

September 2019, Issue 15

A snapshot of the activities of South Centre

PUBLICATIONS

Research Papers



Photo Credit: UN Photo

Research Paper 98: Developing Country Coalitions in Multilateral Negotiations: Addressing Key Issues and Priorities of the Global South Agenda by Adriano José Timossi

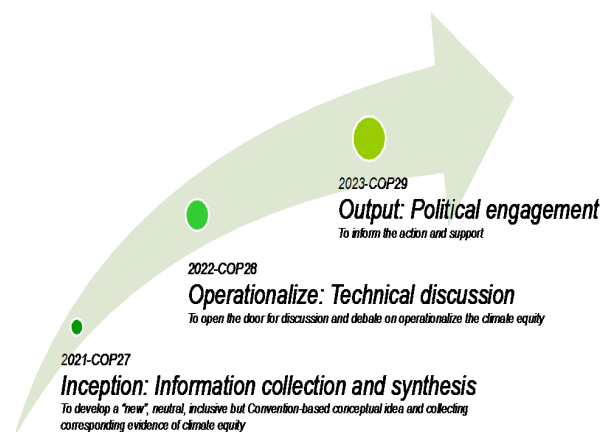
The recent increasing and unprecedented attacks on multilateralism and its institutions as well as the growing dangers of weakening international cooperation are regrettably leading to an enormous setback in the history of the international system. These developments could reverse decades of collective efforts to establish a more stable, equitable and inclusive path of development and social justice for all. An immediate impact is that international negotiations, which have increasingly become important for developing countries over the past decades, are now becoming even more complex. If the resurging path of unilateralism and protectionism adopted by some powerful countries is maintained, the risks of further deterioration grow even larger. The instabilities of the contemporary world pose serious risks to the achievement of the longstanding development goals of the Global South such as poverty eradication, the South's ability to successfully address emerging challenges such as climate change, and to overall global stability, a pattern not seen since the Second World War. In this context, developing countries' negotiating coalitions such as the Group of 77 (G77) + China and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), while respecting and adapting to the differences that might emerge within these large groups, need to remain together and ensure that their coalitions are preserved and strengthened. Working collectively will improve negotiating capacity and leverage and increase bargaining power of developing countries in the multilateral negotiations in order to get more balanced outcomes.

Available at: <https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-98-september-2019/>

Research Paper 99: Ensuring an Operational Equity-based Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement by Hesham Al-Zahrani, Chai Qimin, Fu Sha, Yaw Osafo, Adriano Santhiago De Oliveira, Anushree Tripathi, Harald Winkler and Vicente Paolo Yu III

One of the key provisions of the Paris Agreement that was adopted in December 2015 at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is Article 14 on the global stocktake (GST). The GST is intended to be the mechanism by which the Convention Parties that are Parties to the Paris Agreement would be able to periodically take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement and to assess collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Agreement and its long-term goals. This research paper discusses how equity as a principle and a concept played a key role in shaping the modalities for the GST, and looks in detail at the operational modalities for the GST that were agreed upon in Katowice in December 2018 in relation to how equity should be considered and made operational.

Available at: <https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-99-september-2019/>



Policy Briefs



Tax Cooperation Policy Brief 9: Gender, Tax Reform and Taxation Cooperation Issues: Navigating Equity and Efficiency under Policy Constraints by Dr. Mariama Williams

This policy brief has sought to present a review of the state of thinking and research on a pressing issue of the day: tax reform and tax cooperation and its gendered impacts. There is undeniably widespread agreement amongst all the entities of global governance with responsibility for a role in macroeconomic, financial and trade policies that gender equality and women’s empowerment are important to sustained growth and development. Increasingly, these same voices are articulating and researching on how fiscal policy both on the budgetary and on the revenue side can be made more efficient, gender sensitive and gender responsive. Taxation is the latest area of focused attention in this regard. There is now a quite strong body of work, including case studies, that demonstrates how the tax system can work to the disadvantage of socio-economic development and social goals including gender equality and women’s empowerment.

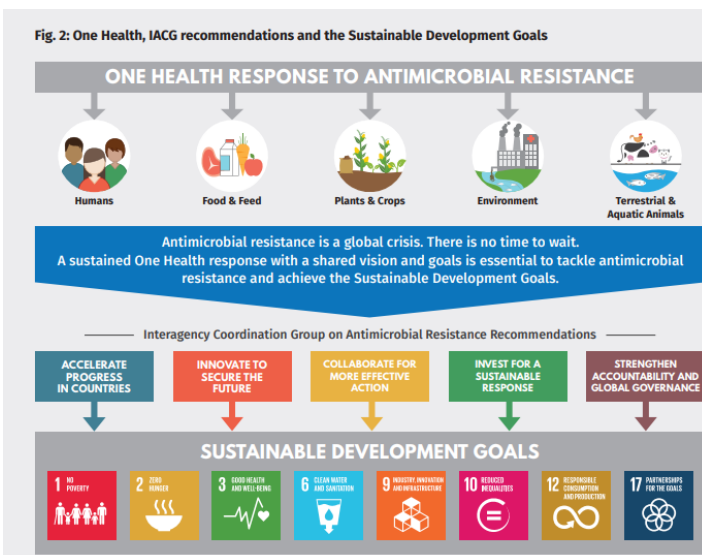
Available at: <https://www.southcentre.int/tax-cooperation-policy-brief-9-september-2019/>

SouthViews, SouthNews and South Centre News on AMR

SOUTHNEWS No. 278, 10 September 2019: The Least Developed Countries Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development (LDC REEEI)

The Least Developed Countries Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development (LDC REEEI) recognizes that while the energy challenges facing least developed countries (LDCs) are enormous so too are the opportunities. LDCs will work together to embark on transformative action, set their own course, and take charge of their own future though pioneering a model of energy and development that is in accordance with what both people and the planet need. The LDC REEEI can make a major contribution towards a future that delivers on aspirations for 100% energy access, renewable energy and best practices in energy efficiency and use – and in so doing provide leadership to help place us on path to a cleaner, fairer and more prosperous world for all. The climate action summit to be held in New York on 23 September offers an opportunity to explore ways of supporting LDCs to implement REEEI. The South Centre is supporting LDCs’ efforts in this challenging journey.

Available at: <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=a3c7ef843d>



SOUTH CENTRE NEWS ON AMR No. 32, 13 September 2019: South Centre Supports the Inclusion of an Indicator on Antimicrobial Resistance to Monitor Progress on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by Viviana Muñoz Tellez and Mirza Alas

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an urgent global health challenge that puts efforts for sustainable development at peril. The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), as part of the 2020 Comprehensive Review, will submit a revised list of indicators to the United Nations Statistical Commission including a possible new AMR-specific indicator. The new indicator will support the collection of international data on resistance, increase available monitoring tools at the global level, and give more attention to the needs of developing countries and mainstream AMR into development programs.

Available at: <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=5a06b591f3>

SOUTHNEWS No. 280, 16 September 2019: The Existential Impacts of Climate Change on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by Mariama Williams

Great devastation was caused by Hurricane Dorian which made landfall in the Bahamas early this month. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face severe economic and financial challenges as a result of such extreme weather events due to climate change. Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) should be part of effective response measures; aligning finance and trade policy with the Paris Agreement is also essential. These topics were addressed by H.E. Mr. Allen Chastanet, Prime Minister, St. Lucia and Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and H.E. Mr. Daryl Vaz, Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation of Jamaica, at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s Trade and Climate Forum on 9 September 2019 in Geneva. This is a summary of their speeches.

Available at: <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=c90c9e3c2a>

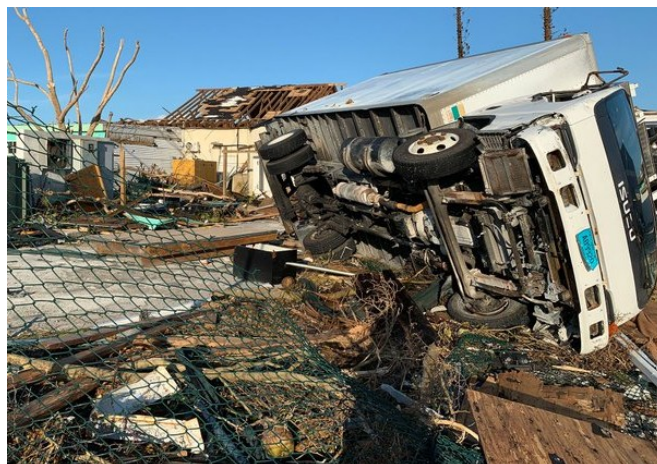


Photo Credit: IFRC



SOUTHNEWS No. 281, 24 September 2019: South Centre Statement to the United Nations High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage

Access to health is a human right and Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is essential to achieve health for all. States should ensure through public funding, based on solidarity and the fair redistribution of wealth, that nobody is deprived from health care. Policies that promote competitive markets for pharmaceuticals, particularly in the area of procurement, regulatory approvals (including biologicals) and intellectual property, should be implemented. Governments should make use of the available space in the TRIPS Agreement to apply rigorous definitions of invention and patentability standards and use other flexibilities allowed. This is the South Centre's Statement to the UN High-Level Meeting on UHC held on 23 September 2019 at the UN headquarters in New York. The Centre noted the recognition, in the draft political declaration, of the responsibilities of governments as well as of their right to choose their own path towards achieving UHC.

Available at: <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=bc1cc1c853>

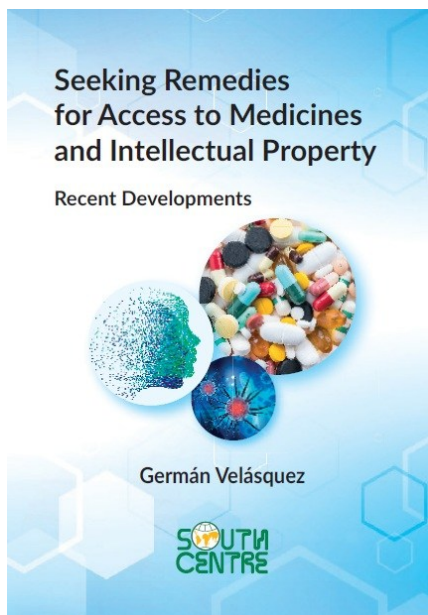
SOUTHNEWS No. 282, 27 September 2019: South Centre Statement to the United Nations High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development

Four years after its adoption, Agenda 2030, "Transforming Our World," the United Nations' (UN) most recent and most ambitious development agenda, is off-track. Various estimates of the spending needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) range from \$1 to \$3 trillion. Domestically mobilized resources are critical to achieve these goals. A main source of the inadequate scale of public revenues are shortfalls in corporate tax collection, which are largely explained by international corporations hosted by or doing businesses in developing countries that take advantage of facilities offered by the international tax standards and practices to avoid full payment of taxes in those countries. A substantive global reform process involving a variety of multilateral platforms is underway. The question is not whether the system of global tax standards and practices will change, but in what direction it will change. Drawing lessons from the developing country context will be critical if the ongoing process of global tax reform will benefit developing countries and achieve substantial success in generating the income needed to effectively attain the SDGs.

Available at: <https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=7fe625403a>



Books



BOOK BY THE SOUTH CENTRE, 2019: Seeking Remedies for Access to Medicines and Intellectual Property: Recent Developments by Dr. Germán Velásquez

This book is a collection of research papers by Dr. Germán Velásquez published by the South Centre, between 2015 and 2019 on the recent international deliberations and negotiations in the United Nations on access to medicines and their relationship with international trade and intellectual property regimes. The book analyses the patentability criteria of pharmaceutical products, the international debate on generic medicines of biological origin and the access to hepatitis C treatment, in particular. The South Centre is an intergovernmental research organization of developing countries on critical development issues for the South and is an observer to the governing bodies of the World Health Organization (WHO) and other United Nations (UN) agencies. It is hoped that the collection of papers presented in this book will be useful for policy makers and researchers interested in the deliberations in UN and WHO, in particular, on the critical issues pertaining to public health and access to medicines.

Available at: <https://www.southcentre.int/book-by-the-south-centre-2019/>

IMPORTANT MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

In addition to the meetings described in SouthNews above, the South Centre also organized and/or participated in the following meetings:

5-6 September 2019, Douala - The South Centre's Special Adviser on Sustainable Development participated and made presentations to a workshop, aiming at strengthening the capacity in terms of climate technologies and engaging with the private sector, co-organized by the West African Development Bank (BOAD), the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), the Central African Development Bank (BDEAC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN, the operational arm of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Technology Mechanism). The workshop was attended by more than 100 participants mainly from the private sector but also from governments, universities and non-governmental organizations, from West and Central African countries.

9 September 2019, Geneva - Seminar on industrial large scale fisheries at the World Trade Organization (WTO). South Centre staff participated in a panel discussion, moderated by H.E. Mr. Omar Zniber, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco.

11 September 2019, Geneva - Meeting with delegation from China, organized at the South Centre. Issues discussed included the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body situation, trade remedies, fisheries subsidies and other WTO issues.

13 September 2019, Geneva - "Global Economic Governance Through the Lens of Inequality and Sustainable Development". South Centre staff participated at the one-day expert meeting organized by the International Institute of Sustainable Development (IISD) with a view to providing input to a longer-term programme of work.

18 September 2019, New York - South Centre staff did a briefing as an expert on Options on Intellectual Property Rights at the meeting of the Group of 77 and China on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

18-19 September, Jakarta - The South Centre and the Centre for Policy Analysis and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia organized a two-day regional seminar for policymakers for sharing experiences about policy options pursued by relevant agencies at the global, regional and national levels to make full use of the flexibilities in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to support access to medicines. This seminar shared and assessed the experience of negotiations related to intellectual property (IP) and access to medicines in the World Intellectual Property Organization, the World Health Organization and the World Trade Organization, as well as debates in several other international fora with policymakers from ministries of health, foreign affairs, trade and commerce, industry and national IP authorities from the South and South East Asia region, including participants from the Association of South-East Asian Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. The seminar addressed key themes relevant to the contemporary IP and public health agenda in the South and South East Asia region and around the world, with a focus on TRIPS-consistent measures that may be adopted for enabling access to affordable medicines and on the role of different government departments in designing and implementing such measures.

18-25 September 2019, Monte Carlo - The Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s landmark Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) was approved, and the underlying report accepted, by the IPCC's 195-member governments on 24 September 2019 in Monaco. The third and final special report in the sixth assessment cycle evaluated the effects of a changing climate on oceans and the cryosphere. The South Centre's Special Adviser on Sustainable Development (and IPCC Vice-Chair) was actively involved in the over 7 days of preparation, review, approval, and press conference of the report in Monaco.

19 September 2019, Geneva - A public event co-organized by the South Centre, Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) and Veritas Global showcased the perspectives of Geneva-based ambassadors and senior diplomats from developing countries, including Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, and South Africa, on the priorities for the upcoming United Nations (UN) Climate Action Summit. The diplomats taking part in the panel had been deeply engaged in and have led the UN climate negotiations over the past decade.

20 September, Jakarta - The South Centre and the Centre for Policy Analysis and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Indonesia organized a workshop for national policymakers. The workshop enabled the sharing of experiences about policy options pursued by relevant agencies at the global, regional and national levels to make full use of the flexibilities in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to support access to medicines. This workshop shared and assessed the experience of negotiations related to intellectual property (IP) and access to medicines in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as debates in several other international fora. It also addressed key themes relevant to the contemporary IP and public health agenda in Indonesia and around the world, with a focus on TRIPS-consistent measures that may be adopted for enabling access to affordable medicines and on the role of different government departments in designing and implementing such measures.

26 September 2019, New York - The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the South Centre and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) launched the joint publication entitled “Developing National Ecosystems for South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Achieve Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development” on the side lines of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly. It discusses how to strengthen national ecosystems to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC).

SOCIAL MEDIA AND PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Twitter Highlights

SEP 2019 SUMMARY

Tweets
47

Tweet impressions
68.4K

Profile visits
692

Mentions
374

Top mention earned 220 engagements



SDGs @ IsDB Group

@SDGs_IDBG · Sep 26

We are thrilled that our flagship publication that will support developing countries to achieve **#SDGs** through the establishment of **#nationalecosystems** has been launched today on the sidelines of **#UNGA2019**. The publication was produced in partnership with **@South_Centre** and **@UNOSSC** pic.twitter.com/tk4tboq23K



Top Tweet earned 4,487 impressions

Does the world want to have **#SmallIslandDevelopingStates** **#SIDS**? SIDS extinction is imminent, there are not many more storms that they can sustain. **#UNTradeForum** **#HurricaneDorain** **#ClimateChange** **#trade** **#SouthNews** us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf387991...

@ifrc Photo
pic.twitter.com/werSVAYAGV



Top media Tweet earned 3,135 impressions

Launch of Report by **@isdb_group** & **@South_Centre** on Developing National Ecosystems for **#SouthSouth** & **#TriangularCooperation** to achieve **#Agenda2030** for **#SustainableDevelopment** tomorrow in NY. See details here southcentre.int/sc-isdb-group-...

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@SDGs_IDBG pic.twitter.com/yBmlIR8dLp



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Top Facebook Engagements

 **South Centre**
26 September at 15:17 · 🌐

📄 🖨️ Call for papers on #TRIPSflexibilities in the #IP system for #publichealth; early career scholars/PhD students.
Details here <https://www.southcentre.int/call-for-papers-september-2019/>



 **South Centre**
30 September at 10:57 · 🌐

"Report is an important contribution in addressing deficit in theoretical and empirical study of #SouthSouth and #TriangularCooperation, in particular filling the gap in the study of enhancing institutional framework of #SSTRc which is a weak link for #developingcountries in promoting SSTRc" - Yuefen Li, Senior Adviser, South-South Cooperation and #DevelopmentFinance, South Centre, at launch of report on 'Developing National Ecosystems for #SouthSouth and #TriangularCooperation to Achieve #Agenda2030 for #SustainableDevelopment', in New York.



Most downloaded publication for the month

Research Paper 98: Developing Country Coalitions in Multilateral Negotiations: Addressing Key Issues and Priorities of the Global South Agenda

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Our mailing address is:

South Centre
Chemin du Champ d'Anier 17
POB 228, 1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 791 8050

E-mail: south@southcentre.int

South Centre Website: <http://www.southcentre.int>



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