



Statement of Carlos Correa, Executive Director of the South Centre, on occasion of the Council of the Global South Research Center, Beijing, March 28th, 2025

It is an honor for me to participate at this ceremony and represent the South Centre, created 30 years ago to support the developing countries in their efforts to build up a multilateral system that works for development.

The decision by President Xi Jinping to establish the Global South Research Center shows the strong commitment of China to build up an international community with a shared future with the full participation of the Global South, which has been marginalized in the past.

A bit more than 50 years ago, the Global South was able to get the adoption of a United Nations Declaration on a New International Economic Order and a program of work. At that time, developing countries' strength was essentially based on the control over one simple but critical resource: oil. But the New International Economic Order, which aimed at a fairer international system, did not materialize – developing countries' efforts were soon neutralized by developed countries.

Today, however, the situation is very different: the Global South has emerged as a major player in the world economy. Collectively, the Global South accounts for around 45% of global GDP, up from 25% in 2000. Its participation in global R&D increased from 6% in that year to near a quarter today – the role of China is decisive. South-South trade has increased dramatically: more than 40% of goods exports from developing countries go to other developing countries, double the share in 2000. Institutions have been established to promote common policies and support investment in the Global South, such as BRICS and the New Development Bank.

In this context, the creation of the Global South Research Center is not only timely but another strategic step to coordinate the Global South by :

- Promoting common and sustainable development
- Enhancing the voice of the Global South on global governance
- Strengthening South-South Cooperation

Therefore, we can only welcome the establishment of the new Center with the Secretariat of the Center for International Knowledge on Development (CIKD), which has already made extraordinary work with the publications of reports that are informative, of high quality and inspired by the principles of international cooperation.

At the South Centre we look forward to the opportunities to cooperate with the new Center. We share the same objectives and are ready to work together.

Thank you again for your kind invitation.