



Global South Matters

# DAKSHIN

## Global South Centre of Excellence

05 Dec - 11 Dec, 2025

### Key Developments in the Global South



#### Union Minister Shri Jadhav Addresses Curtain Raiser for the 2nd World Health Organization Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

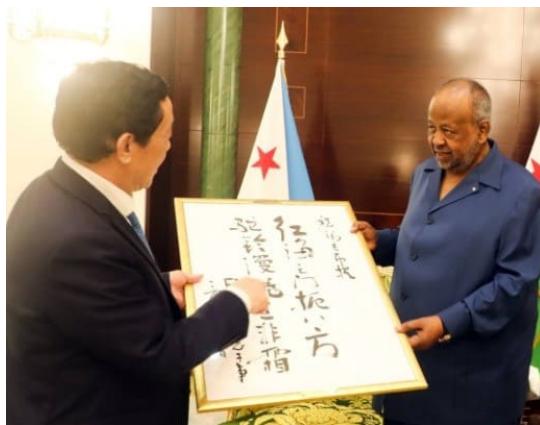
The Ministry of Ayush organised a Curtain Raiser Press Conference at the National Media Centre, New Delhi, ahead of the 2nd WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, to be held from 17–19 December 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Union Minister of State (IC) for Ayush, Shri Prataprao Jadhav, expressed great pride that India will host the Second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine, following the successful first edition held in Gujarat in 2023.

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#### India Hosts First-Ever Global South Seminar On Public Financial Management (PFM)

The Office of the Controller General of Accounts of India (CGA), Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), convened a high-level Seminar on sharing India's Public Financial Management (PFM) Experience for countries of the Global South in New Delhi, today. The event brought together heads of Missions, senior diplomats, and PFM experts from many partner countries of the Global South, including Guyana, Cuba, Mauritius, Maldives, Timor-Leste, Fiji, etc,

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## **Djibouti President Meets Dr QU Dongyu, Director General, Food and Agriculture Organisation**

FAO Director-General, Dr QU Dongyu, conducted an official visit to Djibouti, during which he was received by H.E. Mr Ismaïl Omar Guelleh, President of the Republic of Djibouti. President Guelleh welcomed the Director-General and congratulated FAO for its continued support to Members, and in particular to Djibouti. He highlighted the importance of the FAO Hand-in-Hand Initiative, noting that it provided a valuable framework for accelerating development. The President underlined the many opportunities for development within the country, while expressing his expectation for FAO to continue providing the necessary support in identifying concrete solutions to strengthen the economy, especially in a context where nearly all food commodities in Djibouti were imported.

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## **Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly Reiterates His Full Commitment to Strengthening Cooperation with Food and Agriculture Organization**

Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly delivered a speech on behalf of His Excellency President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi at the opening session of the third Global Conference of Representatives of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the New Administrative Capital. In his remarks, the Prime Minister noted that Egypt's hosting of the third FAO Global Conference reflects the Egyptian state's steadfast commitment to supporting the organisation and its central role in strengthening global food security, developing agricultural and food systems, and assisting the most vulnerable countries in facing humanitarian and economic challenges.

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## **Ghana Leading Africa in Health Transformation with Digital Innovation: Minister of Health Kwabena Mintah Akandoh**

Ghana is setting an example for Africa in health transformation through digital innovation, hospital modernisation, and equitable access to care, Minister of Health Kwabena Mintah Akandoh said. He made this known at the 2025 World Health Expo in Accra. Mintah Akandoh calls for strategic investments in Africa's health sector. "Ghana is implementing a national retailing program that upgrades diagnostic imaging, strengthens laboratory and pathology services, expands electricity, and integrates digital systems to support rapid clinical decision-making. "These investments transform our hospitals into models of health and physician and to confront both current disease burdens and emerging trends with precision and speed", he noted. Mintah Akandoh issued a one-week ultimatum to newly posted doctors to report to work.

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## **His Excellency Mohammad Somaali Calls for Stronger Digital Infrastructure and Innovation Reforms Across Africa**

The Minister of Communications and Technology of the Federal Republic of Somalia, H.E. Mohamed Somaali, participated in the Ministerial Roundtable convened on the second day of the African Startup Summit — a continental gathering focused on accelerating digital innovation and empowering emerging technology enterprises across Africa. This year's summit places a strategic emphasis on strengthening support for high-growth startups, enhancing digital connectivity, advancing technology-driven innovation, and expanding ICT infrastructure to enable resilient, inclusive, and competitive digital economies across the continent. Senior officials representing various African nations are attending the high-level sessions taking place in Algiers.

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## African Policymakers and Global Industry Emphasise Deeper Regional Capacity at the WHX Leaders Africa Summit

African policymakers and global industry leaders have renewed calls for deeper regional capacity, stronger local manufacturing, and smarter partnerships to drive the continent's long-term health security, as the WHX (World Health Expo) Leaders Africa Summit opened under the theme, "Catalyzing Africa's Health Revolution through Investment, Innovation, Impact and Infrastructure." Delivering his address, Ghana's Minister for Health, Kwabena Mintah Akandoh, said Africa must shift decisively from aspirational planning to implementation if it is to transform its health systems by 2050. Speaking on the theme "Africa's Healthcare in 2050: From Emerging Leader to Global Powerhouse," he urged the continent to adopt a more assertive, execution-driven posture.

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## Tehran Hosts Meeting of African Envoys to Boost Science and Health Cooperation

Addressing the meeting, held in Tehran on Monday, Nader Tavakoli, the Chancellor of Iran University of Medical Sciences, said despite coercive sanctions, the country has managed to make great strides in the health sector, from education and treatment to technology and production of medicines, relying on committed and creative human resources, IRNA reported. "Now, we are ready to share these achievements with Africans through establishing a strategic health alliance between Iran and African countries," Tavakoli highlighted. Elaborating on the core areas of the strategic alliance, he said that researchers will focus on addressing real-time illnesses, such as tropical and endemic diseases, drug shortages, and health service delivery in rural areas.

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## High-Level Meeting Concludes with Renewed Commitment to Sustainable Graduation of Least Developed Countries

The High-Level Meeting on “Forging Ambitious Global Partnerships for Sustainable and Resilient Graduation of Least Developed Countries” concluded in Doha, Qatar, with strong calls for innovative partnerships and concrete support measures to ensure that graduation from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category is sustainable and irreversible. Co-organised by the **State of Qatar through Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)**, the three-day meeting brought together ministers, senior officials, development partners, and representatives of international organisations to discuss strategies for smooth transition and resilience-building for graduating and graduated LDCs.

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## African Union Organises Inaugural Digital Agriculture Conference to Boost Food Security and Agri-Food Systems

The African Union (AU) successfully convened its inaugural African Union Digital Agriculture Conference (DAC), under the theme: “Shaping Agricultural Policy for Africa’s Future: Innovation, Climate-Smart Practices, and Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development.”. The high-level gathering held at the AU Headquarters concluded with a renewed continental commitment to leveraging technology to transform Africa’s agri-food systems. The Conference deliberated on the role of digital innovation in accelerating Africa’s agrifood systems transformation, in line with the aspiration of Agenda 2063, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the Kampala CAADP Declaration on Agrifood Systems Transformation.

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## **Senegal and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, Together with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research Advance Crop Improvement**

A major milestone for agricultural research and food security in West and Central Africa was reached today with the inauguration of a state-of-the-art greenhouse at the ISRA–CNRA research station in Bambey. The new facility, covering 1,384 m<sup>2</sup> and comprising six independent, fully controlled compartments, will significantly accelerate crop improvement efforts for key dryland cereals and legumes across the region. Designed for phytopathology and plant breeding, the greenhouse enables up to four rapid generation cycles per year, dramatically reducing the time needed to deliver improved varieties to farmers. This work enhances the livelihoods and resilience of millions of resource-poor farmers while advancing a more productive, inclusive, and sustainable agrifood system within planetary boundaries.

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## **United Kingdom and the World Health Organization Donate Vital Medical Equipment to Strengthen Nigeria's Workforce**

The United Kingdom Government and the World Health Organization (WHO) have handed over essential equipment and upgraded facilities to health training institutions in Lagos State — a major boost to Nigeria's efforts to build a stronger, more skilled health workforce. The intervention, implemented under the UK-funded Equipment Support for Health Training Institutions (ESHTI) programme, aims to improve the quality of training for nurses, midwives and other frontline health workers — a critical requirement for Nigeria's push toward Universal Health Coverage (UHC). According to a press statement, officials from the UK Government, WHO and the Lagos State Government said the investment will significantly elevate training standards and benefit more than 1,000 students and faculty members across three state-owned institutions.

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## DOHA Forum Emphasises Innovation from the Global South

A high-level panel discussion titled "Humanity's Next Chapter: Innovation and Impact from the Global South," organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was held on the sidelines of the 23rd edition of the Doha Forum 2025. The session was attended by HE Chairperson of Qatar Museums' Board of Trustees, Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Al-Thani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Qatar Fund for Development HE Sheikh Thani bin Hamad Al-Thani, along with several senior officials, leaders of international organisations, and experts from the financial, telecommunications, and technology sectors.

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## The Innovation and Digital Development Agency Discusses Opportunities for Digital Development Cooperation with African Delegates

The Innovation and Digital Development Agency (IDDA) held bilateral meetings with delegations from Mali, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Somalia, Senegal, Chad, Tunisia, Kenya, and other African countries. The discussions focused on identifying potential areas of cooperation in digital development. During their visit, the African delegations were introduced to Azerbaijan's digital government technologies. The presentations provided detailed insights into citizen-centric solutions such as "MyGov" and "MyGov ID", as well as government digital platforms, including the Digital Document Circulation system and digital.bridge. "MyGov", a leading example of GovTech products operating on the "one-stop shop" principle, attracted considerable interest from the participants.

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### **Việt Nam and Laos Enhance Health Care Co-Operation**

Việt Nam's Ministry of Health remain ready to support the Lao health sector in providing medical examination and treatment for the public, as well as offering professional assistance for Lao medical staff whenever requested, said Deputy Minister Nguyễn Văn Thuấn. Deputy Minister Thuấn held a bilateral working session with Lao Deputy Minister of Health Aphone Visathep as joining joined the working delegation accompanying Prime Minister Phạm Minh Chính to Laos for the High-Level Meeting between the two Parties and the co-chaired Forty-eighth Session of the Việt Nam – Laos Inter-governmental Committee. During the meeting, both ministries reviewed several effective and practical healthcare co-operation activities.

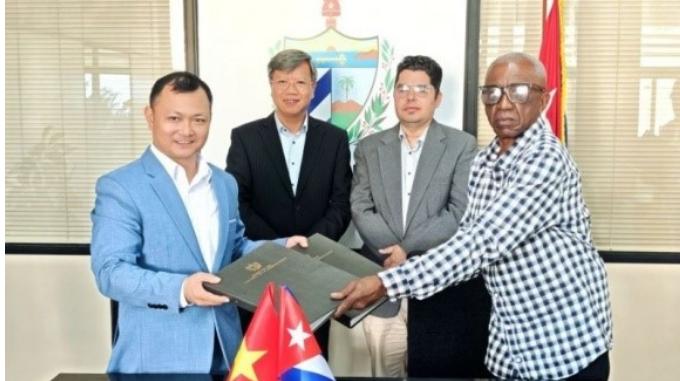
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### **World Health Organization Assists Gambia with Ambulances and Medical Equipment**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has handed over two fully-equipped ambulances and oxygen concentrators to the Ministry of Health (MoH), boosting The Gambia's capacity to provide timely emergency referrals and lifesaving care. The donation, valued at approximately USD 200,000 (about GMD 15 million), was presented during a ceremony attended by the Honourable Minister of Health, Dr Ahmadou Lamin Samateh; the WHO Representative, Dr Nathan Bakayita; senior MoH officials; and frontline health workers. WHO remains committed to ensuring that every person in The Gambia can access timely, safe, and quality health services regardless of where they live.

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## **Viet Nam and Cuba Sign Agricultural Cooperation Project**

Vietnamese Ambassador to Cuba Le Quang Long, Cuba's Deputy Minister of Agriculture Telce Abdel Gonzalez Morera, representatives of Artemisa Province, and leaders of relevant units witnessed the signing ceremony. Highlighting the significance of the agreement, Ambassador Le Quang Long said that the signing of the International Economic Joint Venture Contract between Hoang Gia Viet Food Joint Stock Company and Alquizar Agricultural Company is not only a commercial agreement but also a testament to the proactive economic diplomacy efforts of the Vietnamese Embassy in Cuba. The success of this agreement also opens opportunities and encourages more Vietnamese enterprises to invest in the promising Cuban market.

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## **Qatar Steps up Cooperation with Benin, Zambia and Mali**

Mohammed bin Twar Al Kuwari, First Vice-Chairman of the Qatar Chamber, held three separate meetings with the Ambassador of Benin, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Zambia, and the President of the Malian Business Association, in the presence of Dr. Mohammed bin Jawhar Al Mohammed, Qatar Chamber Board Member. In the first meeting, Mohammed bin Twar received HE Dr Bida Youssoufou, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Benin to Qatar. The meeting touched on fostering trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and exploring investment opportunities across several sectors, including agriculture, energy, and tourism.

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## **Gambia and Indonesia Advance Bilateral Cooperation**

A Foreign Office Consultation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, and Gambians Abroad of the Republic of The Gambia was held in Bali, Indonesia. The meeting served as an implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Republic of The Gambia on the establishment of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation, signed in Jakarta on 14 March 2014, and reaffirmed the commitment of both countries to strengthening longstanding bilateral relations and expanding cooperation in key areas. Both sides affirmed the meeting as an important avenue and a reflection of their commitment to fostering a constructive environment for direct communication and collaboration.

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## **Mauritius Aspires to Become the Regional Digital Hub**

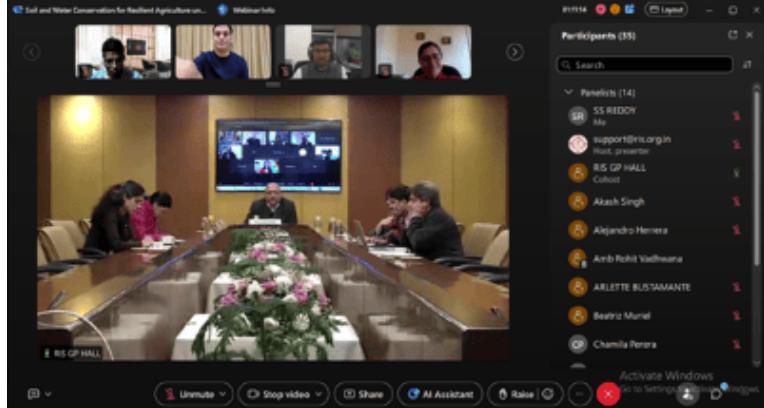
Mauritius Telecom announced a three-year investment of 20 billion Mauritian rupees, or 434 million dollars, to modernise its infrastructure, strengthen connectivity and develop advanced digital services. The investment plan, announced by CEO Veemal Gungadin during the Mauritius Telecom Connect event in Côte d'Or, aims to transform Mauritius into a regional digital hub and an intercontinental connectivity corridor linking Africa and Asia. It focuses on several priorities, including deploying new submarine cables, developing a sovereign cloud, integrating artificial intelligence solutions, accelerating 5.5G and expanding digital services such as mobile payments.

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## **DAKSHIN Event**

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DAKSHIN-the Global South Centre of Excellence at RIS, New Delhi, organised a virtual workshop on Soil and Water Conservation for Resilient Agriculture under Climate Change Dynamics in Latin America in collaboration with the Instituto de Estudios Avanzados en Desarrollo (INESAD), Bolivia, on 10 December 2025. The workshop focused on how climate change is intensifying extreme hydro-meteorological events, prolonged droughts, erratic rainfall, rising temperatures and increasing water scarcity, thereby affecting agriculture production systems across rainfed, coastal, highland and dryland agricultural systems in Latin America.

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