

## ANNUAL REPORT



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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



2022 was expected to provide the conditions for a recovery from the heavy losses suffered by developing countries as a result of COVID-19. The reality was starkly different. A series of severe and mutually reinforcing shocks aggravated the situation in those countries already hit by the pandemic. They included disruptions in and price increases of food and energy supplies, inflation, severe climate change events and interest rate hikes. The overlapping global crises and financial tightening in major developed countries led to further increasing debt vulnerabilities in the developing world. The escalating debt servicing cost and dramatically widening yield spread coupled with a very weak fiscal position left the developing countries with little room to maneuver. Malnutrition and poverty have been on the rise, and for many developing countries achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 has become illusory.

A key question in this context is how the multilateral system can contribute to address the problems and vulnerabilities that developing countries face, and what policies need to be adopted at the national and regional level. On the financial front, the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) came to an end by December 2021. The Group of Twenty (G20) Common Framework did not prove to be in a position to help countries in need of debt re-profiling or restructuring. Climate change finance, still ill-defined, continues to be insufficient, particularly to address adaptation needs. As noted by the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, the gap "between the needs of developing country Parties, in particular those due to the increasing impacts of climate change and their increased indebtedness, and the support provided and mobilized for their efforts to implement their nationally determined contributions" is currently estimated at USD 5.8–5.9 trillion for the pre-2030 period.

The asymmetries and shortcomings of the multilateral system were dramatically shown by the evident inequity in global access to vaccines, diagnostics, treatments and protective equipment against COVID-19, notably the lack of solidarity with countries with low capacity to respond to the pandemic and the insufficient coordination and shortcomings ofmechanisms such as ACT-A (Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator) to address inequality in access to medical countermeasures. All this contrasted with the huge profits made by the companies that, while developing COVID-19 vaccines with government and philanthropic subsidies, made billions of dollars in prioritizing sales -in many cases beyond actual needs- to rich countries.

The reluctance of the North to engage positively in multilateral solutions to the problems faced by developing countries was shown in many other processes, such as in the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other businesses and human rights and, even more acutely, in the process to establish a legally binding instrument on the Right to Development pursuant to the landmark Declaration on the matter of 1986. Such reluctance was most visible in the World Trade Organization (WTO) 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) which delivered minimal results for the Global South. Thus, despite some partial results on fisheries, there were no substantial outcomes for the graduation of Least Developed Countries and on the Group of Ninety (G90) Agreement Specific Proposals, nor any progress in addressing agricultural issues of key importance for developing countries. The initiative to adopt a waiver regarding the obligations of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) in respect of COVID-19 products culminated with a belated and narrow decision.

While some progress has been made with the decision on 'loss and damage' at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 27th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27), the announcement of a diplomatic conference on intellectual property and genetic resources at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the adopted Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, ongoing processes such as those mentioned above as well as the negotiation of a 'pandemic treaty' (and the review in parallel of the International Health Regulations) at the World Health Organization (WHO), the proposed reform of the WTO and new initiatives on trade and environment pose significant challenges to developing countries.

This is the scenario in which the South Centre has continued to work with the objective of contributing to build up a multilateral system that supports and does not undermine developing countries' development efforts, and to the design and implementation of national and regional policies that address the key problems and vulnerabilities those countries face. The work of the Centre, as reflected in this report, has been possible thanks to the cooperation of a vast number of experts, scholars and institutions from the Global South, and to the support of our members and of the South Centre's Board under the leadership of President Thabo Mbeki.

Dr. Carlos M. Correa

Executive Director, South Centre

## THE SOUTH CENTRE BOARD, COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERSHIP



The virtual 47th Meeting of the Board of the South Centre, chaired by Pres. Thabo Mbeki, was held on 20 September 2022.

Amb. Ajit Kumar, South Centre Convenor (upper left); Dr. Carlos Correa, South Centre Executive Director (upper right); Amb. Lazhar Soualem, Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland (lower middle), during the virtual 22nd Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre held on 24 February 2022.





Colombia joins the South Centre membership in September 2022.



The Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Laura Gil, submitted the accession instrument to the UN Secretary-General's Office in a ceremony in New York, thus formalizing Colombia's membership of the South Centre.



Mise à jour de South Centre pour les pays en developpement francophones, Genève, le 14 novembre 2022. Madame Ruth Dreifuss, ancienne conseillère fédérale et Présidente de la Confédération Suisse, membre de la Commission globale des politiques de drogues, était l'invitée spéciale de cette réunion.

## SOUTH CENTRE'S COLLABORATION WITH ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS



First South Centre Dialogue with Academic Institutions in Geneva held in May 2022.



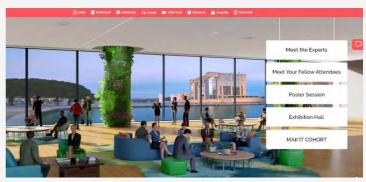
Second South Centre Dialogue with Academic Institutions in Geneva held in November 2022.

The hybrid MAK'IT/South Centre International Conference "WHAT ROLES FOR SCIENCE IN CRISIS TIMES? Outlook in the health, environment and agriculture interconnected areas" was held on 7 April 2022. For more information on this event, please go to: <a href="https://www.southcentre.int/makit-international-conference-7-april-2022/">https://www.southcentre.int/makit-international-conference-7-april-2022/</a>











Dr. Carlos Correa, South Centre Executive Director (right), speaking during his panel at the MAK'IT/South Centre International Conference.

#### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2022 the world witnessed many extreme weather events affecting more severely developing countries. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Provisional State of the Global Climate 2022 report, "Global mean temperature in 2022 is currently estimated to be 1.15 ± 0.13 °C above the pre-industrial (1850-1900) average, likely making the past eight years (2015-2022) the warmest on record. Despite La Niña conditions keeping global temperature low for the second consecutive year, 2022 is still most likely to be 5th or 6th warmest year on record." [1] This report, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on adaptation released in 2022, provided evidence that the climate crisis continues to deepen and that the response from the international community is still insufficient. While at the high-level segment of the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) the leaders of developed countries -historically responsible for the climate degradation- made several promises and pledges to address the climate crisis, these statements did not necessarily translate into a more constructive attitude at the negotiating table. Indeed, after tough negotiations, the outcomes did not meet the expectations of those who believe that bolder action is needed. The outcome document, "the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan" noted with concern the gap "between the needs of developing country Parties, in particular those due to the increasing impacts of climate change and their increased indebtedness, and the support provided and mobilized for their efforts to implement their nationally determined contributions" which is currently estimated at USD 5.8-5.9 trillion for the pre-2030 period.[2] One important result of COP27 was the Decision to establish a fund for Loss and Damage (L&D) which developing countries fought for many years.

The South Centre's work on climate change focuses on its cross-cutting nature and the need to take effective actions in different international domains and multilateral fora. As asserted in the South Centre statement at COP27[3], the international system operates in silos and has been incapable of ensuring the adoption of the multiple and coordinated policies necessary to address the consequences of climate change.

With this perspective in mind, in 2022, the South Centre conducted several activities and made a number of publications. Thus, on October 25, 2022, before COP27, the South Centre and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) co-organized a "High-Level Panel on Building South-South Solidarity for Climate Adaptation" [4] to address issues related to climate change and the COP27, particularly adaptation. The Centre promoted a better understanding of the relationship between climate change and human rights (see the Research Paper Analysing Intersections between Climate Change and Human Rights [5]) as addressed in the Human Rights Council and United Nations (UN) General Assembly resolutions recognizing the right to a clean and healthy environment as a human right.

<sup>[1]</sup> World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Provisional State of the Global Climate 2022, pp. 3-4. Available from https://reliefweb.int/report/world/wmo-provisional-state-global-climate-

 $<sup>2022\#: \</sup>neg: text = The \%20 global \%20 mean \%20 temperature \%20 in, be \%20 fifth \%20 or \%20 sixth \%20 warmest.$ 

<sup>[2]</sup> Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, para 35. Available from https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2022\_L19\_adv.pdf?download.

<sup>[3]</sup> Dr. Correa Carlos, Executive Director of the South Centre, Statement at COP27, 16 November 2022. Available from https://www.southcentre.int/sc-statement-to-the-cop27-16-november-2022/.

 $<sup>[4]</sup> See \ https://www.southcentre.int/key-messages-from-unctad-sc-hlm-on-s-s-solidarity-on-adaptation-25-october-2022/.$ 

<sup>[5]</sup> Daniel Uribe Teran and Luis Fernando Rosales, Analysing Intersections between Climate Change and Human Rights, Research Paper, No. 167 (Geneva, South Centre, 2022). Available from https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-167-27-october-2022/ (also available in French and Spanish).

The South Centre also continued to focus on climate finance as a key component of climate change actions (see the Policy Brief "Understanding the Main Elements for an Operational Definition of Climate Finance"[6]) and how different variables needed to be considered in the negotiation of an operational definition of climate finance that can effectively promote developing countries' interests.

Technology transfer is another key element for such action, as addressed in the South Centre Policy Brief "Technology Transfer and Climate Change: A developing country perspective" [7], suggesting that governments should explore market, hybrid and non-market approaches to accelerate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

In the statement submitted to the Plenary of COP27 by the Executive Director, the South Centre stressed the seriousness of the climate change crisis, highlighting the crosscutting nature of the problem and its implications for other policies, including human rights, investment, health and trade, among others.

The South Centre joined the initiative by the COP27 Egyptian Presidency "Friends of greening national investment plans in African and developing countries" to contribute to the efforts of African and other developing countries in shaping the process of planning and design of economic policies in a manner that factors in the impact of climate change, to quantify the efforts made in mitigation and adaptation, and identify the gaps and the support needed.[8]

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) project LBN-RS-001 "Strengthening and enhancing Lebanon's institutional arrangements and capacity to enable and optimize access to the Green Climate Fund" for which the South Centre was the delivery partner, was successfully concluded in September 2022. The Project, implemented by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) of Lebanon, in its role as the National Designated Authority (NDA) to the GCF, allowed the development of the No Objection Procedure and related framework assessment for Lebanon's Nationally Designated Authority to the GCF, the design and implementation of a public communication strategy, gap assessment of the NDA's capacity in light of GCF requirements, the development of Standard Operating Procedures to assess gender integration in GCF project proposals, among other outcomes to further the engagement of different Lebanese actors with the government initiatives related to the GCF.

The South Centre's Programme on Sustainable Development and Climate Change has also focused on the important issue of access to water as a human right[9] and the growing water scarcity due to, *inter alia*, global warming and the commodification of water resources.

<sup>[6]</sup> Luis Fernando Rosales Lozada, "Understanding the Main Elements for an Operational Definition of Climate Finance", Climate Policy Brief, No. 27 (Geneva, South Centre, 2022). Available from https://www.southcentre.int/climate-policy-brief-27-25-october-2022/.

<sup>[7]</sup> Nicolas M. Perrone, "Technology Transfer and Climate Change: A developing country perspective", Climate Policy Brief, No. 28 (Geneva, South Centre, 2022). Available from https://www.southcentre.int/climate-policy-brief-28-14-november-2022/.

<sup>[8]</sup> See https://cop27.eg/#/presidency/initiative/friends.

<sup>[9]</sup> See https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/forums/2022/2022-social-forum.



Dr. Carlos Correa, South Centre Executive Director, delivering his statement at COP 27.



The South Centre and UNCTAD co-organized a "High-Level Panel on Building South-South Solidarity for Climate Adaptation" in Geneva before COP 27.



On the occasion of the closing workshop of the Readiness Project with Lebanon & the GCF, South Centre met with the Minister of Environment H.E. Dr. Nasser Yassin to exchange views on the project implementation and future collaboration.



The commodification of water resources is a potential threat to water as a human right, the South Centre asserted at the OHCHR Social Forum 2022.



South Centre Executive Director Dr. Carlos Correa (left) met Ambassador Nabeel Munir, Pakistan Chair of G77+China (right), at COP 27 to exchange views on developing countries' critical interests in the ongoing negotiations.

#### INTERNATIONAL REGIME ON INVESTMENT & HUMAN RIGHTS

Developing countries are still facing the socio-economic consequences arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, including an uneven economic recovery affecting the most vulnerable people. While foreign direct investment (FDI) in developing countries continues to be a priority, there is a need to increase the efforts towards redirecting the benefits of FDI to sustainable development and equal recovery for all.

The South Centre continued to support developing countries' efforts to modernize the international investment agreements (IIAs) and to promote investments that are environmentally sound and respect human rights, on the premise that effective coordination and cohesion of international standards of human rights, climate change, sustainable development and promotion and facilitation of foreign investment are required.

The Centre's work on this matter included analyses, policy proposals and support for an enhanced developing countries' participation in the design of IIAs. In particular, the South Centre was actively involved in the negotiations on the Protocol on Investment to the Agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The Centre has also increased its support to developing countries in multilateral negotiations aimed at reforming IIAs, especially at the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Group III. To this end, the Centre engaged with regional country groupings and delegations, civil society organizations and academic institutions.

The South Centre research outputs focused on the elements needed to design a just and equitable international investment regime that preserves the national policy space necessary to rebuild and recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic; while promoting the reform of that regime from a social and human rights perspective.[10]

The relevance of the work of the South Centre in advising developing countries was highlighted during the 14th Annual Forum of Developing Country Investment Negotiators, organised by the International Institute for Sustainable Development and the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, encouraging "States to approach organizations such as IISD, UNCTAD, South Centre and other relevant international organizations for technical assistance in their investment reform efforts".

Similarly, we continue to support developing countries in the ongoing negotiation of a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises and the work of the United Nations (UN) Working Group on Business and Human Rights,[11] including on the intersection between climate change, international investment and the Legally Binding Instrument on Business and Human Rights, and how to recover better, build resilience against future crises and achieve the UN 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The realization of socio-economic human rights and, particularly of the Right to Development, continued to be an area of significant work of the Centre.[12]

The South Centre also addressed, together with the Transnational Institute, with the participation of developing countries' representatives in Geneva and New York and civil society organizations, the characteristic of, impact and challenges that multistakeholderism brings to day-to-day multilateral governance.

[10] Danish and Daniel Uribe, The Proposed Standing Multilateral Mechanism and Its Potential Relationship with the Existing Universe of Investor - State Dispute Settlement, Research Paper, No. 162 (Geneva, South Centre, 2022). Available from https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-162-11-august-2022/ (also available in French and Spanish).

[11] Danish and Daniel Uribe, "Eighth Session of the UN Working Group on Transnational Corporations and Other Business Enterprises concludes in Geneva", SouthNews, 13 December 2022. Available from https://us5.campaign-archive.com/? u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=d1478c1526.

[12] Yuefen Li, Daniel Uribe and Danish, The International Discourse on the Right to Development and the Need to Reinvigorate its Implementation, Research Paper, No. 149 (Geneva, South Centre, 2022). Available from https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-149-8-march-2022/.



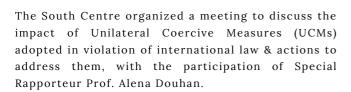
Dr. Carlos Correa, South Centre Executive Director, made a statement at the 8th Session of the OEIGWG on TNCs & OBEs, reiterating strong support to the process to achieve effective access to justice for victims of corporate human rights violations and abuses.

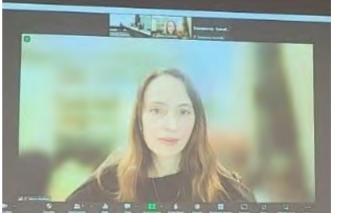


The South Centre co-organized with the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI) an online session on Transparency Gaps in ISDS in October 2022.



The South Centre co-sponsored a hybrid side event during the 50th session of the Human Rights Council on "Good practices, lessons learned and challenges in the implementation of UNDROP" in June 2022.





## REFORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL TAX SYSTEM, TAXING RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY, ILLICIT FUND TRANSFERS

In international tax matters, the foremost issue globally continued to remain the taxation of the digital economy. Negotiations continued on the technical building blocks of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) solution, known as 'Pillar One'. These comprised various elements such as scope, nexus, revenue sourcing, tax base determination, tax certainty, etc. The United Nations (UN) solution, known as Article 12B, was finalized in 2021 itself, and developing country efforts shifted to "multilateralise" its application through the creation of a UN Multilateral Instrument (MLI) which could update multiple bilateral tax treaties at once.

The OECD's global minimum effective corporate tax, known as 'Pillar Two', continued to be developed, and was almost finalized in 2022. However, certain important components remained still under negotiation, including the Subject to Tax Rule (STTR), which was introduced by developing countries with the aim of eliminating double non taxation on items of income covered by bilateral tax treaties.

The long-standing issue of taxation of payments for computer software as royalties received a major shot in the arm for developing countries. In the October 2022 session of the UN Tax Committee in Geneva, a decision was taken to amend Article 12 and include the words "computer software" in the definition of royalties. Negotiations now continue on the specifics of the wording. If included, it would mean a tremendous victory for developing countries and enable more effective taxation of the multibillion dollar global software market.

The South Centre through the <u>Tax Initiative</u> actively supported all these negotiations through organizing Closed Technical Briefings where delegates were briefed on negotiation texts; conducting research which provided new data and arguments; and organizing coordination meetings for the UN Tax Committee Members.

The South Centre also made <u>submissions</u> to the OECD on every <u>single</u> one of the Two <u>Pillar Solution's</u> <u>Model Rules</u>, being the only developing country intergovernmental organization to do so. This significantly impacted the negotiations and several of the South Centre's recommendations were incorporated into revised versions of the Model Rules. The South Centre was also invited by the OECD to participate in a public consultation in Paris in September.

South Centre research showed that 34 of its Member States in 2020 could have gained approximately USD 1 billion in tax revenues had they been able to tax computer software as royalties, with appropriate UN guidance.

The South Centre also partnered with the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) to co-organize briefings for the developing country Members of the UN Tax Committee on topics of their interest. These included the taxation of royalties and the Subject to Tax Rule.

The South Centre also actively participated in the UN Tax Committee during the sessions in April and October, raising various issues of concern to developing countries, and supporting delegates in various capacities. The combined impact of these interventions was that various issues of interest to the developing countries, such as royalties, the UN MLI and the Subject to Tax Rule were taken forward.

The South Centre is also a part of the UN Tax Committee, and is a participant in the Subcommittee on Wealth and Solidarity Taxes, which essentially prepares guidelines on the taxation of millionaires and billionaires. It actively contributed to the drafting and negotiation of these guidelines, and work is ongoing in this regard.

In partnership with the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CODA), the South Centre commissioned a study on revenue estimates for the 84 combined Member States of the African Union and the South Centre from the OECD and UN solutions for the taxation of the digitalized economy.[13] The results were released at a major webinar in June 2022 and proved to be valuable for tax administrations of the developing countries in helping them make informed policy choices in this regard.

The two organizations collaborated again to co-organize the <u>Second African Fiscal Policy Forum</u> in December 2022, where the South Centre released data on the status of asset recovery cases involving the developing countries, showing a clear pattern that the Global North was delaying the return of these assets to the Global South.[14]

Advisory was also provided upon request to the governments of Kenya, Iraq and Viet Nam, on international tax topics.

As a member of the Inter Agency Task Force (IATF) in Financing for Development, the South Centre continued to contribute to the UN Financing for Sustainable Development Report. It also made Statements before the intergovernmental Group of Twenty-four (G-24) on the global economic situation which included views on the international tax system.

The South Centre, in collaboration with organizations such as the <u>West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF)</u>, the Base Erosion and Profit-Shifting (BEPS) Monitoring Group and the International Lawyers Project, and with support from developing country governments such as India and Nigeria, provided training and capacity building on the taxation of the digitalized economy such as to the governments of <u>Malaysia</u> and <u>Thailand</u>.

[13] Vladimir Starkov and Alexis Jin, A Tough Call? Comparing Tax Revenues to Be Raised by Developing Countries from the Amount A and the UN Model Treaty Article 12B Regimes, Research Paper, No. 156 (Geneva, South Centre, 2022). Available from https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-156-1-june-2022/ (also available in French and Spanish).

[14] Abdul Muheet Chowdhary and Sebastien Babou Diasso, Illicit Financial Flows and Stolen Asset Recovery: The Global North Must Act, Research Paper, No. 172 (Geneva, South Centre, 2022). Available from https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-172-1-december-2022/.



"I fully support the creation of a globally inclusive, intergovernmental process at the UN. I urged all international organisations and Member States to resist attempts to block this important step forward, and thus call into question our global commitment to fighting illicit financial flows and corporate tax abuse in support of the Sustainable Development Goals."

- From Statement of H.E. Thabo Mbeki, Chairperson of the African Union High Level Panel on IFFs



The South Centre participated in the 25th Session of the UN Tax Committee to support developing countries' efforts to build up a fairer international tax system for sustainable development.





The South Centre collaborated with the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CODA) for these two events.



Mr. Logan Wort, African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) Executive Secretary, at the briefing for developing country members of the UN Tax Committee, co-organized with the South Centre.



Mr. Babatunde Oladapo, Executive Secretary of the West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF), at the Virtual Training Session on the Taxation of the Digitalized Economy, co-organized with the South Centre,



The South Centre was pleased to meet the delegation from the Malaysian Tax Academy, Inland Revenue Board & Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the UN in Geneva to discuss expanded collaboration in international taxation.

#### TRADE FOR DEVELOPMENT

The core work of the Trade for Development Programme (TDP) in 2022 was to provide support and technical assistance to developing country Geneva-based trade negotiators and capital-based officials in preparation for the World Trade Organization (WTO) Twelfth Ministerial Conference (MC12) held in Geneva in June 2022, and the ongoing regular work in the WTO. The MC12 delivered a set of outcomes, notably disciplines on Fisheries Subsidies and WTO Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Trade ministers also agreed to undertake work on the reform of the WTO and to develop recommendations on the subject by the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference (MC13). The restoration of a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system was kicked down the road to 2024.

The MC12 delivered minimal results for the Global South with new approaches being introduced to kick away the development ladder for developing countries (e.g., opt-out approach in the Ministerial Decision on the TRIPS Agreement (Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) and a two-year peace clause in the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement). There were also no substantial results for the graduation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and on the Group of Ninety (G90) Agreement Specific Proposals whose main focus is to clarify existing trade rules to support industrial and economic development. The most disconcerting part of the MC12 was the lack of any outcome on disciplining subsidies/domestic support in agriculture. Trade ministers did however adopt a Declaration on the Emergency Response to Food Insecurity which contained a series of exhortative statements, reaffirming the need to implement existing WTO commitments, for food aid and release from public food stocks, and underlying the importance of technical and financial assistance to increase food production and productivity. Ministers particularly emphasized transparency and sharing of information as the way to address and mitigate the global food crisis. Nevertheless, no concrete decisions to increase the flow of food were taken, except a commitment not to maintain export restrictions of food for the World Food Programme (WFP).

The second part of the year focused on unpacking the MC12 deliverables and elaborating on a development-oriented approach and narrative on trade and environment to address the renewed push by developed countries to make environmental sustainability the axis of the future work and negotiations in the WTO. The TDP's role post-MC12 was primarily focused on understanding the interrelationship between the relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the implications of situating the WTO negotiating pillars on Agriculture, Development and Trade and Environment in this new context. TDP prepared a series of informal analytical notes for developing countries throughout the year including assisting with developing proposals, statements and written submissions to the WTO.

#### The primary areas of support included:

- -The legal examination of the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement adopted at MC12, including the fisheries management reforms and obligations that developing countries will be required to undertake to implement the agreement.
- -Analytical support on the implications of the proposed new approaches on agricultural reform including on repurposing agricultural subsidies, and the right to sustainable development in a manner that ensures food security and food sovereignty. Part and parcel of this was a deep dive analysis on the implications of the food crisis (notably due to supply shortages/interruptions of wheat and fertilizers) emanating from the conflict in Russia and Ukraine and crafting policy options for the Global South to mitigate current and future food crises.
- -Brainstorming and providing fresh ideas on a systematic approach to WTO Reform. This includes crafting an offensive Global South agenda on WTO Reform that is inclusive, transparent, and Memberdriven. The most immediate priority is to restore the WTO Appellate Body.

- -Unpacking the evolving Trade and Environment agenda including the European Union (EU)'s Carbon Border Adjustment Measures and Carbon Pricing. In this regard, among other activities, the TDP organized with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) a series of webinars with the participation of Geneva representatives and officials in capitals.[15]
- -Support and technical assistance were provided on negotiating issues taking place along the side lines of the WTO multilateral mandate including on E-commerce, Investment Facilitation for Development, and Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) upon request by Members.
- -Technical assistance was also provided on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) negotiations on Digital Trade and Protocol on Investment. Also, TDP responded to ad hoc requests on preparations for several WTO regular and negotiating meetings.
- -The South Centre was represented in the WTO Committee on Trade and Development as an observer and was called upon by the Chairperson to mobilise developing countries to participate and engage more on their core development interests.
- As noted above, the South Centre convened with UNCTAD a high level meeting to address the trade and climate change interphase in preparation for 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) held in Egypt.
- -The South Centre was also invited to participate and share their assessment on the Fisheries Subsidies Agreement at a technical briefing organised by the WTO Secretariat.

The TDP's work has strengthened developing countries' negotiating positions in the WTO and their capacity to form coalitions. This has been achieved through open-ended briefings and maintaining productive working relationships with missions, by providing technical support very quickly as issues crop up in the WTO negotiations, and by providing a space for developing countries to meet, discuss and strategize. This work is taking place at both the ambassadorial level and also at the expert level. The TDP has also assisted Members with developing formal proposals, papers, and negotiating text. During the reporting period, over 50 different analyses and proposals for texts were developed by TDP for developing country trade negotiators.

Technical assistance, training and advocacy activities included the following:

- Policy and strategic advice for developing countries in preparation for high-level and other technical WTO meetings.
- Briefing notes on specified technical trade issues to capacitate trade negotiators and provide supporting analysis to defend their interests and positions.
- Capacity-building trainings imparted to two Member States.
- Three regional meetings on Global Food Security Crisis and South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC) in the area of Trade.
- Organised and moderated two working sessions at the WTO Public Forum.[16]
- Series of briefings on WTO MC12 outcomes and negotiating issues on Agriculture, Food Security, Pandemic Response, WTO Reform, Services, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), Trade Policy Review Mechanism (TPRM), Development, Aid for Trade, Trade and Environment.

[15] Vahini Naidu, "Can international trading rules support developing countries to achieve their climate goals? South Centre and UNCTAD webinar series on trade and environment", SouthNews No, 403, 7 April 2022. Available from https://mailchi.mp/southcentre/southnews-can-international-trading-rules-support-developing-countries-to-achieve-their-climate-goals?e=0ba6f79724.

[16] Chamarty Sai Sumana, "Governing Global Data Flows and Exchanges for Digital Trade", SouthNews No. 432, 19 December 2022. Available from https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=75a8b88a2f; Chamarty Sai Sumana, "Mainstreaming Development in the WTO", SouthNews No. 433, 20 December 2022. Available from https://us5.campaign-archive.com/?u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=0c4686a65c.

- Three-part webinar series on Trade and Environment co-organised with UNCTAD.
- Trade and climate change dialogue co-organised with UNCTAD.
- Ministers dialogue on Trade and Development co-organised with UNCTAD.
- Organised and moderated webinars during UNCTAD E-commerce Week.[17][18]

[17] See https://www.southcentre.int/ecommerce-week-2022-data-and-digitalization-for-development-27-april-2022/; https://www.southcentre.int/ecommerce-week-2022-exploring-a-global-framework-for-data-governance-28-april-2022/. [18] See also: "Data for Development, How To Legally Characterize Data?", South Centre's Contribution to the eTrade for All Leadership Dialogue of the UNCTAD eCommerce Week 2022, at https://www.southcentre.int/sc-contribution-unctad-ecommerce-week-2022/.

Some of the events that South Centre organized/co-organized are below:









#### GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

While the COVID-19 pandemic continued, the need for greater cooperation and solidarity for the next inevitable pandemic became evident. The stark inequity in global access to vaccines, diagnostics, treatments and protective equipment against COVID-19, the lack of solidarity with countries with low capacity to respond to pandemics, insufficient coordination and shortcomings of the mechanisms such as ACT-A (Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator) to address inequality in access to medical countermeasures, showed failures of the current multilateral system. Member States of the World Health Organization (WHO) agreed in 2022 to launch negotiations for a new international health instrument to address prevention, preparedness and response to pandemics with the aim to conclude it in 2024. In parallel, WHO member States also agreed to make targeted amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) on public health emergencies.

For developing countries, achieving greater equity and improving the capacity to prevent, respond to and recover from pandemics are the main objectives of those negotiations. The South Centre provided important support for the preparatory discussions and negotiations, helping to identify approaches to incorporate equity into the pandemic instrument and the targeted amendments to the IHR, including participation in sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body for a pandemic instrument in expert capacity.

Member States of WHO also advanced discussions on how to increase financing for the WHO as most of the funding is from voluntary contributions from few countries and philanthropies that target specific themes of WHO. The World Health Assembly agreed to progressively increase the assessed contributions of WHO member States up to 50% of the budget, a decision that will give the organization more autonomy in addressing public health needs. However, additional financing will also need to be mobilized. A Member States working group on sustainable financing and a task force were established for this purpose, reporting to the WHO main bodies in 2023.

The South Centre has held briefings, participated in events and consultations and produced publications on the ongoing negotiations. These included briefings prior to the Executive Board and the World Health Assembly.



South Centre Special Adviser on Health Dr. German Velasquez (middle left) and South Centre Executive Director Dr. Carlos Correa (middle right) met with WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (middle).





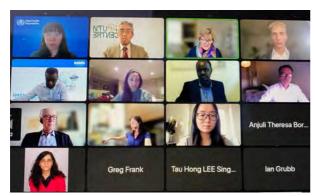
The South Centre at the 150th session of the WHO Executive Board (above) and 75th session of the World Health Assembly (below).

#### **ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is a slow pandemic affecting developing countries disproportionately. To avoid stalling efforts on AMR in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, developing countries are in urgent need of financing for implementing national action plans (NAPs). In 2022 the One Health Global Leadership Group on AMR (GLG) continued to highlight the importance of action in areas such as mobilizing funds for AMR response in developing countries, reducing use of antimicrobials in the animal food sector and agriculture, and increased antimicrobial stewardship in human health. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) formally joined the quadripartite international organizations (World Health Organization/WHO, Food and Agriculture Organization/FAO, World Organisation for Animal Health/WOAH and UNEP) leading the global AMR response. At the United Nations (UN) it was decided that a High Level Meeting will be held on AMR in 2024.

The South Centre participated in meetings of the GLG and at the High Level Ministerial Meeting on AMR in Oman that concluded with a declaration that includes targets on AMR. As part of the efforts to support capacity building, the South Centre together with ReAct Africa organized a conference for the African region in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2022, bringing together governments, academia, international organizations, funders and civil society organizations (CSOs) to discuss progress and pathways to advancing NAPs. The regional representatives of WHO, FAO and WOAH participated and provided critical information on their ongoing work in the region.

Together with the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition (ARC), the South Centre provided input to the design of a Multistakeholder Platform on AMR, and facilitated exchanges between CSOs and international organizations involved in AMR response, including WHO and FAO. For the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), the South Centre with the support of the Fleming Fund, provided financial support to various CSOs in developing countries to carry out awareness campaigns on AMR.



South Centre participated at information session organized by the Global Leaders Group on AMR.



South Centre Executive Director Dr. Carlos Correa (right) with Dame Sally Davies (left), leading personality in the fight against AMR, at the 3rd Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on AMR in Muscat.



The South Centre and ReAct co-organized a webinar on "The Silent Pandemic of AMR: New Opportunities for Global Action?" in June 2022.



ReAct Africa co-organized with South Centre its annual conference on AMR in Lusaka, Zambia on 25-27 July 2022.

For the World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW), the South Centre with the support of the Fleming Fund, provided financial support to various CSOs in developing countries to carry out awareness campaigns on AMR.







KENYA NATIONAL WORKING GROUP



The South Centre co-organized a "Latin American and Caribbean Meeting: Communities Empowered to Tackle Antimicrobial Resistance" in November 2022.





South Centre Executive Director Dr. Carlos Correa received the Appreciation Award 2021 for his vision & contribution to tackle AMR in Africa and beyond at the ReAct/South Centre annual conference.

#### BIODIVERSITY

2022 was an important year for biodiversity negotiations. The governing body of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol adopted a new framework, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework ('the Framework'). In supporting developing countries for the negotiations on this subject, the South Centre stressed the need for the Framework to be ambitious, balanced and achievable building on past commitments, that all three pillars of the CBD should be equally advanced while ensuring that the Framework includes mechanisms for adequate financing, building capacities and technology transfer to developing countries, and that the Rio principle on common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) should be clearly reflected. The South Centre held briefings and provided inputs to the negotiations through publications.

The Framework, as adopted, will include a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund, which is yet to be established. It is an important achievement for developing countries that the COP agreed that the benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources should be shared fairly and equitably, including monetary and non-monetary benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources. To define the elements of the multilateral mechanism, the COP created an ad hoc open-ended working group on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources that will report back to the next COP.

In 2022, the negotiations on a legally binding instrument on marine genetic resources in areas beyond national jurisdictions in the context of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) were meant to conclude, but did not do so and will continue in 2023. A priority for developing countries remains a fair and balanced outcome on access, utilization and benefit sharing, with supporting capacity building and technology transfer. The South Centre provided analyses on the subject and textual options for negotiations and liaised with the Group of Seventy-Seven (G77) plus China in New York.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Assemblies in July 2022 gave new impetus to negotiations on the protection of genetic resources and traditional knowledge. The South Centre has organized briefings and a background note for the February 2022 session, and provided technical support to the like-minded group of countries (LMCs) in November 2022 on the main issues at stake for the ongoing treaty proposals under text-based negotiations. The South Centre also attended all sessions of the Committee, and accompanied the successful negotiations at the General Assemblies which led to the agreement on convening a diplomatic conference in 2024 on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), setting the stage for intense negotiations in the next two years. One of the priorities is for the patent system to provide more transparency on the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, through the establishment of an international obligation for patent applicants to disclose the origin and source of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in patent applications. Developing countries have made a similar proposal since 2011 at the World Trade Organization (WTO) through the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Council. The South Centre has elaborated on and supported these proposals and will continue to do so in the forthcoming negotiations.



The South Centre delivered a statement to the 24th meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).



South Centre discussed with members of the European Parliament the impact in developing countries of patents on conventional breeding and seeds at the Workshop "Patents on plant genes - a lockdown for conventional plant breeding?"

### CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES ON TRIPS FLEXIBILITIES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

The use of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) flexibilities is an enabling factor for broadening access to medicines, vaccines and other medical products, by increasing supply and lowering prices. The effective utilization of the TRIPS flexibilities continues to present obstacles in many developing countries because legal provisions are not adequate and the procedures are not sufficiently spelled out. Some of these countries, however, have made progress in implementing such flexibilities, notably the development of patentability criteria ensuring that patent applications regarding pharmaceuticals are rigorously examined in order to avoid 'evergreening' and 'patent thickets' that impede legitimate competition. The Centre has continued to provide expert advice on the use of the TRIPS flexibilities, including the implementation of patentability standards that prevent evergreening and thicketing practices by pharmaceutical companies and continued to undertake research on the policy space available to design intellectual property policies consistent with the TRIPS Agreement.

Several reviews of national legislation and regulations were made, and expert legal and policy advice to Geneva-based missions, Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Ministries of Health, Ministries of Trade and patent offices, as and when requested were provided. Trainings continued to be imparted, both in person and through the e-learning academy, including for judges, patent offices and policy makers. The South Centre's services in this area are available to developing countries at no cost, and with the assistance of a project supported by Unitaid. More information on services, activities and events for this stream of work is available at <a href="https://ipaccessmeds.southcentre.int">https://ipaccessmeds.southcentre.int</a>.



Reunión Regional de Alto Nivel sobre Políticas de Propiedad Intelectual para Favorecer el Logro de los Objetivos de Salud Pública, organizado por el South Centre y el Ministerio de Salud y Protección Social de Colombia.



Curso para Jueces sobre Derechos de Propiedad Intelectual y Salud Pública, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.



The South Centre and the Court of Appeals for Specialized Cases imparted a course for Thai judges on intellectual property rights, competition and public health.



South African Judge Brian Spilg at the Seminar series for African Judges on Intellectual Property and Public Health.



South Centre y ORAS CONHU organizaron el Curso sobre Propiedad Intelectual: Aplicación de Flexibilidades y Acceso a Medicamentos en el Marco del Derecho Andino.



Asian Regional Course for Patent Authorities and Examiners



Regional Training on Pharmaceutical Patent Examination, North Africa and Middle East



The South Workshop on Patent Examination Practices Relating to Biologics was held on 21 September 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.



The South Centre 2nd Global Forum on Intellectual Property, Access to Medicines and Innovation was held on 22-23 September 2022 in Geneva, Switzerland.



The South Centre organized a panel workshop on "Pharmaceutical Sovereignty" as part of the Summit on Intellectual Property (IP) and Access to Medicines: The Pandemic Edition, organized by International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC) in Istanbul, Turkey, from 19 to 21 July 2022.

### DEVELOPMENTS AT THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

The South Centre supported developing countries in their participation in various committees in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), on topics such as copyright and related rights, development and intellectual property, genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, and health and patents.

For the General Assemblies, which took place in July 2022, the South Centre organized a briefing and made a comprehensive background note for the main areas discussed, particularly WIPO governance structure and its financing mechanisms. The South Centre took part in the WIPO's General Assemblies and followed the negotiations which resulted in the agreement with respect to the convening of two diplomatic conferences in 2024, a major victory of developing countries' participation and coordination. The Centre also organized a <u>side meeting to the Assemblies</u> to share perspectives of developing countries on their work on patentability examination in pharmaceuticals.

At the Standard Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), the South Centre continued its long engagement on the importance and need to advance the agenda on limitations and exceptions (L&Es) for education, research, persons with disabilities, archives, and other public interest goals. It has worked throughout the year in close partnership with a group of academic organizations and experts, as well as Member States, on how to advance the issue and supported the African Group proposal for a work program on L&Es. The intersection of Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC) -related work and the work of other committees has also been addressed by the South Centre. In December 2022, the South Centre co-organized with the African Union (Permanent Mission in Geneva) a workshop to discuss the African Group's position with respect to L&Es at WIPO, with the participation of Geneva-based and capital-based experts and delegates.

At the Standard Committee on Patents (SCP), which does not have normative work, the South Centre has organized a briefing for delegates to address all the standing agenda items, with a focus on the new resources and information sessions with respect to health and patents. This committee's work is closely related to South Centre's activities on TRIPS flexibilities. In December 2022, the South Centre joined as speaker at the WIPO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trilateral Symposium.

At the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), the South Centre prepared a briefing and background note for delegates on the main topics pertaining to developing countries. Such topics include: the protection of geographical indications, the protection of country names via trademarks and the risks of misappropriation (a demand by various developing countries and some developed countries after concrete negative experiences), the emerging issue of so-called graphic user interfaces and the challenges posed by technology to intellectual property, as well as the main issues at stake with respect to the proposed Design Law Treaty (DLT).

At the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP), the South Centre has continued to advocate for the mainstreaming of the Development Agenda (DA) across all areas of WIPO's work, including an enhanced transparency of the Secretariat's activities, notably on technical assistance. It has provided support to selected Member States on project proposals for the CDIP.



After 2 years WIPO IGC reconvenes for text-based negotiations of much needed & long delayed instrument(s) to protect traditional knowledge, genetic resources & traditional cultural expressions.



The South Centre organized a side event to the WIPO Assemblies 2022 on "Use of TRIPS Flexibilities for Access to Medical Technologies".



South Centre - African Union Workshop on "African Group Positions and Proposals on Copyright Limitations and Exceptions", held in Geneva on 13-14 December 2022.



In December 2022, the South Centre joined as speaker at the WIPO, WHO and WTO Trilateral Symposium on "The COVID-19 Pandemic: Response, Preparedness, Resilience".

#### THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WAIVER FOR COVID-19

In the World Trade Organization (WTO), the major issue for developing countries and least developed countries (LDCs) has been to advance discussions for the adoption of a waiver from the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights ('TRIPS Agreement') to suspend intellectual property for vaccines, treatments and diagnostics for COVID-19 based on a revised proposal submitted by India and South Africa and supported by more than 100 countries. The South Centre was active prior to and during the WTO 12th Ministerial Conference in providing arguments for and textual options for the 'TRIPS waiver' to increase the supply of COVID-19 related products. The 12th Ministerial in 2022 ended with a modest decision that fell short of the requested solution.

The WTO Conference decided to facilitate compulsory licensing of patents for the exportation of vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic. Developing countries were able to obtain a mandate to negotiate the extension of the mechanism to cover COVID-19 medicines and diagnostics, but agreement could not be reached by the end of the year. The time frame for negotiation was extended to 2023. The South Centre provided support in terms of preparation for the negotiations, public support for the proposals, discussions among academics and experts, as well as research publications on the importance of the TRIPS waiver and steps to implement the vaccine waiver domestically. The South Centre has also highlighted in numerous briefings and publications that developing countries can and should make use of TRIPS flexibilities available in order to overcome intellectual property barriers related to COVID-19 medical technologies, including compulsory licensing, government authorization and Article 73.

The South Centre also supported developing countries through regular briefings on the agenda items of the TRIPS Council on regular and ad-hoc issues, such as the relationship of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the TRIPS Agreement and a moratorium on non-violation complaints in relation to the TRIPS Agreement.





A webinar on "The Future of the TRIPS Agreement (Part 2)" was held in October 2022.

#### DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The socio-economic implications of the digital transformation raise serious challenges and concerns for developing countries. Investment and international trade, labor and educational systems are facing transformations which affect countries unevenly. The South Centre focuses on how developing countries can harness digital technologies in education, health and the production of goods (including agriculture) and services, support the development of a domestic digital industry, improve their digital infrastructure, advance digital equity and inclusion, effectively tax the digital companies and contribute to shaping the digital governance architecture to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The South Centre continues to monitor processes and ongoing policy and regulatory discussions at the multilateral, regional, and national levels. The substantive topics include the regulation and management of Big Data, data governance, digital cooperation, the utilization of Artificial Intelligence, the conceptualization of digital rights as fundamental rights (including the right to connectivity) and the future of labor. In this sense, the South Centre organized, co-organized or contributed to numerous events.

The South Centre also continues to monitor issues pertaining to e-commerce at the World Trade Organization (WTO), Internet governance and equity, the discussions on artificial intelligence (AI), data governance and frontier technologies at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), as well as digital health at the World Health Organization (WHO). The South Centre is organizing a special session at the United Nations (UN) World Data Forum in 2023 on digital health and the use of data after COVID-19. The South Centre is also working in collaboration with institutions from developing countries on a number of research outputs on copyright limitations and exceptions (L&Es) in the digital context, competition, data governance and regulation of platforms.

#### **DEVELOPMENT FINANCE**

The overlapping global crises and financial tightening in major developed countries in 2022 have led to further increasing debt vulnerabilities in the developing world. More than 60% of low-income countries were in debt distress or high risks of it. The escalating debt servicing cost and dramatically widening yield spread coupled with very weak fiscal position have left the developing countries with little room for maneuver. Many are living on the edge. The Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI) came to an end by December 2021. The Group of Twenty (G20) Common Framework has not proved to be in a position to help countries in need of debt re-profiling or restructuring.

In 2022, the South Centre continued to actively participate and contribute to the activities of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development which prepares the annual Financing for Sustainable Development Report. Being an observer of the Group of Twenty-Four on International Monetary Affairs and Development (G-24), the Executive Director of the South Centre submitted statements at the spring and autumn meetings of the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the G-24.[19]

The Senior Advisor on South-South Cooperation and Development Finance was invited to be a member of the steering committee of the United Nations' development account project on Response and Recovery: Mobilising Financial Resources for development in the time of COVID-19.

A policy brief was written and published on the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) website subsequent to the relevant webinar.[20] The journal of *International Banker* also published the Senior Advisor's piece on "Soft Law on Sovereign Borrowing and Lending".[21] The Project Syndicate carried a piece on "The Debt Climate Nexus"[22].

The South Centre was invited to speak at various important meetings and conferences at United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UNCTAD and national government organized meetings to offer views and proposals on how to address current debt and financial challenges for developing countries and the reform of the international financial architecture.

On the inter-phase between debt and climate change, the South Centre Senior Advisor was invited to be a Co-Chair of the Debt Relief for Green and Inclusive Recovery initiative.[23]

- [19] See South Centre Statement to the Ministers and Governors Meeting of the G-24, 19 April 2022 at https://www.southcentre.int/statement-to-g24-19-april-2022/; South Centre Statement to the Ministers and Governors Meeting of the G-24, 11 October 2022 at https://www.southcentre.int/sc-statement-to-the-g24-11-october-2022/.
- $[20] See \ https://unctad.org/meeting/revitalizing-unctad-principles-promotion-sovereign-lending-and-borrowing.$
- [21] Yuefen Li, "Soft Law on Sovereign Borrowing and Lending: UNCTAD Principles on Promoting Responsible Sovereign Lending and Borrowing", International Banker, 12 September 2022. Available from https://internationalbanker.com/finance/soft-law-on-sovereign-borrowing-and-lending-unctad-principles-on-promoting-responsible-sovereign-lending-and-borrowing/.
- [22] Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Ulrich Volz and Yuefen Li, "The Debt- Climate Nexus", Project Syndicate, 13 December 2022. Available from https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/debt-crisis-climate-change-developing-countries-g20-cop27-by-maria-fernanda-espinosa-et-al-2022-12.
- [23] Yuefen Li. See https://drgr.org/about-us/yuefen-li/.



South Centre highlighted the importance of and gaps in debt transparency as well as the way forward, at the thirteenth session of the UNCTAD International Debt Management Conference.



We were pleased to receive Ms. Attiya Waris, UN Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations on human rights, and discuss the South Centre's cooperation in support of the implementation of her mandate.

#### SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC) has been an important modality, a complement but not a substitute, for international development cooperation, especially in light of the diversion of Official Development Assistance from developed countries in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic and other multiple overlapping crises have highlighted the vulnerabilities in many developing countries and left lasting scars. The Southern countries have helped each other during the most difficult times, which demonstrated the importance of South-South cooperation and solidarity. To leverage the potential of SSTrC has become an imperative for developing countries to realize their developmental objectives and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Thus, for the South Centre it has been a high priority to support developing countries in enhancing their national capacities to engage in SSTrC.

In 2022 the South Centre has conducted empirical and theoretical studies on the national ecosystem for SSTrC by preparing policy briefs and national case studies on assessment of the national ecosystem on SSTrC and on leveraging SSTrC for poverty and hunger reduction.

Operational activities on SSTrC included the implementation of two projects financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) respectively. The South Centre, together with IsDB, supported a South Centre Member Country to undertake preparatory work for the establishment of its national entity for SSTrC.

The South Centre also collaborated with FAO for supporting South-South institutional strengthening on poverty reduction and organizing evidence-based policy dialogues with Member States. The project included significant research in seven developing countries. The case studies highlighted the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing global tensions on food security, rural development and poverty alleviation. The South Centre also organized two 2-day workshops in November and December 2022 to provide training to government officials, experts and practitioners. Nearly 100 participants from over 30 countries participated in the workshops.

The implementation of the Right to Development also saw renewed momentum in 2022, following the commemoration of the 35th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Right to Development. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has been a strong proponent on this issue, and Azerbaijan as Chair of NAM organized several important events in this regard. In early 2022, the South Centre produced a research paper titled The International Discourse on the Right to Development and the Need to Reinvigorate its Implementation[24], which was presented at a workshop for NAM Member States[25]. Analytical papers on the Right to Development were also produced internally and externally. Likewise, the paper "Challenges and Potential to Revamp the Normative Framework on the Right to Development"[26] was published in the journal Development, which is the flagship journal of the Society for International Development (SID). It explores innovative perspectives on the crucial issues in development for more than 50 years.

<sup>[24]</sup> Yuefen Li, Daniel Uribe and Danish, The International Discourse on the Right to Development and the Need to Reinvigorate its Implementation, Research Paper, No. 149 (Geneva, South Centre, 2022). Available from https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-149-8-march-2022/.

<sup>[25]</sup> Danish, "The Non-Aligned Movement and South Centre organize workshop on reinvigorating the Right to Development", SouthNews No. 398, 17 February 2022. Available from https://us5.campaign-archive.com/? u=fa9cf38799136b5660f367ba6&id=9cf0fd8d41.

<sup>[26]</sup> Yuefen Li, Daniel Uribe and Danish, "Challenges and Potential to Revamp the Normative Framework on the Right to Development", Development, vol. 65 (2022), pp. 136-144. Available from https://link.springer.com/epdf/10.1057/s41301-022-00345-0?sharing\_token=B0vSGubRVxCBYQsrmRQl7FxOt48VBPO10Uv7D6sAgHvM-

wUjYiBKjsTIw7pn6GvJiHEhs0c5Sl3NGinKzOW56lNueBgk45Z36-C8GlFUqu8-

<sup>45</sup>ftsDypBG89Bc9qITagrivoRhhz5nI37NSA5nPegozuoJWsFqijS9klutfjCgo=.

The South Centre has also been supporting its Member States in the different ongoing deliberation processes related to the Right to Development, including the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development[27], which is currently negotiating a legally binding instrument on the Right to Development, and the NAM on the means to reinvigorate and promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development.

The South Centre also addressed the role of South-South Cooperation for the attainment of climate action. In line with such efforts, as noted above, the South Centre co-organized a High-level meeting with the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on 'Building South-South Solidarity on Climate Adaptation', in preparation for the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties(COP 27) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Egypt.

[27] South Centre Statement to the 23rd Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development,15 - 20 May 2022. Available from https://www.southcentre.int/statement-23rd-session-working-group-on-the-right-to-development-15-20-may-2022/.



H.E. Amb. Galib Israfilov of Azerbaijan, Chair of NAM, highlighted the importance of the Right to Development at workshop.



South Centre participating at the Global South-South Development Expo.



The South Centre & FAO co-organized a 2-day Training Workshop on "Leveraging South-South & Triangular Cooperation for Reducing Poverty & Hunger, & Promoting Rural Development" to build capacities of developing countries' officials, policy makers & national experts.

#### PUBLICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The South Centre undertakes research and analysis oriented on various international policy areas that are relevant to the protection and promotion of the development interests of developing countries. This section lists the South Centre's publications in 2022 by publication category.

In addition, the South Centre has one main website and two subdomains:

www.southcentre.int
www.ipaccessmeds.southcentre.int
www.taxinitiative.southcentre.int

Moreover, the South Centre is active on several social media platforms:







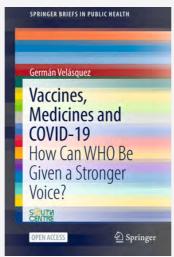




#### Books

Vaccines, Medicines and COVID-19, How Can WHO Be Given a Stronger Voice? (2022) Author: Germán Velásquez

https://www.southcentre.int/book-by-the-south-centre-2022/



This Open Access book has been downloaded around 18,000 times in the Springer website as of March 2023 from the date of its publication.

Harnessing the Multilateral Patent and Plant Variety Protection Regimes to Advance Food Security: Implications of the EU-ECOWAS Economic Partnership Agreement (2022)

Author: Uchenna Felicia Ugwu

https://www.southcentre.int/book-by-the-south-centre-2022-2/



#### Research Papers

Competition Law and Access to Medicines: Lessons from Brazilian Regulation and Practice (Research Paper 142, 4 January 2022)

By Matheus Z. Falcão, Mariana Gondo and Ana Carolina Navarrete

https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-142-4-january-2022/

Direito Brasileiro da Concorrência e Acesso à Saúde no Brasil: Preços Exploratórios no Setor de Medicamentos (Research Paper 143, 11 de janeiro de 2022)

Por Bruno Braz de Castro

https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-143-11-de-janeiro-de-2022/

Brazilian Competition Law and Access to Health in Brazil: Exploitative Pricing in the Pharmaceutical Sector (Research Paper 143, 11 January 2022)

By Bruno Braz de Castro

https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-143-11-january-2022/

A TRIPS-COVID Waiver and Overlapping Commitments to Protect Intellectual Property Rights Under International IP and Investment Agreements (Research Paper 144, 27 January 2022)
By Henning Grosse Ruse-Khan and Federica Paddeu

https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-144-27-january-2022/

The Right to Health in Pharmaceutical Patent Disputes (Research Paper 145, 9 February 2022) By Emmanuel Kolawole Oke

https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-145-9-february-2022/

A Review of WTO Disputes on TRIPS: Implications for Use of Flexibilities for Public Health (Research Paper 146, 16 February 2022)

By Nirmalya Syam

https://www.southcentre.int/research-paper-146-16-february-2022/

Can Negotiations at the World Health Organization Lead to a Just Framework for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Pandemics as Global Public Goods? (Research Paper 147, 28 February 2022) By Viviana Muñoz Tellez

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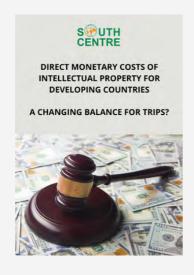
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## SouthNews\*

 $South News\ No.\ 394,\ 20\ January\ 2022:\ South\ Centre\ and\ IDEC\ organize\ debate\ on\ local\ manufacturing\ and\ equitable\ access\ to\ vaccines\ and\ treatments\ for\ COVID-19$ 

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By Sébastien Babou Diasso

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### **South Centre**

International Environment House 2 Chemin de Balexert 7-9 POB 228, 1211 Geneva 19 Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 791 8050 south@southcentre.int www.southcentre.int

www.ipaccessmeds.southcentre.int www.taxinitiative.southcentre.int

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