



Global South Matters

DAKSHIN

Global South Centre of Excellence

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IN FOCUS



The Pandemic Treaty: A Milestone for Health Equity in the Global South

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The historic adoption of the Pandemic Agreement at the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2025 marks a pivotal point in global health governance. After more than three years of negotiations shaped by the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, 194 World Health Organization (WHO) Member States have agreed on a legally binding instrument aimed at strengthening global capacity to prevent, prepare for, and respond to future pandemics. This treaty holds the promise of transforming rhetoric on health equity into concrete action for countries in the Global South.

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Key Developments in the Global South



India and Mauritius Reaffirm Strategic Partnership

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam. Emphasising the special and unique ties between India and Mauritius, the two leaders reaffirmed their shared commitment to further deepen the Enhanced Strategic Partnership between the two countries. They discussed the ongoing cooperation across a broad range of areas, including development partnership, capacity building, defence, maritime security, digital infrastructure, and people-to-people ties. PM Modi appreciated the whole-hearted participation of PM Ramgoolam in the 11th International Day of Yoga.

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Central American Countries Commend India

Representatives from Central American Integration System (SICA) member countries appreciated India's proactive role in fostering global South-South Cooperation during a virtual dialogue held on India-SICA cooperation, on Wednesday. The Indian side was led by Rajesh Vaishnaw, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) while SICA was represented at the Virtual Dialogue by the Vice Minister of Multilateral Affairs of the Republic of Costa Rica, Alejandro Solano; Director of International Cooperation of the SICA Secretariat, Carmen Marroquin and senior officials and representatives of other member countries.

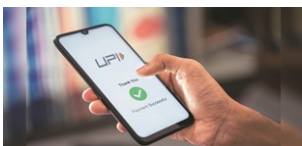
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India Provides Assistance to Cameroon

The Cameroon Government has received a donation of 1000 tonnes of rice and medication from India to fight hunger and disease in the country where over three million people are facing acute food insecurity. The consignment of 39 containers arrived at the Port of Douala on Monday, June 23. The food and medical teams were received by Cameroon's Minister of Territorial Administration, Paul Atanga Nji, alongside the Indian High Commissioner to Cameroon Shri Vijay Khanduja. According to the commissioner, the humanitarian package and relief materials handed to Cameroon are an expression of solidarity and togetherness to strengthen the partnership between the two nations.

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India Gears Up to Address Digital Fraud

In a bid to rein in the increasing incidence of digital payment frauds, major public and private sector banks have been roped to develop Digital Payment Intelligence Platform (DPIP) as a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) under the supervision and guidance of the Reserve Bank of India. The proposed platform seeks to bolster fraud risk management by facilitating real-time intelligence sharing and gathering, thereby preventing fraudulent digital transactions. the institutional structure of the proposed entity would be created with the help of both public sector and private sector lenders as fraud is a common monster.

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Ethiopia, UN Sign New Development Cooperation Framework

The government of Ethiopia and the United Nations in Ethiopia have officially signed the United Nations Sustainable

Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the period 2025-2030. The signing of the framework has signalled a renewed partnership aimed at advancing Ethiopia's development priorities and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The signing ceremony was attended by State Minister of Finance Semereta Sewasew and Ramiz Alakbarov, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ethiopia alongside heads of various UN agencies operating in Ethiopia. An estimated 6.5 billion USD is required to fully implement the cooperation framework over five years.

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Nigeria and Brazil Ink Agreement to Boost Agriculture

Vice President Kashim Shettima applauded the over \$1 billion Green Imperative agricultural initiative, saying it is a milestone in Nigeria's renewed strategic alliance with Brazil, grounded in mutual respect and practical cooperation. Shettima, while speaking at the opening ceremony, stressed the need for concrete and deliverable agreements with specific timelines. The Vice President described the 2nd Nigeria-Brazil Strategic Dialogue Mechanism, holding at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, as product of longstanding relationship between both countries, which he said, "is not defined by geography but by common ambition".

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Morocco Partners with IFC to Advance Agricultural Financial Inclusion

Bank Al-Maghrib (BAM) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) signed a partnership deal on Wednesday, June 18, in Rabat, meant to achieve two key objectives: improving the resilience of agricultural operations and fostering inclusive and sustainable growth. According to a joint press release, this partnership reflects the shared ambition of both institutions to promote an innovative financing model tailored to the financial needs of smallholder farmers and agricultural value chains. The agreement supports Morocco's agricultural financial inclusion goals and its food security program through 2030.

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Kenya and IFAD Sign Agricultural Deal

Kenya has signed an agreement with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) aimed at supporting farmers, restoring ecosystems, and improving rural livelihoods. The Integrated Natural Resources Management Programme (INReMP), valued at Kshs. 34 billion, will be rolled out over eight years. It is expected to benefit more than two million people across ten counties, particularly in the Cherangany Hills

and Mau West regions—key catchment areas vital to the country's water supply. Speaking at the signing ceremony in Nairobi, Principal Secretary for Agriculture, Dr Kipronoh Ronoh, hailed the agreement as a significant step toward building a more food-secure and climate-resilient Kenya.

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Nigeria Strives to Enhance Food Security

The Federal Government has invested over N200 billion in agricultural interventions and recapitalized the Bank of Agriculture with N1.5 trillion to enhance food security and empower farmers nationwide. This was revealed by the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari, during a high-level engagement on Saturday, which featured bilateral talks, technical briefings, and a field tour of Nigeria's national mechanization fleet at the National Agricultural Seed Council in Sheda, Abuja. Kyari reaffirmed Nigeria's leadership role in transforming regional food systems as a major turning point in the country's agricultural trajectory.

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Egypt and Zimbabwe Discuss Health Cooperation

Zimbabwe's Minister of Health and Child Welfare Douglas T. Mombeshora said that he is looking forward to further cooperation with Egypt and the UN in various healthcare-related domains, applauding Egypt's leading healthcare experience. Mombeshora made the remarks during a meeting with Egypt's Ambassador to Zimbabwe Salwa Mowafy, in the presence of the representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) office, the Deputy Representative of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the director of the UN Resident Coordinator's office in Harare. The Egyptian diplomat extended an official invitation to the Zimbabwean Health Minister to participate in the 4th edition of Africa Health ExCon 2025.

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Singapore Launches 24/7 National Mental Health Helpline

Singapore's new 24/7 mental health helpline, national mindline 1771, is now ready. Starting 18 June 2025, anyone in Singapore who is facing emotional or mental health difficulties can reach out for support confidentially and without stigma through a new multi-channel helpline. This multi-channel approach ensures individuals can choose the mode of communication they are most comfortable with, whether through real-time voice conversations for those who prefer speaking, or text-based options for those who find it easier to express themselves in writing. The launch of national mindline 1771 seeks to strengthen Singapore's mental health support ecosystem by focusing on early intervention.

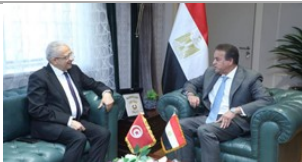
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Kenya Set to Launch New Health Care and Safety Authority

The Ministry of Health is set to establish a new Quality Health Care and Patient Safety Authority to enforce medical standards across Kenya. Public Health Principal Secretary Mary Muthoni announced the move during the first public participation forum for the Quality of Health and Patient Safety Bill, 2025. Muthoni said the country needs a strong regulatory body to oversee health service providers and protect patients from unsafe practices. Speaking in Murang'a County, the PS emphasized that the legislation will help hold healthcare providers to account and safeguard patients' rights. The bill will give Kenyans across all 47 counties an opportunity to review, adopt, or recommend changes during a series of public forums.

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Tunisia and Egypt Discuss Medical Cooperation

Tunisian Minister of Health Dr. Mustapha Ferjani met with Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health and Population Dr. Khaled Abdel Ghaffar in Cairo, on the sidelines of the 4th Africa Health ExCon. The meeting focused on enhancing cooperation in priority health sectors such as pharmaceutical manufacturing, medical tourism, and the exchange of best practices. Both ministers stressed the importance of advancing technical and scientific collaboration and translating the strong bilateral ties into tangible projects that improve healthcare access and quality for citizens in both countries.

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Indonesia and Russia Strengthen Strategic Digital Cooperation

Indonesia and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on digital sector cooperation in St. Petersburg. Indonesia's Minister of Communication and Digital Affairs, Meutya Hafid, confirmed that the partnership will soon enter the implementation phase. "Indonesia and Russia agreed to form a special subcommittee to serve as the main driver of the joint digital program, which will include human resources training, technology exchange, and collaborative media content initiatives," she said in a statement. The collaboration covers a wide range of areas, including 5G network development, the Internet of Things (IoT), radio frequency spectrum governance, cybersecurity, and the creation of inclusive internet policies.

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Oman Seeks to Boost SMEs and Digital Innovation

Oman Arab Bank (OAB) plans to increase by way of a shareholder-underwritten rights issue, subject to regulatory approvals. The capital boost is designed to increase the Bank's capital adequacy, enable enhanced lending to priority economic sectors, and spur digital innovation, with enhanced financial strength and long-term growth flexibility. It will allow the bank to invest more in digital banking technology and will also pay an important role in harnessing the potential of the Oman's small and medium enterprises which form the backbone of its private sector.

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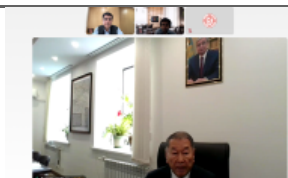


New Digital IDs and Passports for South Africa

The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) has unveiled ambitious plans to roll out digital IDs, a digital wallet, and e-passports to South Africans within the next five years. The DHA presented its Revised Strategic Plan (RSP) for 2025 to 2030 to the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs on 17 June 2025. In the RSP, Home Affairs Minister Leon Schreiber said this plan forms the bedrock of his department's vision to transform the DHA digitally. A key part of this initiative is the introduction of digital IDs in South Africa. Under this project, the DHA will first ensure access to smart ID cards and new e-passports for all South Africans.

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DAKSHIN Network and Collaborations



DAKSHIN Meeting with Foreign Policy Research Institute, Kazakhstan

On 25th June 2025, Prof. Gulshan Sachdeva, Chief Coordinator of DAKSHIN, had a virtual meeting with Ambassador Bolat Nurgaliyev, Chairman of the Foreign Policy Research Institute under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Ambassador Nurgaliyev has previously served as Kazakhstan's ambassador to the USA, South Korea, Japan, and Israel, and was also Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The two sides exchanged information about their respective activities and explored potential areas of collaboration between their institutions. The discussion focused on India–Central Asia relations, regional cooperation between Central and South Asia, and developments in Afghanistan. Regional organizations such as the SCO and the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) were also discussed. Specific areas of cooperation identified during the recent India–Central Asia Dialogue were reviewed in detail.

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