The South Centre Monthly is a monthly update which provides a snapshot of the publications and social media activities of the South Centre.

PUBLICATIONS

Policy Briefs

Policy Brief 60, May 2019: Exploding Public and Private Debt, Declining ODA and FDI, Lower World GDP and Trade Growth – Developing Countries Facing a Conundrum

Recently international institutions repeatedly cut the projections for world gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 2019, revealed further worsened accumulation of debt, reported declining official development assistance (ODA), highlighted consecutive drops of foreign direct investment (FDI) flows and showed decelerated international trade and intensified trade tension. A closer examination of the performance of developing countries in these datasets shows clearly the economic conundrum that developing countries are facing. The most dangerous sign is the rising levels of public and private debt, and debt sustainability challenges for developing countries. It is worrisome that over 40 percent of low income countries are facing a high risk of debt distress or are in debt distress. The cloudy patches over the world economy are gathering together and getting darker. It seems a storm is coming soon for those developing countries which are facing a combination of weak economic fundamentals. Yet, there seems to be limited room for policy makers to take actions as downward pressure is coming.

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from different directions at the same time and creating constraints which would make policy measures ineffective or feeble. In some cases, policy tools used to limit negative effects of one problem could trigger negative impact on other problem(s) in hand.

Available from: https://www.southcentre.int/policy-brief-60-may-2019/


In the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA, NAFTA 2.0), the U.S. Trade Representative negotiated intellectual property provisions related to pharmaceuticals that would enshrine long and broad monopolies. This policy brief focuses primarily on the negative effects of the USMCA intellectual property provisions on access to medicines in the U.S. Such effects may be even worse for Canada and Mexico. The impact of this trade agreement goes well beyond the three countries involved as this is the first one negotiated by the Trump Administration and is likely to set a precedent for future trade agreements. A careful review of the USMCA text raises very serious concerns about the impact that this agreement would have on the generic/biosimilar industry and therefore on access to more affordable drugs throughout the world.

Available from: https://www.southcentre.int/policy-brief-61-may-2019/
SouthNews

SOUTHNEWS No. 252, 2 May 2019: The Board and Council of the South Centre Hold Meetings in Geneva

The South Centre recently held its 42nd meeting of the Board of the South Centre and 20th meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre. The meetings took place on 29-30 April 2019 in Geneva. Below is a brief description as well as highlights of the meetings.

Available from: https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=60cab962fb

SOUTHNEWS No. 253, 8 May 2019: Acceso a medicamentos y vías jurídicas que afectan la competencia en mercados farmacéuticos de Suramérica

This article (reproduced in Spanish) has been published by the South American Institute of Government in Health (ISAGS) on the use in Latin America of the flexibilities of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to improve access to affordable medicines, an area in which the South Centre is providing analytical support, training and technical assistance (https://ipaccesmeds.southcentre.int/).

Available from: https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=7b97511f79
Dr. Carlos M. Correa, Executive Director of the South Centre, stressed the need to preserve the World Health Organization (WHO) as a public, independent agency that effectively addresses the health problems of developing countries, at the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Health Ministers Meeting held on the occasion of the 72nd World Health Assembly. Below is the statement (in English and Spanish) of the South Centre delivered at the Palais des Nations, Geneva on 21 May 2019.

Available from: https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=1283e0b714

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Health Ministers noted that making progress on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is critical to address goal number 3 and other goals in the 2030 Agenda, and called for intensified cooperation and support to achieve such objectives. Below is the declaration adopted on occasion of the 72nd World Health Assembly on 21 May 2019.

Available from: https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=b1ea894240
The revision of the guidelines on similar therapeutic products mandated by Resolution WHA67.21 is crucial for promoting the availability of and access to biosimilars. The reduction in prices ensuing from the introduction of these products has become essential to address public health needs in developed and developing countries. The WHO Document A72/59 under consideration by the WHA 72 (agenda item 21.3) states in paragraph 80 that “WHO expert committees have approved guidance on (...) biotherapeutics, including an update of the 2009 similar biotherapeutic products guidelines”. This statement is not accurate, as the guidelines were not updated as mandated by Resolution WHA67.21. Below is the South Centre statement in relation to this issue.

Available from: https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=18a20ad4fd

SOUTHNEWS No. 257, 29 May 2019: Intergovernmental meeting on the implementation of the BAPA+40 outcome document convened in Geneva
The South Centre, United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and International Labour Organization (ILO) co-organized a meeting on 23 May 2019 in Geneva to discuss the outcome of the United Nations Second High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) held in March 2019. It was the first public intergovernmental meeting organized post-BAPA+40 to deliberate issues related to the implementation of the BAPA+40 outcome document and served as an opportunity to discuss the main actions to further promote South-South Cooperation (SSC) as well as triangular cooperation (TrC) for the purpose of the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Available from: https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=18c7457b33

SouthViews

SouthViews No. 179, 3 May 2019: 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda with Focus on Education Goal - SDG 4 by Kishore Singh

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be considered bearing in mind the right to education as an internationally recognized right as well as the right to development. Below is the keynote presentation by Kishore Singh, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education, at the Asian High-level Forum on Human Rights on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Available from: https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=ffadc6babb

SouthViews No. 180, 20 May 2019: Colombia’s Biogenerics Regulation A Preliminary Court Decision in favour of Public Health by Carolina Gómez

The Council of State of Colombia’s recent ruling on the abbreviated pathway for marketing authorization of biogenerics is a valuable step towards acceptance and uptake of biogenerics, favoring public health, access and market competition.

Available from: https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=98d2b094a7
Social Media

Twitter Highlights:

**Top Tweet** earned 3,636 impressions

Key outcome #WHA72 is new resolution on price transparency of health products A72/CONF/2Rev1. Short of ambition of majority of members, yet countries can go further, implement natl. policies for disclosure of real costs of R&D, clinical trials & amount of publicinvestment @WHO pic.twitter.com/ROb3T1aeZ2

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**Top mention** earned 258 engagements

Carina Vance Mafia
@CarinaVanceEC · May 3

Agradezco la confianza del Consejo de Representantes del @South_Centre. Será un honor aportar a su misión representando a Latinoamérica y el Caribe en su Consejo Directivo.

SouthNews: The Board and Council of the South Centre Hold Meetings in Geneva: mailchi.mp/southcentre/so...

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May 2019 Summary

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<tr>
<th>Tweets</th>
<th>46</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tweet impressions</td>
<td>73.9K</td>
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Profile visits | 8,473 |
Mentions | 95 |
More followers | 52 |

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Dr. Carlos Correa, Exec. Dir. @South_Centre was pleased to meet Amb. Ms. Socomo Flores Lira, Permanent Mission of Mexico to UN Geneva to discuss Socioeconomic policies put in place by Mexican govt. to achieve MDGs & role of int'l regime to support the country’s efforts.

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State of the Climate in 2018 shows accelerating cli... The physical signs and socio-economic impacts of climate change are accelerating as record greenhouse gas concentrations drive global temperatures towards... public.wmo.int
South Centre @South_Centre - May 9
#Green technologies have high potentials to provide livelihood opportunities as well as fulfill anticipated food demand of population projected to reach around 10 billion by 2050. - #AARIDO Newsletter aarido.org/aarido homepage/... #Sustainability #SustainableDevelopment

South Centre @South_Centre - May 10
The @South_Centre participates in the Expert Consultations on Emerging Recommendations of the United Nations Secretary General’s High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation @UNDGigacoop at the University of Geneva.

South Centre @South_Centre - May 15
H.E. President Thabo Mbeki, Chair of the South Centre Board, during his opening remarks at the 20th meeting of the Council of Representatives in Geneva on the 30th April 2019. Photo: Eskinder Debebe

South Centre @South_Centre - May 18
Dr. Carlos Correa, Exec Dir @South_Centre was pleased to meet on sidelines of WHA42.2019 Dr. Veronica Espinosa S., Min. of Health Ecuador & @HealthEcuadorC new member South Centre board to discuss global health issues & challenges facing developing countries in area of #PublicHealth

South Centre @South_Centre - May 13
The avg. share of manufacturing in G20’s GDP of African LDC’s has dropped to 4.3% compared to the 29.6% avg. of developing countries & emerging #industrialeconomy group. This represents serious challenge to #SustainableDevelopment goals. See @UNIDO Yearbook bit.ly/2Swas1t
The South Centre welcomed the visit of Ambassador H.E. Mr. Kunga Sanga of the Kingdom of Bhutan, to the UN Office & other international organizations in Geneva to discuss issues of relevance for Bhutan and possible expanded cooperation with the Centre.

The South Centre welcomed the visit of Mrs. Fatouma Ali Bazi, Director General, National Agency for International Cooperation, Comoros (ANCIC) to discuss ways of enhancing SouthSouthCooperation & greater interaction with the Centre.

The South Centre was pleased by the visit of Dr. Agnes Mahomia, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Child Care, Zimbabwe and her team. AMR, barriers to access to medicines are some of the areas identified for further cooperation with the Centre.


Photo Credit: @UNFCCC