



An Introduction



**SOUTH
CENTRE**

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 54 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 cooperation.

“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:

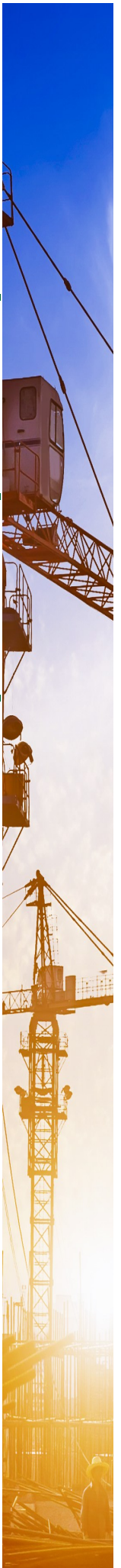
The Centre plays a crucial role in supporting developing countries in global negotiations in many areas, including trade and investment, innovation and intellectual property, climate change and other environmental issues, health and food security, and the global economic and financial system.

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.

Financing: 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 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, international tax cooperation; 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; bi-lateral 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 antimicrobial 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



**“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.”**

**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 Group of 77 (G-77) and China, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), the G-33, the G-20, the African Group, the ACP, the LDCs, the SVEs, etc. in various multilateral forums such as UNCTAD, UN ECOSOC, UNFCCC, WTO, WIPO and WHO.

The South Centre Member States (As of 28 February 2018)

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
Côte d'Ivoire
Egypt
Gabon
Ghana
Liberia
Libya (State
of)
Malawi
Mali

Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nigeria
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Sudan
Uganda
United Republic of
Tanzania
Zimbabwe

Asia and the Pacific (15)

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

TIME LINE

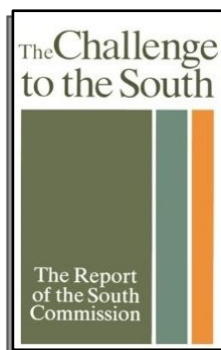


1986

Prime Minister Mahatir 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 Group of 77 and China or the Non-Aligned Movement.

1995



The South Centre commemorated its 20th 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.

2015



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 (UN ECOSOC)
- 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?

Chemin du Champ-d'Anier 17
POB 228, 1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 791 8050
Fax: +41 22 798 8531
south@southcentre.int
www.southcentre.int