

Concept Note

The Prime Minister of India inaugurated DAKSHIN – The Global South Centre of Excellence during the 2nd Voice of Global South Summit held virtually on 17th November 2023. Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) hosts DAKSHIN and has been engaging with several think tanks across the Global South countries and formalising DAKSHIN's relationship with them through signing of Letter of Association (LoA). The Prime Minister also announced that DAKSHIN will coordinate an annual international conference of research partners and think tanks. It is proposed to have such a conference in February – March 2024. To initiate collective engagements of think tanks of the Global South in the run up to this conference, DAKSHIN is organising a **virtual workshop** on the **health sector** on 2nd February 2024.

The workshop aims to:

- 1. Discuss innovative solutions, best practices, successful flagship schemes of India & other countries of the Global South in the health sector.
- 2. Promote development solutions advocated by these countries for their possible replication and adoption among peer countries of the developing world.
- 3. Involve think tanks/universities/research institutions in promoting mutual learning, exchange of experiences and good practices among Global South countries.
- 4. Identify areas of common interests and institutional collaboration.

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¹ The PM stated: From next year, we propose to start an Annual International Conference in India, which will focus on the development priorities of the Global South. The "Dakshin" Centre will coordinate this conference with the partner research centres and think tanks of the Global South, whose main goal will be to identify practical solutions for the development related challenges in the Global South that will strengthen our future.

The workshop aims to brainstorm on enhancing the capability of the Global South countries in implementing and managing healths programs and enhance the provision of quality health care services. Digital health is now increasingly recognised as an essential means of achieving universal health coverage, given its ability to widen access to health services. The workshop will discuss the key health solutions that can contribute in bringing in well being transformation within the countries of Global South, and leverage the scope to design, assess, select, and deploy digital health systems and applications, data analytics, etc. as per their national priorities.

The COVID-19 pandemic engineered fundamental shifts in public health and forced nations to re-imagine the healthcare landscape. As emerging economies find innovative ways of addressing their challenges and bolstering their systems, they are uniquely poised to work together and thus progress together. India, with its successful implementation of the world's largest vaccination drive and deployment of initiatives like *Vaccine Maitri* (Vaccine friendship) to help other countries in need, now has a repository of good practices that can be invaluable to any country seeking to strengthen its health systems. DAKSHIN Workshop on Health will showcase several Indian initiatives, and experiences of other countries of the Global South in the following potential areas of cooperation:

- 1. Digital Health Solutions
- 2. Health Systems Strengthening
- 3. Maternal and Child Health/Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases