



# An Introduction

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**SOUTH  
CENTRE**

**South Unity. South Progress.**

# What we do...

The South Centre is the intergovernmental think tank of developing countries that aims at promoting the common interest of the countries of the South while recognizing and reflecting their diversity. It currently has 53 developing country Member States.

The South Centre serves as a platform for developing countries to exchange views and advance their common interests and perspectives in multilateral negotiations processes, particularly those which are related to development policy. The Centre also carries out independent analysis and research on policy issues of interest to the developing countries. It also provides policy advice and technical support to developing country governments.

The South Centre undertakes research and analysis on various international policy areas that are relevant to the protection and promotion of the development interests of developing countries.

The South Centre was established as a permanent intergovernmental organisation mandated to provide policy advice, undertake research and analysis, support coordinated actions by developing countries in negotiating processes, and promote South-South co-operation.

“The South Centre promotes mutual understanding and collective actions by developing countries, a genuine example of South-South Cooperation.”



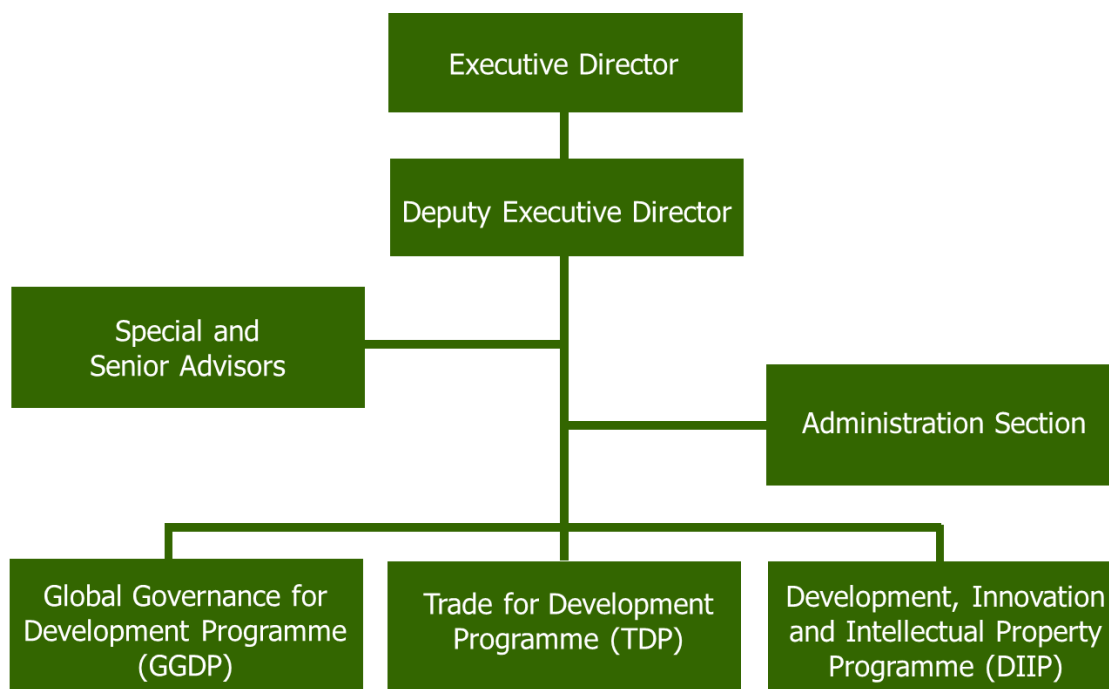
## Under Article VI of its Charter, the South Centre has three principal organs:

*The Centre plays a crucial role in supporting developing countries in global negotiations in many areas, including trade and investment, innovation and intellectual property, climate change and other environmental issues, health and food security, and the global economic and financial system.*

**THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES** is the highest governing body of the South Centre, consisting of one representative of each Member State. The Council provides overall policy guidance to the work of the South Centre. The Council is presided over by a Convenor and a Vice Convenor.

**THE BOARD** is made up of a Chairperson and nine members appointed in their individual capacity by the Council of Representatives and reflecting a broad geographical balance among the countries of the South. It provides policy guidance and oversight over the work of the Secretariat.

**THE SECRETARIAT**, headed by its Executive Director, implements the policy research, technical assistance, and South-South coordination and cooperation activities of the South Centre.



**F**inancing: The Centre is funded primarily by the governments of its Member States through annual contributions. Other developed and developing countries also provide special contributions. The South Centre also receives funding for specific programmes and projects from foundations and aid organisations. The South Centre has a headquarters agreement with Switzerland.



# The South Centre works on the following policy areas:

## **Global economy, finance and economic development**

Impacts of global economic developments on developing countries, financing for development, external debt issues; and national economic and development policies

## **Climate Change and Environment**

Impacts of climate change on developing countries, the UN-FCCC, Paris Agreement and negotiations, climate financing and GCF, technology transfer, implementation of mitigation and adaptation climate actions and policies; Biodiversity and biosafety; Water, Food and Energy

## **Sustainable Development and its Implementation**

Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals, global partnership and the means of implementation, and national implementation

## **Trade and Development**

The role of trade for development; the multilateral trading system and developments and negotiations in the WTO; bilateral and regional agreements; issues of food security; agricultural and industrial policies; role of services in development; conclusion of the Doha programme

## **Innovation, technology transfer and Intellectual Property**

Importance of innovation and technology transfer; the role of intellectual property in development and social progress; access to medicines and access to knowledge

## **Health and Social Development**

The challenge of anti-microbial resistance (AMR), the need for access to medicines and health technologies; human rights to food, health and other human needs, and the right to development

## **Investment and Development**

The role and impact of investment rules and agreements on development and policy space; policies on foreign investment and international financial flows



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**“Promoting South unity and South progress,  
working collectively for improving the  
well-being of the peoples of the South and  
for a more equal and just world for all.”**

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**For the South Centre,  
South-South Cooperation  
should reflect a PEERS-  
based Framework:**

**People  
Exchanging expertise  
Establishing SSC Institutions  
Resource mobilization  
Strategic southern thinking**



*Through its work, the South Centre has been providing substantive policy research support and technical assistance to developing country governments and their formal and informal groups, such as the G-77 and China, the NAM, the G-33, the G-20, the African Group, the ACP, the LDCs, the SVEs, etc. in various multilateral forums such as UNCTAD, UNECOSOC, UNFCCC, WTO, WIPO and WHO.*



**The South Centre Member States  
(As of 31 December 2016)**

**Latin America and the Caribbean (14)**

- Argentina
- Barbados
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
- Brazil
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Guyana
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Suriname
- Venezuela, Bolivarian Republic of

**Africa (25)**

- Algeria
- Angola
- Benin
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cote d'Ivoire
- Egypt
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Liberia
- Libya
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritius
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- South Africa
- Sudan
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Zimbabwe

**Asia and the Pacific (14)**

- Cambodia
- China
- DPR Korea
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Malaysia
- Micronesia FS
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- Viet Nam

# TIME LINE

1986

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia announced that an independent commission, a “South Commission”, would be set up to “try and work out solutions to major economic problems faced by the South”, from a South perspective.

The South Commission became operational in August 1987 in Geneva. Composed of twenty-eight distinguished personalities from different walks of life and various parts of the developing world, the Commission examined the problems of developing countries from their perspectives.

1987

1990

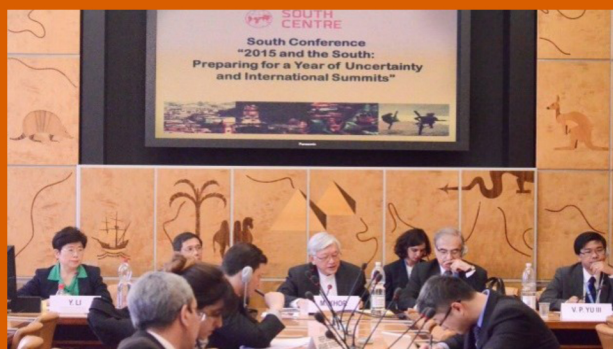
The South Centre was established to follow-up the Report of the South Commission, entitled “*The Challenge to the South*”, which provided recommendations on what the South could do to address continuing development challenges. It called for the South to work together collectively and to create a South Secretariat.

The South Centre became an intergovernmental organisation through the 1994 Agreement to establish the South Centre, with its headquarters in Geneva. The Agreement is deposited with the United Nations. The South Centre membership is open for all developing countries that are members of the G77 or the Non-Aligned Movement.

1995

2015

The South Centre commemorated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving developing countries with technical analysis and policy recommendations in various issues from trade, development, health, climate change, intellectual property, investment, debt, international tax cooperation and sustainable development, among others.



## OBSERVER STATUS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Basel Convention
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)
- Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (G-24)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- International Criminal Court (ICC)
- International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV)
- Rotterdam Convention
- Stockholm Convention
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNECOSOC)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)



**Would you like to find out more?**

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