

## India Hosts 3rd Voice of Global South Summit

### Key Points from Hon'ble Prime Minister



- Proposed a comprehensive “Global Development Compact,” based on India’s development journey and experiences of development partnership. This Compact will be inspired by the development priorities set by the countries of the Global South themselves. Under this ‘development compact’, we will focus on trade for development, capacity building for sustainable growth, technology sharing, project specific concessional finance and Grants.
- ‘DAKSHIN’ i.e. Global South Centre of Excellence is working on capacity building, skilling and knowledge sharing among us.
- To boost trade promotion activities, India will launch a special fund of \$2.5 million. A fund of \$ 1 million will be provided for training in trade policy and trade negotiation for capacity building.

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## Key Points from Remarks by Hon'ble EAM at VoGSS

### Global South & Global Governance

- Global institutions and governance architecture and the need to reform multilateralism to revive its credibility.
- Access to finance and technology to unlock the development potential of the Global South.
- India Stack and DPI stand out as Indian contributions.
- Need for collective initiatives to show greater willingness to act on issues of common interest. ISA, CDRI, GBA, Mission LiFE stand out as examples.
- Making inter-dependence a strength through intensifying South-South interactions to ensure that exposures and vulnerabilities are not leveraged.
- Access to finance and tech remained the keys to unlock the development potential of the Global South.



### Charting a Unique Paradigm for Global South

- Strengthening economic resilience to de-risk international economy from disruptions caused by conflicts, pandemic and climate events.
- Just Energy Transitions including access to low-cost financing and critical technologies.
- Reforming multilateralism to reflect the hopes and aspirations of the Global South.
- Democratizing digital transformations will be a key driver of economic and governance transition of the Global South.

## EDITORIAL

# DEVELOPMENT COMPACT: INDIA'S NEW APPROACH FOR PARTNERSHIPS

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has spelt out a new vision and approach for Global South that not only India would follow but he has also indicated others to have this new approach for saving partner countries from adverse economic conditions. Speaking at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of the Global South Summit (VoGSS) on 17 August 2024, the vision of '*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*, underpinned by India's philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*, was again evident when India placed balanced and sustainable development at the centre-stage. Prime Minister proposed a 'Development Compact' for the countries of the Global South.

The 'Development Compact' would be based on the domestic priorities, decided by the partner countries, where India will share its development journey and development experiences. The 'Development Compact' would be human-centric, multidimensional and multisectoral in nature, consisting of five broad modalities which are intersubstitutable in implementation. They would be modalities of trade for development, capacity building for sustainable growth, technology sharing, and project specific concessional finance and grants. In addition, India also proposed initiating a trade promotion activity worth USD 2.5 million, and USD 1 million fund towards capacity building and training in the area of trade policy and trade negotiations for the countries of the Global South.

Heads of State from around 21 countries of the Global South attended the VoGSS along with representatives from around 123 countries at different levels. Foreign Ministers, Health Ministers, Youth Ministers, Commerce Trade Ministers, Information and Technology Ministers, Finance Ministers, Energy Ministers, Education Ministers, and Environment Ministers in sessions spread across 10 themes, participated at the Summit.

VoGSS is emerging as a platform for bringing together countries of the Global South for sharing their perspectives and development experiences. The 3<sup>rd</sup> VoGSS, with the overarching theme of "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future", acted as a platform to expand discussions held in the previous VoGSS on a range of complex challenges that continue to affect the world, such as conflicts, food and energy security crises, climate change - all of which disproportionately affect developing countries in a severe manner. At the Summit, the countries of the Global South continued deliberations on challenges, priorities, and solutions for them particularly in the short and medium terms.

RIS has come out with perspectives and a series of commentary pieces on various facets of the VoGSS. The article by Professor S. K. Mohanty focuses on rebounding southern economies in a challenging global landscape with emphasis on crucial role of trade for southern nations, especially in relation to technological development. Dr Sabyasachi Saha in this article talks about the consistent follow ups and deep engagements that India has taken forward through the third edition of the VoGSS, thereby providing a regular platform to the leaders of the Global South to raise their concerns and discuss mutual challenges and come up with relevant solutions. Dr P. K Anand's article deliberates on India's showcasing of its resolve towards realising a collaborative development compact making the development journey inclusive towards unmet needs of the Global South. Professor Milindo Chakrabarti and Dr Pratyush Sharma have driven home the point that VoGSS has emerged as a discussion and operational platform for the developing countries to facilitate the process of convergence through emphasis on mutual learning. They further mention that this exercise will bring in the process of collective action in achievement of mutual development among the countries from the Global South. Mr Atul Kaushik addressed the challenges of poverty and hunger through initiatives in the agriculture, nutrition and health sectors and mentioned that they are the immediate developmental priorities for the Global South.

Dr Sushil Kumar has highlighted the key features of 'development compact' and explained that the modalities are interdependent and work in tandem with each other. He also mentioned that the partnership for development will give opportunities for growth and economic expansion in Global South through human capacity building and strengthening of institutions. Mr Arun Nair expressed that concerted strategies including creation of Social Impact Funds are needed for implementing Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in the Global South. He further mentioned that this is vital for uninterrupted support to the technical and non-technical aspects of the initiatives aimed at empowering Global South. In the same breath, Mr Venkatesh Krishnamurthy, and Mr Akash Singh expressed that DPI holds immense potential in transforming societies and explained how DAKSHIN promotes digital solutions and fosters knowledge sharing, capacity building and skilling to strengthen the Global South. Mr Pushpak Roy has discussed the idea of peace and development in the countries of the Global South. Mr Kartik Kishore has explained the special connect between India and Africa through the Maritime sector, and finally Ms Vaishali Chaudhari has elaborated upon the technology divide and women led growth in the countries of the Global South.

I hope the readers will be enriched by this special issue of RIS Diary commemorating the 3<sup>rd</sup> VoGSS. They would be intellectually motivated to delve into the ideas of the 'development compact' for the Global South.

Professor Sachin Chaturvedi  
Director General, RIS

17<sup>th</sup> August 2024  
New Delhi

# REBOUNDED SOUTHERN ECONOMIES IN A CHALLENGING GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

S. K. Mohanty



At the Third Voice of the Global South Virtual Summit on 17 August 2024, Prime Minister underscored the need for stronger South-South Cooperation to overcome the looming challenges in the post-pandemic period for southern nations. In recent years, a diverse array of global challenges has led to widespread insecurities in essential sectors such as

food, health, and energy.

In his address on the challenges facing southern countries, Prime Minister highlighted issues such as socio-economic difficulties, climate change, education, and skill development amidst the ongoing global recession. Among his key points, the Prime Minister stressed the crucial role of trade for southern nations, especially in relation to technological development.

The Global South has significantly advanced in overcoming underdevelopment by leveraging trade as a key driver of its rapid economic growth. The subdued growth and developmental challenges faced by the Global South during the 1970s through the 1990s are now a thing of the past. The Global South is making significant strides in aligning its GDP growth and trade performance with that of the North. A new set of emerging countries, such as India, Brazil, and Indonesia, is steadily progressing toward achieving top economic status in the foreseeable future. Moving from the sidelines, these economies are emerging as key global leaders, significantly contributing to the international economic framework.

The global recession served as an unexpected catalyst, aiding the Global South in closing the development and trade gap with the North. The Global South's exports surged to \$9.55 trillion globally in 2022, with \$5.51 trillion of that trade occurring within the Global South. Its imports in 2022 reached \$9.26 trillion worldwide, with \$5.99 trillion sourced from within the South. The volume of intra-Global South trade, for both exports and imports, was much

greater than trade between the Global South and the North. During the period 2002-22, the Global South saw its exports multiplying by 4.4 times globally, by 6.1 times within the South, but by just 3.3 times with the North. This trade revival is seen not just in the Global South as a whole, but also in the specific sub-groups like emerging economies, developing countries (excluding the emerging ones), and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

In the periods of global economic expansion and the early phase of the global recession (2008-15), LDCs showed notably stronger trade progress than most of the other major subgroups of the Global South. During the buoyant global period of 2002-07, trade in the Global South grew by 25 per cent globally and by close to 30 per cent within the Southern region. Although the Global South's trade with the North increased significantly during the same period, it did not match the higher growth rate of its trade with the world. During the 2008-22 global recession, the Global South achieved trade growth rates of more than 4 per cent worldwide and nearly 5.25 per cent within the South, whereas developed countries managed just over 2 per cent. The increased trade openness of Southern countries, coupled with their significant growth advantage, has helped them narrow the development gap with the North.

The Global South's growing role in Global Value Chains (GVC) is driven by their manufacturing dynamism and increasing access to capital through foreign direct investment and trade. The growing influence of Global South companies in the global value chain sector is marked by their control over core activities and strategic involvement in the most profitable segments of production fragmentation. GVC exports reached \$1.58 trillion in 2022, marking a nearly 3½-fold increase from 2002 to 2022, with exports growing at a faster pace than imports.

The export profile of the Global South is steadily shifting towards technology-intensive goods, reducing its dependence on primary commodities. Over the period from 2002 to 2022, exports surged ahead of imports in all levels of technology-intensive trade with the world, including low, medium, and high-tech sectors. During the same period, low technology-intensive exports from the South saw a 4.6-time increase, while medium technology-intensive exports experienced a 6.4-time growth. Imports of high technology-

intensive goods increased twofold, whereas exports of these products achieved almost a threefold rise during that time. Combined Southern imports of medium and high technology products in 2022 crossed \$1 trillion, while exports were valued at \$1.15 trillion to the world.

The Global South's increasing dependence on technology-intensive trade decelerated during the global recession, in contrast to the rapid growth observed during global economic buoyancy. The combined trade of medium and high technology-intensive products grew at 20.9 per cent during 2002-07, but the rate slowed to 3.7 per cent in the subsequent period from 2008 to 2022. The extended recession has hindered the growth of technology-intensive trade in the Global South, but it could contribute to narrowing the expanding trade gap between North and South in this sector. To boost South-South and North-South trade, the Global South must work more closely together to overcome the barriers currently stalling global trade.

In this regard, the Prime Minister underscored the importance of enhancing South-South Cooperation (SSC) through an inclusive Global Development Compact. In the Development Compact, five core pillars are outlined, with capacity building as the first pillar aimed at providing training for young diplomats, enhancing skills, sharing knowledge, and negotiating trade policies.

In the Development Compact trade is highlighted as the second pillar, with a focus on reinforcing trade promotion activities to confront challenges in the sector. The third pillar of the Development Compact, centred on technology, prioritized addressing the diverse technological needs of the Global South, such as climate change challenges, payment interfaces, digital public infrastructure, and health sector requirements.

Further, the Development Compacts' components, including concessional finance and development grants, are embedded implicitly within his speech. A strong financial commitment from the Global South was identified as crucial for promoting SSC, with India's active participation being particularly emphasized. The Global South Excellence Centre's efforts in enhancing skills and facilitating knowledge exchange with the South were also acknowledged. (Professor, RIS)

# VoGSS – A UNIFYING PLATFORM IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTIES

Sabyasachi Saha



India has made a momentous beginning with the process of the Voice of Global South Summit with leaders of the Global South during the Indian G20 presidency in 2023, holding two editions of the Summit in 2023 and the third commenced today with the opening remarks of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Between 2023 and 2024, the world has confronted even greater uncertainties as geopolitical conflicts escalated and regional instabilities multiplied. It is appalling that the Global South is at the receiving end which hitherto held the beacon of economic dynamism and demographic dividends. Prime Minister's personal leadership in steering a global platform of this nature deserves huge praise for consistent follow-ups and deep engagements that provided a unique opportunity for the Global South leaders to express themselves eventually orchestrating impactful outcomes. This may be perceived as a new beginning as the world explores the shortest route to reform of multilateralism and old fashioned global governance institutions that are failing to deliver on the needs of the Global South already suffering the worst impact of wars, pandemics, technology divides, and climate change. Prime Minister categorically emphasised on the urgency towards food security, health security and energy security in this regard. From that perspective, the Voice of the Global South Summit process would eventually prove to be among the most consequential efforts. This is perhaps the first step in a long time towards breaking the status-quo and the Global South should emerge stronger through Southern diplomacy as being advocated by India. In doing so India has truly been mindful in making the process an outcome of collective efforts, mutual learning and shared aspiration.

India made hopes, aspirations and priorities of the Global South the key driver of its G20 Presidency last year. With African Union conferred full membership of the G20, India made stronger pitch for inclusive development, reforms of global financial architecture, MDB reforms and accelerating the SDGs based on India's own experience of digital public infrastructure, women led development and Mission LiFE. Today, PM announced financial commitments by India towards new initiatives on trade promotion (2.5 million USD) and capacity building on trade policy in the Global South (1 million USD) and reaffirmed the social impact fund for DPI implementation in the Global South (25 million USD). India achieved significant diplomatic success with the launch of the G20 2023 Action Plan on Accelerating Progress on the SDGs

and the High-Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development (LiFE) at the G20. Based on its own experience and experience of the Global South, India has been cognizant of the complex and integrated nature of the challenges on development and sustainability, and through its G20 Presidency worked on policy instruments that would support development programmes, flow of resources, capacity building and knowledge sharing in the Global South. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of the Global South Summit aspires to chart a unique paradigm for Global South with priorities for one health, youth engagement, trade for development, digital public infrastructure, people-centric approach to finance, sustainable energy solutions, human resource development and climate change from the perspective of the Global South.

World leaders are expected to join the Summit of the Future on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September in New York. In words of the Prime Minister, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of the Global South Summit has gained higher significance in that regard as the countries of the Global South aspire to collectively influence the outcomes of the Summit of the Future and the proposed Pact of the Future. Prime Minister today called for a major ‘Global Development Compact’ which would be a transformative approach to partnership that would also bring greater solidarity in the Global South in their efforts to support each other primarily in leveraging trade for development, project specific concessional finance, grants, capacity building for sustainable growth, and technology sharing in a harmonious manner. Emerging from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of the Global South Summit, template of ‘development compact’ should adequately inform the Pact of the Future towards reform of multilateral institutions and prioritising development needs in the Global South. (Associate Professor, RIS)



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the 3<sup>rd</sup> VoGSS said that inadequate access to development finance was hindering developing economies from achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and underscored the urgent need to address this \$4 trillion annual financing gap. Implementation of many SDGs across developing economies was stagnating.



**Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman**

## VoGSS : SHARED VISION, COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Pramod Kumar Anand



PM's inaugural address and closing remarks at the Voice of Global South Summit on 17 August 2024, manifest his resolve, vision and statesmanship to realise a collaborative development compact with the exchange of best ideas across Global South. He underscored the inclusive path, be it in Africa Union becoming a permanent member of G20, development to be women-led or collaborations for the upcoming UN Summit of the Future.

On collaborative efforts he covered humanitarian aid extended far and wide in the disaster hit or conflict zones, assuring that it would be promptly available wherever required. Collaborations undertaken on Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Digital Public Infrastructure (DPIs) are already proving inclusive. Continued efforts of Global South on health security, food security and energy security are some of the steps to be strengthened further in this endeavour. To impart traction to these initiatives, role of capacity building, skilling was accentuated.

In this direction the deliberations led towards mutual understanding, deeper collaborations for a human centric approach. A few concrete actions to pursue from the deliberations include capacity building, trade for development, exchanges on natural farming, technological co-operation and financial inclusion. It was further underscored not to let any partner country to be forced to slip into debt trap.

The outcomes at the Summit would help to shape better the agenda for the UN Summit of the Future making it inclusive towards unmet needs of Global South. The Summit proves to be a credible platform to take along all the members of the Global South, in such trying times when the world is still emerging out of the deep wounds and dark shadows of COVID and faces unending conflicts in many parts of the globe. The vision of the Global South to fulfill hopes, aspirations and underlying priorities in PM's address paves the way to share valuable views of his counterparts to collaborate towards achievement of SDGs and attain shared prosperity.  
(Visiting Fellow, RIS)

# DEVELOPMENT CONVERGENCE: IDEAS EMERGING FROM VoGSS

Milindo Chakrabarti  
Pratyush Sharma



**G**lobal South is at cross-roads today. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of the Global South Summit (VoGSS) is being held under such concerning circumstances. The speech of PM Narendra Modi is intended to share such concerns and suggest ways to

take care of them for Global South to move forward so that “no one is left behind”. Historically, Southern countries faced a process of extraction of both primary resources and labour and in turn, emerged as the market of finished products supplied by the North.

To achieve the required convergence, PM Modi mentioned that collectively countries of the Global South should come together and learn from each other. The current global crises of pandemic, conflicts including terrorism and radicalisation, and challenges in the areas of economy, health, food, and energy security require collaborative and concerted efforts by the countries of the Global South. The idea of reforms to ensure just and inclusive global governance including relevant changes in global financial institutions is also mentioned in the opening statement.

Operationally, the establishment of DAKSHIN (The Global South Centre of Excellence) is considered an effective initiative towards achieving the convergence. DAKSHIN to begin with is working towards sharing knowledge with the developing world in the areas of health, agriculture, and digital solutions. In the coming years, the mandate of DAKSHIN is set to expand in other areas of mutual benefits. Commitments and responsibilities from all the Southern countries are required to ensure collective action to achieve the desired objectives. The PM also pointed towards the historical responsibility of the Global North in the achievement of the necessary convergence.

Another major initiative is in the field of Digital Public Infrastructures and their associated products that are being shared with the Global South, free from any intellectual property right related conditionalities. Social Impact Fund with a contribution of USD 25 million and Trade Facilitation Fund worth USD 2.5 million along with a separate USD 1 million set aside for capacity building in the area of trade negotiations have also been announced by the PM. PM

also pointed out the need for women-led development and the idea of One World, One Health invoking the Indian traditional health system. In the recent past, India has also been an important responder in humanitarian disasters in Papua and New Guinea, Kenya, Ukraine, and Gaza as specifically mentioned by the PM.

PM further wished that VoGSS should emerge as a discussion and operational platform for the developing countries to facilitate the process of convergence through emphasis on mutual learning. This exercise will bring in the process of collective action in achievement of mutual development among the countries from the Global South.

One major announcement towards operationalising the ideas of convergence was in terms of institutionalising “Development Compact” that talks about multidimensional and multisectoral linkages that are necessary for ensuring development. The fundamental point that comes out in the concept of “Development Compact” is the fact that development cannot be ensured by providing financial support alone. It requires sufficient efforts in terms of capacity building, technology sharing, trade facilitation, concessional finance, grants and humanitarian assistance. They ought to be considered simultaneously and in an intersubstitutable manner for the integrated economic growth of Global South. (Consultants, RIS)



- “Attended the Inaugural Leaders’ Session of the third Voice of Global South Summit 2024, chaired by Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi. I commended India’s leadership, which shines as a guiding light for the Global South.
- “India’s growth, marked by solidarity and inclusivity, treats developing countries as partners rather than followers, and this human-centric approach resonates with Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness principles.”
- “I am optimistic that, under India’s leadership, we can build a more inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous Global South.”



**H. E. Tshering Tobgay**

Hon’ble Prime Minister of Bhutan

*On X 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024*

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# DAKSHIN – A WORKHORSE FOR ASPIRATIONS OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Atul Kaushik



In his inaugural address in the Leaders' Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of Global South Summit today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated that the Summit is a platform to give voice to those aspirations of the Global South that have gone unheard so far. To achieve balanced and sustainable development for the Global South, in his concluding remarks PM presented a proposal for a 'Global Development Compact' inspired by development priorities determined by the countries of the Global South themselves. The Compact is human-centric and multidimensional promoting a multi-sectoral approach in development cooperation, while at the same time reminding the Global North of its responsibilities and commitments towards the Global South. Triggering its implementation, the Prime Minister announced a fund of USD 2.5 million to strengthen trade promotion activities.

RIS, celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, began its journey in the trade and development sector. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> Voice of Global South Summit held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 the Prime Minister inaugurated DAKSHIN – the Global South Centre at RIS. DAKSHIN aims to foster knowledge sharing and mutual learning for building capacities and developing sustainable, affordable, and locally relevant solutions to overcome the development challenges faced by the Global South. DAKSHIN is slowly yet surefootedly emerging as a platform for the Global South, with collaborations established with think tanks and universities in 67 countries of the Global South already. It has so far undertaken several workshops on its priority areas of agriculture, health and digital solutions. It was encouraging to hear the Prime Minister during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of Global South Summit today mention the work of DAKSHIN in capacity building, skilling and knowledge sharing.

The very areas of importance for the countries of the Global South that the Prime Minister referred to during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of Global South Summit are also priority sectors for DAKSHIN. Addressing the challenges of poverty and hunger through initiatives in the agriculture, nutrition and health sectors are the immediate developmental priorities for the Global South. Taking the development dimension forward towards just and inclusive governance with centrality of the Global South in mind requires the reshaping of the global trade and financial architecture where market access is not denied on account of unfair non-tariff barriers and non-trade

issues, and where development funding does not lead to indebtedness and financial distress. DAKSHIN is working with its think tank and university partners to chalk out development solutions that address these issues. DAKSHIN is keenly working towards realising the resolve of the countries of the Global South expressed during the Voice of Global South Summits.

The Prime Minister referred to the upcoming United Nations Summit of the Future to be held on 22-23 September this year. The Pact for the Future, the planned outcome document of the Summit, must have the voice of the Global South squarely parked in it if we want the Summit to bring out an equitable and inclusive outcome of the ongoing deliberations. It is heartening to note that the Pact will have two important annexes: a Global Digital Compact, and a Declaration on Future Generations. India's achievements in the fields of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in the last decade or so and its sharing of DPI technologies and platforms with the rest of the Global South manifest the way forward for developing countries working for each other. With the largest contingent of young people in the world, India has much to contribute to what the future generations would look like. DAKSHIN needs to contribute to implementing these UN initiatives in the coming years.

With the rise of the Global South in the world economy during the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the institutions and paradigms of the 20<sup>th</sup> century need to be forsaken in favour of the Global Development Compact that the Prime Minister announced in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of the Global Summit. For that to materialise, the countries of the Global South must stand united together in one voice to become each other's strength. DAKSHIN stands ready to work with its think tank partners to pursue the Global Development Compact in a demand driven way with its focus on capacity building, skilling and knowledge sharing. (GDC Fellow, RIS)



"If we give an important place for social businesses, that is businesses which are created solely for fixing social and environmental problems, that it can set a path to create a world of three zeros - zero net carbon emissions, zero wealth concentration, and zero unemployment."



**H. E. Muhammad Yunus**  
Chief Adviser of the Interim  
Government of Bangladesh

*PTI News 17th August 2024*

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# INDIA'S NEW APPROACH FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Sushil Kumar



At the Voice of Global South Summit 3.0, the PM proposed a comprehensive “Global Development Compact” on behalf of India. This Compact, a collaborative effort based on India’s development journey and experiences of development partnership, is inspired by the development priorities set by the countries of the Global South themselves. India’s development assistance has the five modalities of Development Compact, as articulated by Prime Minister – capacity building, grants, concessional finance, trade and technology transfer. These modalities are interdependent and work in tandem with each other. Subsequently, multiple sub-modalities have also evolved from these major modalities.

India has a history of successful cooperation with other developing countries. The extension of Indian resources and expertise to the Global South, which dates back to the early 1950s, became institutionalised under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme established in 1964. India has provided assistance to multilateral institutions, financial institutions, regional organisations, and has taken several renovation and restoration projects in the neighbouring countries under different modalities. There is uniformity in the emphasis on human resource development. Moreover, there is huge rise in humanitarian assistance in the 1980s in terms of cash and kind assistance. This approach was also amply visible during the COVID pandemic.

As the global and regional strategic dynamics are considerably shifting, new trends have also emerged in the development cooperation in the Global South. A new economic dynamism is being observed in the developing world. The Southern development financial institutions and development actors have widened their outreach and development partnership portfolios. The role of private

sector in providing finance and technology and similarly, the role of civil society organisations in providing trained human resources and innovation in development practices have substantially expanded the horizons of development cooperation. They are now linked into different sectors of sustainable development goals (SDGs) – renewable energy, water, health, education, etc., the broad ecosystem of development cooperation.

Triangular cooperation is now evolving under the current government. The increased engagement with OECD and DAC members is paving the way for new forms of partnerships. Triangular cooperation is not a new phenomenon for India, instances of triangular cooperation can be found in the 1950s as well. India’s development engagement in Nepal with the US and Canada is an example of early triangular cooperation in the South Asian region.

Connectivity is a key for facilitating trade, people-to-people contact, and development. There is substantial growth in lines of credit in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, especially after 2005 onwards. As of now, India has issued over 292 lines of credits covering 62 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Oceania and CIS. Capacity building is the cornerstone of India’s development cooperation since its inception. The outreach of development partnerships has been enlarged over the period. India’s reach to development partnership was to 47 countries in 1947, which was expanded to 147 countries in 2001. Currently India has engaged in development partnerships with almost 190 countries.

The principles and practices of development partnership have further enhanced the role of soft power and cultural values in the Indian foreign policy. India’s modalities have offered new alternatives in development cooperation practices, and considerably contributing in shaping future development partnership in the Global South as well as triangular cooperation, particularly with Northern countries. (Assistant Professor, RIS)

# BRIDGING SDG FINANCING GAPS AND LEVERAGING DIGITAL DIVIDES

Arun. S. Nair



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address on 17 August, 2024 at the third edition of the Voice of the Global South Summit (VoGSS), where he emphasised the

need to use the platform to expedite efforts to mainstream the development agenda, was aptly timed as it comes just a month ahead of the landmark high-level UN Summit of the Future slated to be held in New York on September 20-21. The UN Summit of the Future has immense potential to help “forge a new international consensus on how we deliver a better present and safeguard the future” by adopting the Pact for the Future that would incorporate a Global Digital Compact and a Declaration on Future Generations.

India has already shown leadership to empower the Global South by spearheading various novel developmental initiatives and/or ideas that are gaining traction on various aspects of global governance. These include the Global Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Repository and the concept of Data for Development, One World One Health, ensuring African Union's (AU) G20 membership, Global Biofuels Alliance for ‘just, affordable and inclusive energy transitions, as well as the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) Mission to transform individuals to be pro-planet people and enabling human-centric climate action.

What is now needed is to develop concerted strategies including through creating Social Impact Funds (SIF) to implement these initiatives/ideas on the lines of the SIF set up to build DPI in the Global South.

Mobilising finances including through mechanisms such as SIFs is vital for uninterrupted support to the technical and non-technical aspects of the aforementioned initiatives aimed at empowering Global South.

SIFs can work as Public Private People Partnerships (PPPP) involving blending of financial resources from government, corporate, and philanthropic entities.

What can also help in this regard is the G20 Principles that are in place to scale up blended finance in a manner that can also help mitigate risks associated with developmental projects.

India, meanwhile, has already shown leadership in walking the talk by pledging USD 25 million as initial commitment for the SIF aimed at expediting the implementation of DPI in the Global South.

Given the growing trend of social enterprises in the development space, India has also brought out a legal framework for Social Stock Exchanges (SSE) under the ambit of its capital markets regulator SEBI. This is worthy of replication in other countries in the Global South, especially in Africa, to facilitate greater funding and expansion of transparent and accountable social enterprises that currently struggle to access traditional sources of finance while they aim to tackle important social and environmental challenges through low-cost innovation.

The concepts of SIF and SSE could be expanded to cover areas such as community-led projects working on health, food and energy security, gender equality, education and financial inclusion.

The 3rd VoGSS assumes special significance in this regard as such best practices and innovative ideas need to figure as its key takeaways that can then be included through consensus in the UN Summit of the Future's outcome documents.

This is critical as the global community needs to take urgent measures to bridge the huge SDG financing gap as well as the digital divide. (Author is closely associated with RIS.)

# STRENGTHENING THE GLOBAL SOUTH THROUGH DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Venkatesh Krishnamurthy and Akash Singh



India, poised on the path of an inclusive development-centric approach, committed itself to fulfilling hopes, aspirations and necessities of the Global South countries. Following this background, the address by PM Shri Narendra Modi at the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit (VoGSS) successfully demonstrated the idea of the unity of the Global South. To pursue this vision, DAKSHIN - Global South Centre of Excellence was inaugurated at RIS during the 2nd Voice of the Global South Summit held on 17th November 2023.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> VoGSS, the PM shared India's commitment to offer its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to the countries of the Global South. He underlined India's commitment of 25 million USD towards the Social Impact Fund aimed to fast-track the DPI implementation in Global South Countries. This fund will help in the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) through DPIs.

With digital civic life becoming more accessible, DPI has also become a critical component of 21st-century society. Demonstrating the principles of inclusivity, interoperability, and public accountability, DPI signifies a fundamental change in the manner in which societies interact with technology. Transforming the e-governance strategy, DPI encourages cooperation between public and private entities. As a result, one significant benefit of implementing DPI is Financial Inclusion, which is vital for reaching many of the Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty, hunger, and income inequality.

India's exemplary Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform exemplifies this by reducing barriers to payment, thereby stimulating financial independence and resilience. Furthermore, the potential of such technological innovation has narrowed the gap in accessing credit facilities for the population at scale. The democratisation of innovation has overcome numerous socio-economic barriers to empower the ordinary citizens of India. Witnessing such potential in addressing common challenges, there has been global demand for Digital Public Infrastructure from countries that are facing similar challenges of effective governance and public service delivery. The success of DPI in inclusive development during the G20 Presidency also showcases the testament of multilateral consensus among countries of the

Global South. DAKSHIN with its multi-pronged approach, has conducted various programs to encourage interactions among Global South in knowledge sharing, capacity building and skilling.

For DAKSHIN, one of the priority areas is Digital Solutions which focuses on DPI and application of Digital Technologies and critical areas such as financial inclusion, agriculture and healthcare. (Advisor-Digital Solutions, DAKSHIN-RIS) and (Research Assistant, DAKSHIN-RIS)



- Stressed the importance of strengthening economic cooperation and regional integration from Japan to India, with a special focus on deepening ties with India.
- Praised India's efforts to strengthen the Global South, President acknowledged that the West can no longer maintain its dominance in global leadership, and lauded the Summit as a crucial platform for fostering consensus on challenges facing developing nations.
- Expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister @narendramodi and the people of India for their support during Sri Lanka's recent economic crisis, President acknowledged that their assistance played a vital role in helping Sri Lanka navigate the challenges of the past two years and emerge from bankruptcy.
- Highlighted Sri Lanka's strategic commitment to expanding economic partnerships across Asia, particularly through Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.
- Reflected on Indo-Lanka relations, President noted the vision statement shared between the two nations, and expressed optimism that this vision will lead to stronger integration between Sri Lanka and India across various sectors.



**H. E. Ranil Wickremesinghe**  
President of Sri Lanka

*On X 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024*

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# CHALLENGES TO THE DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Pushpak Roy



The Prime Minister's address during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of Global South Summit on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024 began with listing out the common challenges facing the developing world today. These include: the economic uncertainty induced by the Covid pandemic, the development challenges posed by ongoing wars such as in Gaza and Ukraine, climate change, health security, food security, energy security, terrorism, radicalism, and secessionism. While all of these challenges have been talked about as common concerns previously in various multilateral fora, it is secessionism which is a new addition.

The important implication of this new inclusion cannot be emphasised enough because state stability and territorial integrity are the *sine qua non* of development. It is unreasonable to expect a post-colonial, developing state facing chronic secessionist threats to be able to focus on development with its entire might. As Realist scholars argue the foremost concern of a state is its own survival. Thus, territorial integrity is something which no state is ready to compromise notwithstanding the cost.

As we see in many countries of the Global South, from sub-Saharan Africa to South America and South Asia, the development agenda has often got lost because of state instability induced by secessionist movements. Revolutions, violent secessionist movements, and *coups* sap the energy and finances of these developing countries. Besides, many a time, such separatist and fissiparous tendencies have received tacit, moral, diplomatic support from other countries (including those in the global North) in the name of democracy, free press, human rights, self-determination, etc.. While these liberal values are admirable goals in themselves, it is worth remembering that in the absence of a stable state, there is no guarantor and enforcer of such values. In fact, the Global South has repeatedly had the misfortune of learning the hard way lesson that regime changes that have been effected in the name of such values have only ended up in creating more secessionism, anarchy, human rights abuses, decline in women's rights, etc..

At the same time, it is also pertinent to point out that the dichotomy between the above-mentioned liberal values and state stability is a false one. The fact that a strong state which can ensure territorial integrity is also good at delivering the goods of development is very well borne out by the experience of nations of the global North, who are largely free from the problem of secessionism. This also shows that for them to lend their support- political, diplomatic, or moral- to secessionist movements in the Global South countries is an act of bad faith.

This issue gains even more salience in view of the growing challenge of climate change in the Global South. It has been established in the scholarly literature that it is the Global South, where 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of humanity resides, which will suffer disproportionately from climate change. And different regions within countries will be differently impacted. Such differential in suffering can give more wind to the fire of secessionist movements. Thus countries of the developing world, which are in the throes of challenges of ensuring food security, health security, education and health can hardly afford to overlook the value of territorial integrity as a necessary pre-condition for ensuring their overall development. (Consultant, RIS)



Honoured to address the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit alongside 15 other heads of state and government. Grateful to Prime Minister Shri@narendramodi ji for his commendable efforts to consolidate the voice of Global South. Together, we can shape a future that benefits everyone.



**H. E. K P Sharma Oli**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal

*On X 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024*



We are united by common goals and approaches to dealing with world problems. Those are the establishment of a multipolar world order, the creation of a system of indivisible security, efforts to ensure sustainable development, and the enhancement of equitable cooperation. And most importantly the raising of living standards of our nations.



**H. E. Aleksandr Lukashenko**  
Belarus President

*On BELTA 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024*

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# DIVING INTO INDIA – AFRICA MARITIME RELATIONS

Kartik Kishore



India today held the third edition of the Voice of Global South Summit, an event underpinned by India's philosophy of '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*'. The summit had the overarching theme of '*An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future*'. Some of the areas on which the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi focussed in his opening address were inclusivity, social impact, addressing vast hopes and aspirations and learning from each other's experiences. When looked from the lens of India's expanding maritime sector and the aspirations and need of Africa, all these segments holds immense potential.

India's relationship with the African continent has significantly strengthened, particularly under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has actively endorsed Africa's role in global platforms like the G20. The culmination of these efforts was marked by the African Union's historic inclusion as a full member of the G20 during India's presidency last year.

The Indian Ocean, which lies between India to the north and Africa to the west, has emerged as a crucial maritime zone, transforming into one of the busiest trade routes globally. This has had a positive impact on the Eastern coast of Africa, sparking a surge of interest in developing regional ports. Unlike in the past, these ports now serve as vital hubs for adding value to the hinterlands of their respective countries, reflecting the growing importance of maritime connectivity.

The African Development Bank (ADB) has taken a leading role in this effort, supporting the 38 coastal states in developing a Pan-African strategy for maritime connectivity and the Blue Economy. The ADB is

investing heavily in port infrastructure across the continent, offering technical assistance, policy advice, and public-private partnership support. These initiatives also align with the broader goals of climate adaptation and mitigation, recognising the critical role that ports play in the continent's economic future.

India and Kenya are maritime neighbours. The contemporary ties between India and Kenya have now evolved into a robust and multi-faceted partnership, marked by regular high-level visits, increasing trade and investment as well as extensive people-to-people contacts. As an instance to this is the recent signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Goa Shipyard Limited and Kenya Shipyard Limited for capacity building and collaboration in ship design and construction. The MoU was signed during the visit of Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Defence Aden Bare in August last year. Both nations have concurred on the need for deeper cooperation in maritime security of the Indian Ocean region. Similarly, India is strengthening its ties with Liberia in maritime transport and Tanzania in maritime infrastructure and actively exploring other areas for cooperation. There are other countries too in Africa with whom India is actively engaging in maritime sector.

The inclusion of the African Union in the G20 has certainly strengthened the voice of the Global South. However, the challenge now is how to develop the mechanism to tap into the immense potential in maritime sector that the two region holds. The first step in this direction would be uniting the two regions divided by ocean, with maritime connectivity resting on the plank of robust social infrastructure and people-to-people connect (Research Assistant, CMEC, RIS)

# WOMEN-LED DEVELOPMENT IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Vaishali Chaudhary



**P**M Modi addressed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Voice of Global South Summit where he emphasised upon the issues of the technology divide and women-led development. Women-led development is an area where the Global South lags far behind the North. In most developing economies, growth has failed to generate decent employment opportunities for women and in most regions the female labour force participation rates have hardly increased over the past two decades. It is worth mentioning India sought significant outcomes in women-led development in G20 presidency which includes narrowing the gender digital gap, financial inclusion, skill development, inclusive employment and health and social protection.

It is important that we address the challenges of technology divide and take drastic steps for women-led development. There is a need for targeted policies and efforts at national, regional and global level to reap the benefits of digital revolution in domestic economies to empower women. The need to support the Global South countries in the digital era is essential for the successful implementation of UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and meet the SDG 5 targets. For this to take place,

South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation can act as catalysts to reduce the technology divide. For women-led development, it is imperative to prioritise gender equality, recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work, strengthening coordination across sectors, levels of government, civil society and the private sector for an integrated approach in which social protection systems, public services and basic infrastructure work in synergy to reduce the time and income poverty among women. Another effective way to progress towards women-led development can be by enhancing the income security of women throughout the life course, especially during childbirth and childrearing and ensuring the regular collection of time-use data by integrating time-use surveys into national statistics for effective evidence-based policy making. The global community will need to work more closely to bridge the disparities and help the Global South community to achieve structural transformation. Coordinated policy needs to be implemented at national, regional and international levels. However, the Global South must have the autonomy and the policy space in the international rule-making to design their own policies. (Research Assistant, RIS)



As a 'Vishwa Bandhu', India is dedicated to being a reliable partner in driving human resource development. The Global South Centre of Excellence, "Dakshin", launched by Hon'ble PM Shri @narendramodi, focuses on research relevant to Global South countries. We wish to open doors to more opportunities for higher education through programs like #StudyinIndia and the Global South Scholarships.



**Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**  
Minister for Education and Skill  
Development and Entrepreneurship,  
Government of India

*On X 17<sup>th</sup> August 2024*

# Modalities and Sub-modalities of Development Compact

## Trade for Development



### Sub-modalities/Indicators

Trade facilitation and trade promotion initiatives

South-South value chain

Tariff lines under Duty Free Quota Free (DFQF) Scheme

Trade finance by Southern partners

Swap Agreements

Bilateral investment funds

## Grants



### Sub-modalities/Indicators

Quantum of Grants

Projects executed with grants

Countries and nature of debt write-off

Bilateral in-kind assistance

Occasions of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief

## Project Specific Concessional Finance



### Sub-modalities/Indicators

Quantum of lines-of-credit (LoCs)

Projects under LoCs

Countries as recipient of LoCs

Sector specificity of LoCs

## Technology Sharing



### Sub-modalities/Indicators

Joint R&D projects/ S&T Cooperation agreements

Establishment of technical institutes/ technology demonstration centres/ testing facilities

Sharing/ transfer of Indigenous technologies

## Capacity Building for Sustainable Growth



### Sub-modalities/Indicators

Training of People with sector specificity (scholarships and exchange)

Deputation of Resource persons for teaching/skill development

Establishing training institutes and capacity building centres



**Prime Minister  
Proposes  
Development  
Compact  
for Trade,  
Financing,  
Technology  
and Capacity  
Building**



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