African countries supporting one another, particularly in the face of global health challenges. Drawing lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ambassador noted that Africa was among the last regions to receive vaccines, underscoring the need for stronger collaboration across the continent.

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## **Cambodia Launches Collaboration with IRRI, GGGI and GDA to Support Methane Mitigation in the Rice Sector**

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and Cambodia's General Directorate of Agriculture (GDA) officially launched their collaboration to reduce methane emission in Cambodia's rice sector. The collaboration feeds into IRRI's flagship project Accelerating Scaling of Low Emission Rice (AcceLER) in Southeast Asia and beyond, implemented with support from the Global Methane Hub, and the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation for Methane Mitigation (AKCMM) - a regional initiative funded by the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund under the Partnership for ASEAN-ROK Methane Action.

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## **Kyrgyzstan Establishes State-Owned Company to Implement Satellite Technologies in Agriculture**

The Kyrgyz authorities are taking a step towards the digitalization of agriculture and natural resource management. The country's Cabinet of Ministers has decided to establish a state-owned company, Kyrgyz Sputnik, which will focus on the use of satellite data in key economic sectors. The new entity will be created as an open joint-stock company with 100% state ownership. Its founder will be the Ministry of Water Resources, Agriculture, and Processing Industry.

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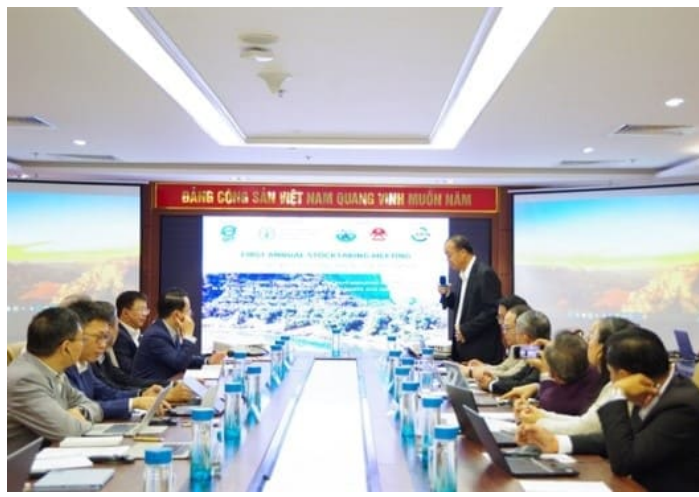


## **MEA Organises CSIR Capabilities Discovery Session with Ambassadors and High Commissioners of Global South**

Ministry of External Affairs, in partnership with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), organised a CSIR Capabilities Discovery Session with Ambassadors and High Commissioners of the Global South. Speaking at the event, the Secretary (South), Dr Neena Malhotra, highlighted India's commitment to South-South Cooperation in advancing science and technology partnerships. She also emphasised collaboration across key sectors, including affordable healthcare, smart agriculture, and water and marine resource management, with Global South partners to develop a sustainable future.

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## **Việt Nam, Laos Step up Cooperation as new Threats Emerge in Shared River Basins**

As rising environmental risks ripple through the Ma and Neun/Ca river basins, Việt Nam and Laos are turning the tide, strengthening cross-border cooperation to protect water security and livelihoods.

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## **Republic of Moldova Receives First Shipment of Free Childhood Cancer Medicines**

The Republic of Moldova has received its first shipment of free medicines for the treatment of children diagnosed with cancer, delivered through the Global Platform for Access to Childhood Cancer Medicines (GPACCM). This marks an important step toward ensuring continuous access to safe, high-quality treatment for all children with cancer.

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## **Central Asian States, Italy, Azerbaijan Agree to Expand Agricultural Cooperation**

Central Asian countries, Italy and Azerbaijan have reached agreements to elevate cooperation in agriculture and the agri-food sector to a new level, according to a final communiqué adopted at the Italy–Central Asia (C5) + Azerbaijan international agribusiness forum in Tashkent.

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## **India will Rise to Tackle Global Challenges, Support Emerging Economies: Pradhan**

The summit, organised as a precursor to the Bharat Innovates 2026 event in France, brought together 137 deep-tech startups selected from over 3,000 applications received from across the country. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said India will meet its domestic priorities and global challenges, and play a key role in supporting emerging economies in the Global South and low-income countries in the years ahead.

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### **Brazilian President Urges Stronger CELAC**

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has called for a renewed push towards regional integration and a firmer collective stance against external pressures during the CELAC Summit in Bogota. In a speech delivered by Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira at the summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States on behalf of the Brazilian President, Lu-la emphasised that the region must act with unity to safeguard its sovereignty and strategic interests.

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### **MAFF sets Five Objectives to Modernise Agriculture in 2026**

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) has outlined five priority directions to further promote Cambodia’s agricultural sector, aiming to make it more modern, diversified, and resilient. These priorities were announced by Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Dith Tina during the ministry’s 2025 annual review and 2026 planning meeting.

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## **WHO and Partners Launch new Initiative to Expand use of Digital Health Wallets**

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, in partnership with the Temasek Foundation, have launched a new three-year initiative to help Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) transition from paper-based health records to secure, interoperable digital health wallets (DHWs). The programme aims to strengthen national health systems, improve continuity of care and ensure individuals have trusted, portable access to their essential health information.

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## **Burkina Faso Unveils PACTDIGITAL to Drive Digital Inclusion, Innovation, and Economic Growth**

Ministry of Digital Transition, Postal and Electronic Communications has unveiled a major initiative aimed at strengthening the country's digital sovereignty and accelerating its digital transformation. The Project for Accelerating Digital Transformation, known as PACTDIGITAL-BF, is designed to modernize infrastructure, improve digital access, and position Burkina Faso as a more technologically independent nation.

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## India's Digital Partnership Opens Way Ahead for Nigeria

India's MoUs with Nigeria on sharing digital technology provide the African nation with an opportunity to emulate the successful experiment already carried out in a 1.4 billion strong country in delivering social welfare services, education and the creation of jobs.

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## COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Hosts Regional Meeting in Tanzania

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tripartite is holding a regional meeting from 24-27 March 2026 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, to advance the pilot implementation of Tripartite Simplified Trade Regime (TSTR). The TSTR is designed to make trade easier, faster and cheaper for people to trade goods across borders, especially for small-scale and informal traders, including women and youth.

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## Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 Concludes with Actionable Outcomes

The maiden edition of the Bharat Electricity Summit (BES) concluded successfully, bringing together policymakers, global experts, industry leaders, investors, and

innovators to deliberate on the future of the power sector and accelerate the global clean energy transition. The Summit witnessed wide-ranging discussions, high-level bilateral engagements, and significant business interactions, reinforcing India's leadership in the global energy ecosystem. The Summit witnessed an exceptional response, with over 35,000 exhibition attendees, 28 States / Union Territories, 200+ exhibiting companies including 80+ Start-ups, 6,000+ delegates, 300+ speakers, and 100+ conference sessions, reflecting its scale and global significance.

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### **Nigeria Calls for Stronger Africa–Latin America Alliance at CELAC Forum**

Nigeria has canvassed deeper cooperation between African and Latin American nations, stressing that stronger partnerships among countries of the Global South are essential to navigating growing global uncertainty and building more balanced international relations. Speaking at the CELAC–Africa High-Level Forum in Bogotá, Columbia, Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Maitama Tuggar, called on leaders from both regions to intensify collaboration in key sectors including technology, agriculture, education, energy and culture.

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### **Venezuela and Cuba Strengthen Regional Integration**

The meeting was led by the Foreign Ministers of Venezuela, Yván Gil Pinto, and Cuba, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, who reviewed the historical ties that have united both countries and highlighted the multiple avenues of collaboration developed over the years. Furthermore, the ministers dedicated part of the session to analyzing the international political situation, marked by escalating conflicts and human rights violations in various regions.

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## India -Africa Strategic Partnership Meet Convened at Bharat Electricity Summit

An India - Africa Strategic Partnership Meet was convened on the third day (21.3.2026) of the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 at New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Shri Manohar Lal, Union Minister for Power. The meeting was attended by Shri Shripad Naik Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Nayab Singh Saini Chief Minister of Haryana, Dr Jean Mathanga Minister of Energy and Mining, Government of Malawi, Alain Ebobissé, CEO of Africa50, Ministers from several African nations, leaders from the African Union and Africa50, Ambassadors, High Commissioners, representatives from power utilities, financial institutions, development partners, and industry leaders.

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## WHO-Led Programme Drives Digital Health Transformation Across 16 Countries

A major international training initiative led by the WHO Academy is helping low- and middle-income countries transition from fragmented digital health systems to integrated, nationally coordinated platforms—marking a critical step toward more resilient and data-driven healthcare systems.

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