



REFLECTIONS ON 30 YEARS OF THE SOUTH CENTRE



To honour the South Centre's 30th Anniversary, we are pleased to feature reflections on the South Centre's work over the years. We invited entities and individuals to share brief remarks on how the South Centre has contributed to support development efforts or, specifically, to their own work—whether through the Centre's policy support, technical assistance, capacity-building, or advocacy. These reflections highlight the strength of South-South solidarity and the impact of our collective efforts over the years. We were grateful to receive the remarks compiled in this document and deeply appreciate the contributions to this celebration of the South Centre.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reflections from the Permanent Missions at Geneva.....	3
Reflection from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica	18
Reflections from Former Diplomats in Geneva.....	19
Reflections from Organizations.....	21
Reflections from Academia	27
Other Reflections	32

Reflections from the Permanent Missions at Geneva

On the momentous occasion of the South Centre's 30th anniversary, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all those who have contributed to this remarkable journey. For three decades, the South Centre has stood as a vital pillar of multilateral cooperation, tirelessly advocating for the collective voice of the Global South and promoting equitable and inclusive development.

Your unwavering commitment to championing the interests of developing countries, fostering South-South cooperation, and ensuring a fairer global order continues to be both inspiring and indispensable. The world faces unprecedented challenges — from climate change and health crises to economic inequality — and your work has never been more relevant.

As you celebrate this important milestone, I wish the South Centre to continue to grow in strength, unity, and impact and work for the interests of developing countries and LDCs. The next chapter of South Centre may be of meaningful action, collaboration, and transformative change for a just and sustainable future for all.

*H.E. Tareq Md Ariful Islam
Ambassador and PR
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh
Geneva, Switzerland*

The Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations and other International Organisations at Geneva extends warm congratulations to the South Centre on thirty years of continuous and solid support towards the advancement of developing countries through the provision of high quality research on technical issues, policy papers and training. Through this support, developing countries, including small vulnerable economies, have a platform to deepen south-south links, coalesce around issues of importance and improve advocacy efforts in the international arena. Most of all, this is underpinned by research which has been undertaken on the impact of contemporary issues on developing countries. The South Centre has truly established itself as a leading intergovernmental think tank for the Global South bringing balance to the cadre of research which is available at the international level.

Today we need the expertise and advocacy of the South Centre even more than before and its support will become even more valuable as there is a marked reduction in official development assistance and capacity building. As such, we will need to learn more from the South on an individual and collective basis. While the global trading system is becoming more integrated, it is also becoming more complicated. Continuous support is critical in navigating the landscape and dissecting issues as they emerge, while presenting a balanced perspective. The Permanent Mission of Barbados can confirm that Barbados has benefited from the sterling contribution of the South Centre on a wide range of issues and we look forward to much more in the future.

The Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations and other International Organisations at Geneva

For three decades, the South Centre has been an indispensable partner for developing countries in advancing our shared vision of a more equitable multilateral system. The Centre's independent policy research, technical expertise, and steadfast advocacy have strengthened our collective voice in global forums – from trade and intellectual property to health and climate governance, honoring the former President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania. It has better equipped developing countries to make decisions with systemic impacts on their development and to engage in difficult negotiations well prepared with the necessary tools to defend their positions. Brazil values the Centre's role in articulating Global South perspectives in debates on development financing, technology transfer, and World Trade Organization (WTO) reforms, ensuring our priorities are not sidelined. The Centre's analyses on issues like special and differential treatment and industrial policy have directly informed our national positions and negotiating strategies.

Brazil has contributed to this important work through notable intellectual figures: Rubens Ricupero, a former Board Member, former Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and former Minister and diplomat; and the current Board Member, Cristovam Buarque, holder of a doctorate in Development Economics, former Minister of Education, and Senator for the Federal District. On this milestone, Brazil reaffirms its commitment to the South Centre's mission. As we face converging crises, the Centre's work to bridge knowledge gaps and foster solidarity among developing countries is more vital than ever. We look forward to deepening our collaboration to tackle structural inequalities and craft development-centered solutions that leave no one behind.

The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the WTO and Economic Organizations in Geneva

As the South Centre commemorates its 30th anniversary, I would like to extend to you my warm congratulations. I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the current and previous chairpersons of the Board for their leadership and to thank the Secretariat for its contribution.

Over the past thirty years, the South Centre has undertaken extraordinary work on promoting South-South cooperation, conducting research and analysis to support developing countries, and assisting developing countries to participate in global governance. China appreciates the unique contribution of the South Centre in advancing the interests of the developing community and promoting international cooperation. As one of its founding members, China has firmly supported the South Centre and has benefited from its excellent work together with other developing countries. In particular, both sides achieved new progress on implementing the Global Development Initiative (GDI). In March this year, the Chinese government launched the Global South Research Centre, which focuses on boosting research and knowledge cooperation among the Global South. The South Centre has been an important partner of this initiative in sharing valuable insight and know-how.

Nowadays, the developing community is facing many global challenges, with the external environment for their development growing more severe and uncertain. In particular, a certain developed country's unilateral decision to raise tariffs has heightened trade tensions globally. At this juncture, China looks forward to continue working with the South Centre and its Member Countries to strengthen solidarity among the Global South, uphold multilateralism, safeguard the legitimate development rights of developing countries, and implement the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CHEN Xu

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of China to the UN Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland

Colombia saluda con especial reconocimiento el trigésimo aniversario del South Centre, una organización intergubernamental que ha desempeñado un papel fundamental como espacio de reflexión, coordinación y acción colectiva de los países en desarrollo. Colombia tuvo el honor de ser uno de los Miembros fundadores del South Centre en 1994, convencida de la importancia de fortalecer la cooperación Sur-Sur y de contar con un centro de pensamiento que impulse una visión estratégica desde el Sur Global.

Durante estos 30 años, el South Centre ha sido un espacio valioso de encuentro entre países que compartimos aspiraciones, intereses y desafíos comunes en temas clave para el desarrollo sostenible. Su contribución ha sido particularmente significativa en áreas como la propiedad intelectual, el acceso equitativo a medicamentos, y la agenda medioambiental, donde ha ofrecido análisis rigurosos, apoyo técnico y herramientas para fortalecer la capacidad de negociación de los países del Sur. Colombia reitera su aprecio por la labor del South Centre y su compromiso con los principios que inspiran su mandato

Gustavo Gallón Giraldo

Embajador

Misión Permanente de Colombia ante las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra

The South Centre is key in many aspects for developing countries, but one deserves to be highlighted: it broadens the spectrum of possible discourses. Indeed, discussion topics and alternatives for solutions in international organizations are often constrained by narrow thinking, by good manners, and by path-dependency. Debates tend to remain excessively targeted and often repetitive. The South Centre is an antidote to this. The South Centre provides developing Members with broad, contextual thinking; with original ideas; and with political space that allows movements of national positions and policy choices. Whenever the South Centre introduces a new issue or proposes an alternative — always with a high level of technical expertise — it offers Members a window of opportunity to expand their thinking, enrich their speeches, and adjust their stances, both at the international and the national levels. It is truly a great helping hand to have.

Moreover, achieving poverty eradication, sustainable development, a fair green transition and sustainable technological upgrades, requires national policies and an international regime that support, rather than undermine, such efforts. In this regard, the South Centre's role is critical. As an intergovernmental policy research think-tank composed of -and accountable to- developing country Member States, the Centre conducts policy-oriented research on key development issues and supports developing countries to effectively participate in international negotiations relevant to the achievement of the SDGs. It promotes unity among the countries of the South, while fully recognizing the diversity of their national interests and priorities. Through its work, the South Centre empowers developing countries to break through the constraints of conventional discourse and advance more equitable, creative, and development-centered solutions. It is, indeed, an invaluable ally.

The Permanent Mission of Colombia to the WTO

I begin with a heartfelt apology. We have been unable to summarise in one or two few paragraphs, as requested, Cuba's message on the occasion of the South Centre's 30th anniversary, whose history is inexorably linked to the struggle of the countries of the South for their legitimate rights.

The purposes behind the founding of this institution hold greater significance today than ever, as we face an increasingly complex and challenging world.

In the midst of the 21st century, it is unacceptable that a profoundly unjust, undemocratic, and exclusionary international order continues to be imposed on most nations on the planet. Such a system is only effective in perpetuating imbalance and multiplying inequalities, poverty, hunger and exclusion. A very small minority enjoys exponential increases in wealth, while the vast majorities struggle for survival.

Our peoples cannot and must not remain testing grounds for colonial prescriptions and renewed forms of domination that perpetuate underdevelopment while filling the coffers of a select few at the expense of the South.

The alternative to the prevailing imbalances cannot stem from outdated prescriptions and governance models. Either just ideas will prevail, or disaster will strike.

Day after day, the Centre proves through its studies, analyses, and proposals that an alternative form of globalisation-a fairer and more sustainable one- is indeed possible. Its prompt, timely, and consistently well- substantiated recommendations on issues of the utmost importance to developing countries have become a hallmark of this institution.

Over the past 30 years, the South Centre has been far more than a space for research, analysis, and advisory services. It has served as a forum for reflection and debate, an untiring creator of collective awareness, and an indispensable architect of alternative synergies and narratives.

We need the Centre to continue supporting those of us who raise our voices against domination and hegemony, unilateral coercive measures, genocidal blockades such as the one imposed on the Cuban people, and the attempts to impose a single culture and model upon the world.

The Centre must remain a catalytic force in the efforts of developing countries to speak with a unified voice and close ranks against those who seek to divide us, render our realities invisible, and curtail our rights. Only through cohesion can developing countries become a key player in defending the interests of our peoples.

Cuba, as one of the founding nations of the Centre, has borne witness to its unwavering commitment to promoting the unity of the South in its diversity and advancing the progress of the South through cooperation.

Ever since the South Centre was founded, it has been an ally, consistently alerting us to emerging challenges that compound the traditional ones, while persistently urging us not to underestimate the pressing issues at hand. It has become an authentic and reliable voice, earning well-deserved prestige through its work.

Thanks to you and the talented team at the South Centre for your invaluable support. On behalf of the Cuban government and people, we extend our recognition and heartfelt appreciation to you all. Wishing you a happy 30th anniversary and every success in the future!

Rodolfo Benítez Verson
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba

Comienzo con una sincera disculpa. No nos ha resultado posible resumir en un par de párrafos, como se nos solicitó, el mensaje de Cuba en ocasión del 30 aniversario del Centro, cuya historia está inexorablemente ligada a la lucha de los países del Sur por sus legítimos derechos.

Los propósitos para los que fue creada esa institución están hoy más vigentes que nunca, cuando nos enfrentamos a un mundo más complejo y desafiante.

En pleno siglo XXI es inaceptable que a la mayoría de las naciones en el planeta se nos continúe imponiendo un orden internacional profundamente injusto, antidemocrático, y excluyente, que solo es eficiente para perpetuar el desequilibrio y multiplicar las desigualdades, la pobreza, el hambre y la exclusión. Una exigua minoría disfruta el incremento exponencial de su riqueza, mientras las amplias mayorías luchan por la supervivencia.

Nuestros pueblos no pueden ni deben seguir siendo laboratorios de recetas coloniales y de renovadas formas de dominación que perpetúan el subdesarrollo e incrementan las arcas de unos pocos a expensas del Sur.

La alternativa a los desequilibrios que hoy imperan no puede partir de las viejas recetas y modelos de gobernanza. Triunfarán las ideas justas o triunfará el desastre.

El Centro demuestra día tras día, con sus estudios, análisis y propuestas, que si es posible otra forma de globalización, más justa y sostenible. Las recomendaciones ágiles, oportunas y siempre bien argumentadas sobre los temas de mayor impacto para los países en desarrollo, se han convertido en un rasgo característico de esa institución.

En los primeros 30 años de su historia, el Centro ha sido mucho más que un lugar de investigación, análisis y asesoramiento. Ha sido un escenario de reflexión y debate; un incansable creador de conciencia colectiva, un imprescindible articulador de sinergias y de narrativas alternativas.

Necesitamos que el Centro continúe apoyando a los que alzamos la voz para rechazar la dominación y el hegemonismo, las medidas coercitivas unilaterales, los bloqueos genocidas, coma el que se aplica contra el pueblo cubano y la pretensión de imponer una cultura y un modelo únicos al mundo.

El Centro debe continuar siendo un factor catalizador en los esfuerzos para que los países en desarrollo hablemos con una sola voz y cerremos filas frente a los que pretenden dividirnos, visibilizar nuestras realidades y cercenar nuestros derechos. Solo cuando actuamos de manera cohesionada, los países en desarrollo somos un actor relevante en defensa de los intereses de nuestros pueblos.

Cuba, uno de los países los fundadores del Centro, ha sido testigo de la consistencia con que este ha promovido la unidad del Sur en la diversidad y el progreso del Sur mediante la cooperación.

Desde su nacimiento, el Centro Sur ha sido un aliado que siempre alerta sobre los retos emergentes, que se suman a las tradicionales, y nos convoca de manera consistente a no subestimar las urgencias. Se ha convertido en una voz auténtica y confiable, ganándose con su labor un merecido prestigio.

Gracias a usted y a todo el talentoso equipo del Centro Sur por su valioso apoyo. Les hacemos llegar a nombre del gobierno y pueblo cubanos nuestro reconocimiento y aprecio. ¡Feliz 30 aniversario y muchos nuevos éxitos en el future!

*Rodolfo Benítez Verson
Embajador
Representante Permanente de Cuba*

The South Centre is a valuable organization in international Geneva's milieu. The Centre's advice on international trade policy adds value to thinking by diplomatic missions in Geneva. The Centre also runs – inter alia – significant programmes on international investment and taxation. We welcome the Centre's 30th anniversary and look forward to continuing our interaction with its Membership and Staff.

José R. Sánchez-Fung, PhD

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Geneva, Switzerland

The South Centre continues to be a vital partner for developing countries in global health governance, providing timely, in-depth analysis and strategic guidance that empower our participation in complex negotiations. In particular, its support during the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) has been instrumental in strengthening the positions of the Global South, ensuring that equity, solidarity, and the right to health remain central pillars of the future pandemic agreement.

As Health Counselor of Egypt, I value the South Centre's unique ability to amplify the voices of developing countries and foster South-South cooperation. Its contribution has not only enriched our technical understanding of critical issues but has also reinforced our collective capacity to advocate for a more inclusive and balanced international health architecture.

Dr. Khaled M. Atallah

Consul & Health Counsellor

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva

The South Centre has been immensely valuable in supporting my role as Schedule Officer for WIPO at my Mission. The Centre's well-researched policy briefs and expert analyses on global development issues, particularly those affecting the Global South, have deepened my understanding of specific issues relevant to intellectual property and development. These insights have helped me prioritize meetings, align schedules with strategic interests, and better anticipate the timing and implications of key topics for discussion. Their timely updates and nuanced perspectives have made it easier for me to navigate complex negotiations and support my group with informed decisions.

The Retreat for Like-Minded Countries of the Global South in WIPO, which the Centre co-organized, was one of such timely initiatives that contributed to developing a shared understanding among Members of the South Centre and aided in coordinating positions of Like-Minded Countries in WIPO.

Audrey A. Y. Neequaye

First Secretary

Ghana Permanent Mission to the United Nations Office and other International Organisations in Geneva

I congratulate the South Centre on its 30th Anniversary.

During this period, the South Centre has been a key institution, amplifying the voice of the developing countries in global governance. Through its research and advocacy, the South Centre has consistently championed equitable solutions in trade, intellectual property, international taxation, climate finance, and public health-assisting developing countries in formulating their positions at multilateral forums and building coalitions that reflect developmental priorities of the Global South.

The enduring relevance of the South Centre lies in its ability to transform shared challenges into opportunities for collective action. The Centre's role continues to be crucial, as we navigate increasingly complex global challenges.

As a founding member and highest contributor to the South Centre, India remains committed to strengthening this institution and continue its partnership with the Centre for championing the cause of the Global South.

Arindam Bagchi

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of India to the UN Office and other International Organizations, Geneva

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the South Centre on its 30th Anniversary. This marks the importance of South Centre to support developing countries in facing the current global challenges. Over the past three decades, the South Centre has proven to be an invaluable partner in advocating developing countries and to advance its strategic position especially in negotiations across areas such as health, intellectual property, trade, investment, climate change and sustainable development.

Indonesia values the policy-oriented research, analytical support and capacity building provided by the South Centre. South Centre's enduring role in fostering South-South cooperation and solidarity has been instrumental in empowering developing countries to navigate complex global challenges and assert our shared interests. Indonesia has been an active member and looks forward to continued collaboration with the South Centre in the years ahead.

Ambassador Achsanul Habib

Chargé d'affaires

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia

Malawi extends its sincere appreciation to the South Centre for its partnership and invaluable support over the past three decades. The Centre's work has significantly enhanced Malawi's engagement in international policy processes, enabling us to participate more effectively in multilateral negotiations and to collaborate more strategically with fellow developing countries. Through its high-quality analytical papers, policy briefings, and capacity-building initiatives, the South Centre has played an important role in strengthening our technical understanding and negotiation capacity, particularly given the limited human resources of our small Missions.

As we join in commemorating this important milestone, Malawi congratulates the South Centre on its remarkable achievements over the past 30 years. We commend its continued dedication to promoting the interests of the Global South and look forward to deepening our collaboration in pursuit of equitable and sustainable development for all.

The Permanent Mission of Malawi to the UN and other International Organizations at Geneva

For three decades, the South Centre has served as a beacon of South-South solidarity, championing the voices and priorities of developing countries in the global arena. Malaysia greatly values the Centre's steadfast commitment to advancing development-centred policies in important and emerging areas such as health, intellectual property, and the digital economy. Its role in fostering knowledge exchange and policy coherence has made a lasting contribution to a more inclusive and equitable development outcomes.

As Chair of ASEAN in 2025, Malaysia reaffirms the importance of collective efforts in shaping a future that reflects the values and aspirations of the Global South. In the words of Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, "The Global South is rising, and Malaysia intends to rise with it". The South Centre embodies this vision, and Malaysia looks forward to deepening our collaboration as we work towards a more inclusive and sustainable future.

*Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations
Geneva*

The South Centre has offered and has been helpful in providing briefings on matters of interest in the Multilateral fora, of which the Namibian mission has benefited. Most notably, the South Centre's formal briefings on trade policy, the Global Digital Compact, analysis on new treaties and evolving laws negotiated in Geneva and the impact on the Global South, etc, have been particularly meaningful in navigating the multilateral process here in Geneva.

In general, Missions, like ours, with a small delegation, greatly benefit from the South Centre's expertise. Therefore, on this historic occasion of the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the South Centre, the Namibian Mission joins fellow countries in lauding an institution that has and continues to champion the interests of the Global South. As we look to the future, Namibia remains committed to deepening this collaboration.

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia

It is with great pleasure that I extend warm felicitations to Executive Director Dr. Carlos M. CORREA and his team on the occasion of the 30th Anniversary of South Centre, which has played a pivotal role in advancing the interests of developing and Least Developed Countries in the areas of international trade, intellectual property, and sustainable development ever since its establishment three decades ago in 1995.

Over the years, the South Centre has become a vital platform for research, policy analysis, publications and advocacy, and voice of the Global South in international forums, particularly the World Trade Organization, UNCTAD, and other agencies. Through its research and analyses, the Centre has commendably contributed to the learned dialogue, and shaped important decisions.

In an era of growing economic uncertainties and shifting geopolitical dynamics, the South Centre's role remains indispensable. Its contributions on issues under negotiation and discussion, such as technology transfer, public health, review of the TRIPS Agreement, agriculture and development-oriented trade policies, remain equally critical. On this milestone occasion, we commend the South Centre for its unwavering commitment to South-South solidarity, and significant contribution towards shaping a fairer international economic order. I reiterate Nepal's support and wish the South Centre all success in delivering on its important mandate in the years ahead.

His Excellency Mr. Ram Prasad SUBEDI, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, WTO, and Other International Organizations in Geneva

As a founding member of the South Centre, Pakistan acknowledges the invaluable role that the Centre continues to play in strengthening the voice and agency of the Global South in multilateral fora. Over the years, the South Centre has been instrumental in providing evidence-based policy research, technical support, and capacity-building to developing countries. Pakistan has directly benefited from the Centre's work through initiatives such as the 2022 assessment report on TRIPS flexibilities under our Patent Ordinance, a specialized workshop on Intellectual Property and Public Health in 2023, and ongoing collaboration on enhancing South-South Cooperation especially as regards the Pandemic Treaty and recently concluded WIPO Treaties. These engagements have helped Pakistan navigate complex global challenges through informed policymaking and enhanced national capacity.

We also wish to commend the South Centre's proactive role in international tax reform advocacy, reform of the sovereign debt architecture and efforts to ensure that developing nations like Pakistan are not marginalized in shaping the evolving global economic landscape. The Centre's insights and support in addressing digital taxation, illicit financial flows, and access to medical technologies have been pivotal. The Centre has remained a steadfast champion for a more equitable global political and economic order. Pakistan remains fully committed to the South Centre's mission and looks forward to deeper cooperation to advance inclusive development and reform of the global financial architecture in a manner that reflects the aspirations of the Global South.

Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Pakistan warmly congratulates the South Centre on its 30th anniversary, acknowledging its pivotal role as a voice for developing countries. Over these decades, the South Centre has adeptly championed South-South cooperation and advocated for a more equitable global system, navigating the complexities of international relations with insight and dedication. We deeply value the Centre's contributions to enhancing the capacity of developing nations, amplifying their perspectives on critical issues such as trade imbalances, the challenges of sustainable development, and the intricacies of intellectual property rights in a way that respects diverse national contexts and developmental stages.

Pakistan has benefited from the South Centre's rigorous analysis and timely technical assistance, which have proven invaluable in informing our positions in international negotiations and advancing our development objectives. The Centre's evidence-based recommendations have often provided crucial support for our efforts to promote inclusive growth and sustainable development. As the South Centre marks this important milestone, we reaffirm our commitment to continued collaboration, particularly in addressing emerging global challenges and working towards a more just and prosperous world for all.

Amb. Ali Sarfraz Hussain
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the WTO

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the South Centre, the Republic of Panama extends its heartfelt congratulations to this vital institution, which for three decades has been a cornerstone for the unity and progress of the Global South. As the intergovernmental think tank of developing countries, the South Centre has consistently empowered its Member States to defend and promote their collective interests in the international arena, providing indispensable policy research and analysis on issues that are fundamental to sustainable development, equity, and global cooperation.

Through its unwavering commitment to the principles of South unity in diversity and South progress through cooperation, the South Centre has played a crucial role in strengthening the voice of the Global South across a broad spectrum of issues — from trade, health, intellectual property, climate change, to the complex fields of international tax cooperation and financing for development. Panama values the South Centre's contributions in supporting developing countries, including Panama, to actively participate in global processes, ensuring that our perspectives and priorities are meaningfully reflected. We reaffirm our support for the South Centre and look forward to continuing our collaboration in advancing a fairer, more inclusive, and more just international order.

H.E. Juan Alberto Castillero Correa, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

As the South Centre marks its 30th anniversary, it is a moment to reflect on how far it has come—and how much more it can do. This milestone is not only a celebration of past achievements but a reaffirmation of a shared commitment to building a just and inclusive world for the Global South. The Centre's role as an essential platform for developing countries remains more crucial than ever. For three decades, the South Centre has championed South-South cooperation, equitable development, and a more just and inclusive global governance system.

For countries like the Philippines, the Centre has provided critical research, policy support, and a space for cooperation, including working through shared challenges—from trade and public health to climate change, among others. The Philippines also recognizes the necessary work and contribution of the South Centre, especially on specific thematic issues such as policies on tax cooperation and on curbing illicit financial flows. We acknowledge the vital role that the South Centre can have in advancing development goals of the Philippines and other countries from the Global South by supporting their voices in multilateral negotiations, including by providing policy and technical advice as well as capacity building, and helping to promote the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In a world where the voice of smaller nations usually gets drowned out, the South Centre reminds us that there is strength in solidarity. Marking this anniversary is also an invitation to continue to do things together, learn from each other, and build a future where cooperation is paramount.

On behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, I congratulate the South Centre on the 30th anniversary of its establishment.

*Ambassador Carlos D. Sorreta
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva*

As the South Centre marks 30 years of service to the Global South, South Africa expresses its deep appreciation to an institution that has a proud record of conducting research, analysing data, and formulating policy recommendations that have helped developing countries to make informed policy choices on a wide range of social, economic, and development issues.

South Africa values independent thinking, and principled advocacy, values the South Centre has upheld, particularly in the areas of trade, health, and intellectual property. Its work has enabled countries of the South to engage with coherence and confidence in complex global negotiations.

As South Africa holds the G20 Presidency, the first by an African country, we reaffirm the importance of restoring stability to the global trading system and placing development back at the centre of multilateral cooperation. The South Centre's role in shaping fairer trade rules, offering strategic advice, and promoting South-led policy thinking remains vital in this effort.

Looking ahead, we believe that the Centre is as relevant now as it was before, given the changing geopolitical landscape, including increased polarisation, deepening inequality between developing and developed countries. In this regard, the South Centre will be a vital instrument for providing critical analysis to enable countries of the Global South to navigate this evolving world characterised by great uncertainty and complexity. South Africa stands ready to support this mission.

Happy 30th birthday to the South Centre. May it continue to guide, unite, and empower the South for decades to come.

Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations and other International Organisations

The South Centre has been a valuable partner to developing country delegations in navigating the multiplicity of meetings in international Geneva and understanding their relevance and importance to the global south. Policy briefs and papers published by the Centre as well as its focussed briefings have been invaluable in addressing issues of economic and development challenges spread across international trade, debt, taxation, climate change and health among many others.

Sri Lanka has hugely benefited from the technical inputs and policy guidelines of the Centre. The South Centre has been particularly useful in guiding the smaller delegations of the global south, most working without technical experts of their own, to understand the intricacies of technically complex issues. Active participation of the Centre in negotiations dealing with trade, development, intellectual property and health in particular have added value and strengthened the participation of developing country delegations.

As a long-standing member with a close connection through former Board Member Dr Gamani Corea, who also headed the Centre's Policy and Research Committee, Sri Lanka has maintained a close cooperation and active engagement with the South Centre. On its 30th anniversary, Sri Lanka wishes the South Centre all the best and many more years of productive work to help the global south to strengthen its voice in multilateral fora.

Himalee Arunatilaka

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the UN in Geneva

The South Centre has been a steadfast partner to Sri Lanka in our pursuit of trade- and development-oriented global engagement. For smaller missions such as ours, which often operate with limited resources, the Centre's policy research and expert analysis—particularly in the areas of trade and development—have been indispensable. The Centre has consistently provided us with high-quality, timely inputs that help level the playing field and amplify the voices of smaller developing countries in multilateral processes.

Its work enables countries like Sri Lanka to participate more meaningfully in international negotiations and to advocate for outcomes that reflect our national interests and development priorities. In many ways, the South Centre complements and extends the reach of smaller missions, allowing us to punch above our weight in international forums. We deeply value this partnership and look forward to continued collaboration in advancing equitable and inclusive global trade.

R.G.S Wijesekara

Ambassador/PR of Sri Lanka to the WTO

The South Centre plays an indispensable role in amplifying Tanzania's voice within the Global South, providing essential policy research, technical expertise, and advocacy support on key international issues. Through its engagement, Tanzania has strengthened its ability to shape fairer global policies, particularly in trade, by upholding critical principles like Special and Differential Treatment, defending access to medicines and vaccine equity, and protecting Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge through effective use of TRIPS flexibilities. The Centre has consistently empowered Tanzanian policymakers with evidence-based strategies across major platforms such as the WTO, WHO, WIPO, ILO, ITU, and the UN, ensuring that our development priorities are firmly represented in global decision-making.

Beyond technical support, the South Centre has been a catalyst for South-South collaboration, enabling Tanzania to build alliances with other developing nations in pursuit of reforms in digital governance, health, finance, taxation, and sustainable development. Through its workshops, policy briefs, and direct advisory services, it has fortified Tanzania's ability to defend its policy space in critical areas such as trade, human rights, climate justice, and technology transfer. As we navigate an increasingly complex multilateral system, the South Centre remains a crucial ally, helping Tanzania not only to safeguard its interests but also to contribute to building a more equitable and inclusive global order.

The Permanent Mission of Tanzania

It is a great honor for the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization to join others in commemorating the 30th anniversary of the South Centre as a think-tank institution that has consistently stood alongside developing countries, empowering them to engage more effectively in multilateral negotiations. Amidst the evolving social, economic, and environmental challenges faced by developing countries—now further exacerbated by increasing geopolitical complexity—the South Centre, over the decades, has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to supporting the protection and promotion of the Global South's unity and progress within international fora.

Although Thailand is not a member of the South Centre, we share our spirit and vision of inclusive development that leaves no one behind. We are committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Notably, Thailand has benefited from the South Centre's insightful policy research, technical support, capacity building, and timely policy briefings. These valuable contributions have enriched our work in many areas, including trade and investment, innovation and intellectual property, climate change and other environmental issues, and health and food security. At this important milestone, Thailand extends its sincerest appreciation to the South Centre for its commendable contribution to developing countries. We look forward to further collaboration in pursuing the shared goals of sustainable and equitable development, and wish the South Centre every success in the years to come.

H.E. Mrs. Pimchanok Pitfield, Permanent Representative of Thailand to the World Trade Organization and the World Intellectual Property Organization

La República Bolivariana de Venezuela mantiene históricos lazos de unión y cooperación con el Centro Sur. Desde su ingreso en el año 2005, por decisión del Comandante Hugo Chávez Frías, Venezuela ha contado con su acompañamiento, en la ardua tarea de hacer frente a los importantes desafíos del mundo en desarrollo. Deseo destacar particularmente el apoyo irrestricto que recibimos del Centro Sur en ocasión de nuestra presidencia pro-tempore del Movimiento de Países No Alineados (MNOAL), entre los años 2016 al 2019, así como el permanente e invaluable acompañamiento en temas de gran importancia para nuestro país como Comercio, Salud y Propiedad Intelectual y otros de la agenda de desarrollo.

Venezuela enfrenta desde hace varios años los nefastos efectos de la imposición de ilegales Medidas Coercitivas Unilaterales, mecanismo que se ha convertido en una de las armas más utilizadas por los países desarrollados para enmarcar las relaciones internacionales de acuerdo a sus intereses estratégicos. En este sentido, reiteramos la importancia que para Venezuela tiene contar con el Centro Sur como un importante aliado en el estudio y en la denuncia de las Medidas Coercitivas Unilaterales, valorando el esfuerzo que viene realizando para visibilizar y concientizar, desde una perspectiva académica, sobre los efectos de las criminales MCU, no solo para los países que las sufren, sino también para toda la agenda de desarrollo.

Misión Permanente de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela ante la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas y demás Organismos Internacionales con sede en Ginebra

As the South Centre celebrates its 30th Anniversary, Zambia wishes to express profound appreciation for the policy research work of the Centre, which has significantly contributed to, and supported Zambia's effective participation in multilateral dialogues. Of particular noting are the analytical briefs which have enhanced the capacity of Zambia in various engagements, including WHO - Pandemic Treaty, Intellectual Property, Trade, Human Rights and sustainable development. The Centre's work has been instrumental in facilitating informed participation of Zambia in various multilateral negotiations.

We congratulate the South Centre for attaining the 30-year milestone and encourage them to continue undertaking Policy research on topical matters of interest to Developing Countries and LDCs. We wish the South Centre all the best for the future and stand ready to continue the constructive engagement we have enjoyed over the years.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Zambia to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Zimbabwe joins other Member States in congratulating the South Centre, as it celebrates 30 years of hard work and fruitful engagements with Member States, in guiding and leading them in pursuit of their agenda for sustainable development. The theme "Reflections on 30 Years of the South Centre" is a befitting tribute to the immense contribution Member States have received from the South Centre in the preceding 30 years by means of policy support, technical assistance, capacity building and advocacy. The Global South, including Zimbabwe, is proud to have partnered the South Centre in defending and protecting common interests amid competing and conflicting priorities, especially with the developed world.

Unfortunately, the world is at a crossroads, facing multidimensional challenges, emerging crises, and geo-political tensions, that have combined to undermine the validity of multilateralism, inclusive and collective decisions, for the benefit of all Member States. The growing propensity for unilateralism, protectionism, and the resort to Unilateral Coercive Measures (UCMs) has continued to retard the capacity for meaningful responses to challenges such as climate change. Equally, we have lagged behind on most, if not all, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), leaving the transformative 2030 Agenda and its mantra of leaving no one behind unachievable objectives.

The South Centre, and its promotion of South-South cooperation and partnership, remains a viable driving force for sustainable development among developing countries. Its policy guidance is more relevant now in our quest for structural economic transformation, prosperity and the future we want for us all.

Zimbabwe remains committed to the role of the South Centre, particularly its detailed papers, proffering well-argued policy options on critical issues, including the widespread impact of UCMs on the lives and livelihoods of millions of ordinary Zimbabweans, and the citizens of other sanctioned developing countries.

We fully endorse the advocacy stance, adopted by the South Centre, in support of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of the Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights, Professor Alena Douhan, whose fearless efforts continue to provide innovative insights into measures that should be adopted to mitigate the devastating impact of the hostile UCMs. It is becoming more difficult for the UCM-imposing countries to ignore the compelling evidence provided by systematic research on the damage caused by these illegal sanctions imposed outside the mandate of the

United Nations Security Council.

Zimbabwe wishes the South Centre continued success and takes this opportunity to reaffirm its unwavering support, as we reflect, with great satisfaction, on the role it has played over the last 30 years. Long live the South Centre and its partnership with the Global South.

The Permanent Mission of Zimbabwe

Reflection from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica

The South Centre has proven to be a key partner in supporting Jamaica's development goals by providing policy-oriented research, policy advice, capacity-building initiatives, and a forum for South-South cooperation. In keeping with Jamaica's status as a small island developing State with limited resources, the Centre has offered critical support to the country in navigating complex global negotiations in several areas, including health, e-commerce, environment, intellectual property and trade. Through its expert-driven policy briefs and papers, the South Centre has aided Jamaica's efforts to advocate effectively within various fora, such as the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). This support has been instrumental in bolstering Jamaica's advocacy efforts within the aforementioned multilateral fora.

Jamaica commends the South Centre for its steadfast commitment to advancing the interests and priorities of the Global South over the years. Jamaica has proudly contributed to the Centre's *SouthViews Newsletter* – an important publication that amplifies the voice of developing countries and offers the perspective of the Global South on topical issues. By facilitating knowledge-sharing and strengthening cooperation among developing nations, the Centre has enabled Jamaica to collaborate with like-minded countries on common challenges and opportunities. This collaboration has enhanced Jamaica's ability to formulate targeted positions and bolster its technical capacity, in order to promote inclusive growth and development. As the South Centre marks its 30th anniversary, Jamaica offers its heartiest congratulations and reaffirms its dedication to a continued partnership with the South Centre towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Reflections from Former Diplomats in Geneva

Drawing from my extensive experience as former Ambassador of Ecuador in Geneva and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, I can attest to the profound impact of the South Centre's work. Over the past three decades, the Centre has been an invaluable ally for developing countries, fostering essential South-South cooperation and advocating for a more just and equitable global governance system. From my perspective, the South Centre's expertise has been particularly instrumental in critical international discussions, most notably in the foundational stages of the negotiations for a Legally Binding Instrument on Business and Human Rights. Their timely policy support, technical assistance, and capacity-building initiatives were crucial in enabling effective participation and ensuring that the unique perspectives and challenges faced by developing nations were brought to the forefront of these vital debates.

The South Centre is far more than just a think tank; it is a vital platform that facilitates the convergence of views among developing countries within multilateral forums. By providing robust analysis and fostering coordinated strategies, the Centre significantly amplifies the collective voice of the developing world, strengthening our ability to defend our shared interests. This collaborative approach is fundamental to building resilience and enhancing self-reliance in an increasingly complex global landscape. The South Centre consistently champions the spirit of South-South Cooperation, highlighting its transformative potential. As the South Centre marks its 30th anniversary, I express my deep appreciation for its unwavering commitment and look forward to its continued vital role in shaping a more balanced and inclusive international order.

Amb. Luis Gallegos

As the Centre commemorates its 30th anniversary, it is an honour to share some reflection on the many beneficial engagements I had with - and at - the South Centre (SC) on a range of trade and trade-related matters over two decades. The SC's sustained analytical work on the policy, technical and legal dimensions of international trade at the WTO has been decisive in shaping the perspectives and approach to these complex matters through engagement with developing country Ministers, diplomats and officials. While I was fortunate to benefit directly from SC's work during two postings to the WTO, first as a South African official from 1998 to 2002, then as South Africa's Ambassador to the WTO from 2014 to 2018, SC's work has also informed work on trade at national levels.

Two contributions stand out in my reflection. First, the SC provided a forum where developing country officials could engage openly on the dynamics of the day to day WTO trade issues and be empowered by drawing on the wealth of institutional memory of the politics, technicalities and legalities of those matters as they were embedded in the SC. Second, while the SC was never present in any formal WTO negotiating meeting, the policy and advocacy produced at the SC informed all those engagements. As the Centre commemorates its 30 year anniversary, it should take heart and celebrate its profound contribution over so many years but also renew its commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to construct fair, equitable trading arrangements that genuinely supports their national development objectives.

Ambassador Xavier Carim

South Africa's former Permanent Representative to the WTO

Thanks to the esteemed organization and its great professionals who, at all times, have helped the understanding of policy makers, government employees, and NGOs around the world on the issues at the international agenda.

The real think tank brings issues of concern and interest of countries in need. This is the South Centre.

Moreover, it has brought great analysis and smooth education on various issues of concern and interest for developing and least developed countries.

Thanks is never enough. Thank you so much and looking forward towards continuous improvement.

Fakhry Al-Hazaima

Reflections from Organizations

The Centre for WTO Studies (CWTOS) warmly congratulates the South Centre on its 30th anniversary. Over the years, the two institutions have worked closely to advance the interests of developing and least developed countries in the global trading system. Their collaboration spans key areas such as agriculture, TRIPS and access to medicines, WTO reform, fisheries, food security, public stockholding, and digital trade, along with joint advocacy and technical support. Notably, CWTOS and the South Centre have partnered on important milestones including the Doha Development Round, agriculture modalities, the Bali Peace Clause and ongoing negotiations on a permanent solution for public stockholding. The South Centre's strength in translating complex trade and legal issues into simpler, practical insights has been valuable for policymakers across the Global South.

Through joint research, workshops, and coordination in WTO negotiations, this partnership has helped shape more balanced and inclusive trade rules. It reflects the essence of South-South cooperation—anchored in shared goals, technical expertise, and mutual respect. CWTOS deeply values its long-standing relationship with the South Centre and looks forward to continuing this collaboration to support developing countries including Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in navigating future trade challenges.

Dr. Sachin Kumar Sharma
The Centre for WTO Studies (CWTOS)

I am pleased to share my reflections on the remarkable contributions of the South Centre as it commemorates its 30th anniversary. Over the years, the South Centre has been a vital force in supporting development across the Global South. Through its dedicated research and advocacy, the Centre has united developing countries, enabling them to participate effectively in international discussions.

The South Centre has partnered with the **Fleming Fund**, a UK aid programme, since 2018. This project, funded by the Fleming Fund, has supported increased awareness and action in response to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Recent successes include facilitating the adoption of an AMR resolution at the World Health Assembly and organizing a regional Africa AMR conference in Zambia, which brought together stakeholders from 38 countries. These actions, supported by the UK government, have strengthened global AMR governance, promoting a One Health approach and fostering significant improvements in public health, agriculture, and environmental sectors. I look forward to the excellent work that the South Centre will deliver over the next 30 years.

Dame Sally Davies
United Kingdom Special Envoy for AMR

On behalf of the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, I extend warm congratulations to the South Centre on its 30th anniversary. For three decades, the South Centre has served as a vital voice for the Global South, advocating for equity, justice, and sustainable development. Its unique role in shaping fairer multilateral rules and policies—particularly in areas such as intellectual property, biodiversity, and climate resilience—has supported our shared objectives of food security, farmers' rights, and sustainable agriculture.

The Treaty Secretariat has greatly valued the South Centre's principled leadership and its commitment to strengthening developing countries' capacities in global negotiations. Its policy insights and support for South-South cooperation have enriched our efforts to ensure that the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources are guided by inclusiveness, fairness, and solidarity. We look forward to continued collaboration in championing the rights of smallholder farmers and fostering resilient and equitable food systems.

Dr. Kent Nnadozie

Secretary

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

The South Centre in Geneva since its founding in 1995 has remained the heart of the retention of a 'Global South' perspective and spirit on many of the global issues of our time. Despite the waning of new multilateral initiatives and the increasing challenges to the sustenance of global rules and processes, the South Centre besides its own voice, has helped developing country Embassies located in Geneva and elsewhere to research, deliberate and evolve strategies in responding to ongoing issues such as the SDGs, trade, debt, climate change, innovation and intellectual property rights, global governance and migration. Its policy advice and technical support has also enhanced the leveraging capacity of organizations such as the UNCTAD as well as G77 & China in navigating global multilateral challenges.

Following his work in UNCTAD and the South Commission, and pursuant to the important role played by its founder, Dr. Gamani Corea - as an initiator, member of the Board and later Chairperson of the South Centre between 1995-2003, **The Gamani Corea Foundation** has continued to collaborate with and benefit from the work of the South Centre. In recent years efforts have been underway to consolidate this collaboration through a more formal instrument and to partner with the South Centre in its advocacy for the 'Global South'. Such a role is even more crucial in the present global context.

Mr. Ravinatha Aryasinha, former Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Sri Lanka's former Permanent Representative to the United Nations, as well as Ambassador to the US; Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union; and Consul-General to Switzerland

For over thirty years, the South Centre has been a vital voice for the Global South, championing collective interests, promoting South-South solidarity, and shaping global policy through policy research and strategic expertise. Its steadfast support to countries from the Global South navigating complex multilateral systems has enabled them to assert their development priorities and protect hard-won gains.

In today's shifting geopolitical landscape, where global health and development progress face mounting threats, the South Centre's role is more critical than ever. Its long-standing efforts to advance fairer trade, health, and intellectual property rules provide a powerful platform for tackling global health inequities and defending the right to health.

At the Global Centre for Health Diplomacy and Inclusion (CeHDI), we value our partnership with the South Centre and its unwavering dedication to strengthening the voice and agency of the Global South. We look forward to deepening our collaboration to help make health a universal right, not a privilege.

Haileyesus Getahun
CEO and Founder
CeHDI

The South Centre has significantly supported G-NEXID's efforts on food security through its involvement in the joint Working Group on Food Security for the Global South. This platform facilitates collaboration among G-NEXID Members and key stakeholders in agrifood systems to tackle financial challenges related to food security. A notable achievement of this partnership was the organization of a workshop during our 2024 Annual General Meeting on 31 July 2024. Titled "Agriculture Value-Chain Financing," the workshop focused on exploring innovative financing strategies to enhance food security, build resilient supply chains, and promote sustainable food systems in the Global South.

Alejandro Gómez, Coordinator
Global Network of Export-Import Banks and Development Finance Institutions
(G-NEXID)

On behalf of SEATINI, I am honoured to join in commemorating the 30th anniversary of the South Centre. This milestone is not only a moment of celebration, but also an occasion for deep reflection on the Centre's pivotal role in advancing the interests of the Global South in the multilateral trading system.

South Centre has been unwaveringly committed to providing technical expertise, policy analysis, and capacity building to Civil Society Organizations, Private Sector and Negotiators from the Global South especially the Africa Group thus strengthening and advancing Africa's position against all odds. South Centre's role is more crucial now more than ever before. We look forward to walking this journey together.

Ms. Jane Nalunga, Executive Director, Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) Uganda

From our perspective at the Tax Justice Network, the South Centre's unique position as an intergovernmental think tank, of and for the countries of the Global South, is an enormously valuable one. The position allows the South Centre to play a critical role in analysing and supporting effective responses to the fundamental injustice of international tax rules that systematically deny countries of the South a fair share of taxing rights. An estimated half a trillion dollars a year of revenues are lost to tax abuse, with the damage disproportionately imposed on countries of the South.

The South Centre Tax Initiative has been a powerful ally for its member countries and for the global tax justice movement, providing robust technical analysis and a valuable forum to strengthen political engagement. We look forward to working closely with the South Centre over the crucial next three years in which the negotiation of the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation provides the unprecedented opportunity to set tax rules that are globally inclusive and truly effective against the scourge of cross-border tax abuse.

*Alex Cobham
Chief executive
Tax Justice Network*

The Transnational Institute congratulates the South Centre on its 30th anniversary. The South Centre plays a unique role as the think tank supporting developing countries to promote their common interests in the international arena. For TNI, it has provided an invaluable space for dialogues among civil society organisations, associated intellectuals and Southern governments on international questions of direct relevance to socio-economic transformation in the South. Over the decades, TNI and the South Centre have cooperated on a number of relevant issues -- from helping Southern trade negotiators understand the Global Europe trade strategy back in 2008; to getting Southern government support for the initiation of negotiations on a UN Treaty on Transnational Corporations and human rights in 2014; from raising awareness of the implications of now widely discredited investor protection clauses in Bilateral Investment Treaties around 2015; to unpacking 'multistakeholderism' (aka outsourcing global policy to Northern corporations) as a new model for global governance in the run-up to the UN Summit of the Future in 2024. On all these fronts, we have seen significant progress thanks to South Centre's facilitation of dialogues. We salute the South Centre for the invaluable role it has played these past three decades, and look forward to future cooperation that can help Southern governments navigate together the challenges of today and tomorrow in the best interests of their peoples.

Fiona Dove, Executive Director, Transnational Institute (TNI)

As the Global South grapples with current polycrisis and faces an uncertain and unpredictable future, due in part to threat to multilateralism and reversing of international development cooperation commitments, stronger partnerships, underpinned by the core tenets and principles of South-South Cooperation, can help the developing countries, especially the most vulnerable, in addressing the complex and intractable development challenges, and UNOSSC looks forward to jointly identifying priorities in research, policy advice, capacity building, and advocacy.

The South Centre and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation share a common vision, and both institutions have had mutually beneficial collaboration on several policy support, joint research, and capacity-development initiatives for several years, including through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and through a Statement of Intent (SoI) jointly also with the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB). The South Centre has also served in the Steering Committee of the South-South Global Thinkers Initiative, contributing significantly to shaping research agendas that address the development needs of the Global South. These research efforts helped inform policy development and implementation strategies for South-South and triangular cooperation. We look forward to our further engagement with the Centre as we embark upon the new phase of the project with a revitalized Network of think and do-tanks, as well as through various other UNOSSC-led initiatives since the priority areas of the South Centre also resonate well with the UNOSSC priorities.”

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

On behalf of the West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF), we extend our warmest congratulations to the South Centre on its 30th anniversary. Over the years, the South Centre has played an indispensable role in promoting equitable global governance by advancing the voices and interests of developing countries, particularly in the areas of taxation, trade, finance, and sustainable development. Its work has significantly contributed to shaping international discourse on key issues affecting the Global South, enabling countries and regional bodies like WATAF to engage from an informed and empowered position.

WATAF has particularly appreciated the South Centre’s thought leadership and technical contributions in the area of international taxation, including capacity building on tax justice and curbing illicit financial flows. These efforts have reinforced our advocacy for fair and transparent tax systems across West Africa and strengthened our member countries’ ability to participate in global tax policy discussions. We celebrate the South Centre’s unwavering commitment to South-South cooperation and look forward to continued partnership in promoting sustainable, inclusive development across our regions.

The West African Tax Administration Forum (WATAF)

I would like to congratulate the South Centre on its 30th anniversary for all the efforts in advancing the interests of developing countries. The South Centre not only undertakes very important research and analysis on various international policy areas that are relevant to the protection and promotion of the development interests of developing countries to achieve equitable development, including how to manage intellectual property in a manner that maximizes public health benefits, but it closely works with WHO providing technical advice and capacity building to developing countries in accordance to the recommendations included in the WHO Global Strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property. Looking forward to continue and improve our collaboration to promote access to and innovation of new health technologies.

Erika Dueñas Loayza, Technical Officer, Access to Medicines and Health Products Division, World Health Organization

Reflections from Academia

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the South Centre on its 30th anniversary. The South Centre has made a profound contribution in shaping equitable global health and promoting the interests of the Global South in international intellectual property policy discourse. Through its rigorous research and advocacy, the Centre has provided an essential platform for critical engagement on issues of public health, intellectual property, and access to medicines. My association with the South Centre has significantly enriched my scholarly work and policy-oriented research. My work with the South Centre - ranging from analyses of TRIPS flexibilities and vaccine nationalism to the importance of localized supply chains - has benefited immensely from the Centre's commitment to fostering evidence-based policy advocacy and bringing together diverse voices for important discussions. The recognition of these publications across global academic platforms, including Google Scholar and SSRN's top download lists, underscores the Centre's role in amplifying impactful scholarship.

The Centre's unwavering commitment to evidence-based policy development and its support for independent research have been instrumental in shaping my contributions to the discourse on affordable access to essential medicines, vaccine equity, and pandemic preparedness. Presenting at the *2nd Global Forum on Intellectual Property, Access to Medicines, and Innovation* in Geneva was a particularly enriching experience, reinforcing the Centre's role as a convenor of critical dialogue. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the South Centre and commend its enduring dedication to fostering inclusivity, equity, fairness, sustainable development, and social justice. I look forward to continued engagement with the Centre in the years ahead in pursuit of our shared goals.

Muhammad Zaheer Abbas, Lecturer, Queensland University of Technology, Australia

The South Centre has been instrumental in reinforcing our national efforts to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

In 2022 and 2024, we had the privilege of receiving the South Centre's support to implement awareness activities during World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW). Through this collaboration, the Genomic Pathogens Laboratory – One Health at the University Joseph KI-ZERBO in Burkina Faso has played a key role in raising awareness and fostering behavioural change in local communities. A crucial aspect of this effort has been the active involvement of students trained on AMR, equipping them to lead advocacy and educational initiatives.

These campaigns emphasized the responsible use of antimicrobials and the adoption of improved hygiene practices among market gardeners, slaughterhouse workers, farmers, and vendors in local markets—key stakeholders in the food and agriculture sectors, where antimicrobial misuse remains a pressing concern.

We deeply appreciate the South Centre's unwavering commitment to inclusive development and public health, and we look forward to further strengthening this collaboration to expand AMR awareness and action

*Isidore Bonkougou, Associate Professor in Microbiology
Head of Genomic Pathogens Lab-One Health-University Joseph KI-ZERBO, Burkina Faso
Coordinator of training program: AMR - Bioinformatics and One Health Approach, University Joseph KI-ZERBO, Burkina Faso
Head of Central Reference Lab, National Public Health Institute, Burkina Faso*

Congratulations to the South Centre on your 30th anniversary! Thank you for your strong leadership and advocacy for equitable and affordable access to effective antibiotics. It has been a privilege to collaborate with you on many occasions during the last two decades to advance the global response to antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Otto Cars
Professor emeritus, infectious diseases
Uppsala University, Sweden
Founder of ReAct

The South Centre has been a constant reference throughout my academic journey since the early years. However, it was during my doctoral research, focused on the negotiations surrounding intellectual property rights and the Brazilian and Argentine proposal for a development agenda at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), that the organisation's research papers and policy briefs became truly indispensable. The South Centre's publications were essential not only for providing a precise and up-to-date mapping of the political and institutional dynamics involved but also for playing a key role in shaping a critical and well-structured perspective on the challenges and asymmetries of the international intellectual property regime. Today, I feel genuinely proud to have published two research papers for the South Centre, contributing to an institution that played a crucial role in my academic formation and in shaping my critical perspective on intellectual property global regulations.

Henrique Zeferino de Menezes
Professor at the Federal University of Paraiba, Brazil

The South Centre's work on international tax has made an enormous contribution over the past two decades. Initially, it focused mainly on supporting members of the UN Committee of Experts, advising them on issues being considered by the Committee, and organising coordination sessions just before the Committee's meetings. More recently, as the issue of international tax reform has come to the top of the agenda of global governance, it has been able to increase the resources devoted to this issue, including an active program of research and publication. This has made a major impact through the key role that developing countries are now playing in leading the historic move to create a new global institutional basis for international tax cooperation through the United Nations. Through this work the South Centre has greatly helped to shape the global governance of the crucial issue of tax for the benefit of developing countries.

Sol Picciotto
Emeritus Professor, Lancaster University
Senior Research Fellow, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, School of Advanced Studies, University of London
Visiting Professor, Centre for Law, Regulation and Governance of the Global Economy (GLOBE), University of Warwick
Coordinator, BEPS Monitoring Group

Many South countries are struggling to cope with integrating themselves in the international trade and investment systems without jeopardizing their developmental needs. For decades, the South Centre has been continually initiating many research projects to aid the South countries with this daunting task. I have personally benefited a lot from the endeavours of the South Centre, especially the research projects concerning the use of TRIPS flexibilities by South countries as well as the research projects on how to use FDI to achieve sustainable development. I find the publications of the South Centre in this regard truly enlightening in providing South countries with clear and constructive guidance on how to engage with the ever-changing realm of international trade and investment.

Reem Anwar Ahmed Raslan
Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Cairo University

The South Centre's 30th Anniversary reaches us in a time where unilateralism is being praised and the long US based international rules are being destroyed by the US itself. Those US based multilateral rules which the South Centre for 30 years has intensively worked to amend and make more favourable, just, equitable and workable in favour of the growth and development of developing and least developed countries, are now facing dissolution and replacement by a system based on individual power, arbitrariness, unilateral sanctions, the law of the strongest and the interests of the most developed world economies.

Under these conditions, the role of the South Centre needs to be revisited under two sets of agreements. Those that protect and defend their members from pervasive unilateral action of the strongest economies and attempts to force them to align with one or the other major powers. And those based on the rules the South Centre have been proposing for 30 years to amend the international multilateral system in favour of convergence and sustainable development. Special efforts must be made to rethink the intellectual property rights system to make it more compatible with competition, innovation, conservation and sustainability.

Santiago Roca
Past President of the competition and intellectual property authority in Perú (INDECOPI)
Professor of Economics, CENTRUM Graduate Business School, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú

The South Centre has much to celebrate as it commemorates its 30th anniversary. A quarter century ago, as a young Rockefeller Foundation program officer, I had recognized then, and it remains true today, that without equity and fairness in access to knowledge, the divide between have's and have not's in this world would never be bridged. Lifting up the voices from the Global South would be critical to leveling the playing field in shaping the global debates over intellectual property rights. So the Foundation invested in the voice of an emerging legal scholar working with the South Centre, later joined to a process with the World Health Organization, on intellectual property rights and access to medicines. That voice, Carlos Correa, would later become the Executive Director of the South Centre.

Leaving the Foundation, I turned my attention to the challenge of tackling antimicrobial resistance. Drug-resistant pathogens crossed borders readily, making this a global health issue, where the biology of drug resistance and the economics of bringing antibiotics to market were at odds. The South Centre recognized the catalytic importance of ensuring this cornerstone to modern-day medicine that defied traditional business models would require a coordinated global response to address both the scientific and economic challenges. It co-organized and hosted our founding of the Antibiotic Resistance Coalition in 2014 as the first intersectoral coalition of civil society groups and the South Centre. Our Innovation+Design Enabling Access (IDEA) Initiative at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health continues to partner with the South Centre. Working with the next generation of South Centre leaders, Viviana Muñoz Tellez, we laid out a vision for the next steps for global governance and policy action to address antimicrobial resistance, in the lead up to the UN General Assembly's High-Level Meeting this past September. It has been a remarkable journey, and no doubt, the South Centre will continue to play a vital role in shaping global health policy and access to knowledge for decades to come.

Anthony D. So

Distinguished Professor of the Practice and Director, Innovation+Design Enabling Access (IDEA) Initiative, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

My sincere congratulations on reaching the milestone of 30 years.

South Centre has indeed made its mark as one of the key institutions available to countries in the Global South. It has worked consistently over 3 decades to advance their interests by providing exemplary advice, guidance and practical training to enable such countries to better withstand the challenges confronting them in the areas of health, sustainable development, including in trade, intellectual property and human rights. I have personally participated in, and witnessed, several engagements that the Centre has had with various country, regional and global forums, and can attest to the quality of training and resource and policy support that has been offered. The Centre's input in advising the South African Government in drafting a progressive and pro-poor IP Policy has been seminal. As has been the training offered to patent examination offices in many regions.

Another major contribution of the South Centre has been in the area of research. Its excellent anthology of research publications is testimony to this. It has encouraged and supported both theoretical and practical studies in the Global South, and contributed immensely to developing scholarship in the South in disciplines previously dominated by developed countries. I have also been a beneficiary of such support, and have always been impressed by the collegiality and encouragement of your personnel and organisation. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you.

May the South Centre continue to grow in strength!

Yousuf A Vawda, Senior Research Associate, School of Law, University of KwaZulu-Natal

We believe that the point of scholarship is to change the system. Academic journals are not sufficient to impact policymaking in *realtime*. We are grateful to The South Centre for expediting publications. Through The South Centre Research Papers, we have levered and expanded our arguments previously published in the peer-reviewed literature.

A Google Search of the “Global Multilateral Benefit-sharing Mechanism” (Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol to the UNCBD) continues to rank our Research Paper No. 160 as a top hit--some three years after its publication. Even more heartening, a Google Search of the landmark “Decision 15/9” ranked Research Paper No. 210 as *the* top hit during COP16 in October 2024. The South Centre instills hope that the system will change.

Joseph Henry Vogel, Professor of Economics, University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras
Manuel Ruiz Muller, International Legal Consultant

I got to know of the South Centre in 2012 when I started working for SEATINI-Uganda. At that time, the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) Negotiations between the European Union (EU) and African Regional Economic Communities (RECs) were at their height. While with onerous provisions which could negatively impact regional integration, revenue and industrialisation in Africa, the EU mounting pressure on African RECs and individual countries therein (especially the non-LDCs) to finalise the negotiations and eventually ratify the EPA. Through policy papers, memos on counter proposals, briefing notes and discussion papers, the South Centre stepped in to convince African countries like Tanzania, Uganda and Nigeria to rethink the rushed conclusion of the EPAs. To date, thanks to efforts by the South Centre which even supported African CSOs in the same way, the EPAs remain largely unratified by RECs like the East African Community (EAC) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Finally, the South Centre has been critical in supporting research and publication by scholars from the Global South, giving them a voice to speak to development policy. I have been one of the privileged to have my Paper on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) published when key journals rejected it on grounds of it being too critical of the AfCFTA. But by being objective and yet impartial, the South Centre published this paper, giving it a bigger and international platform to speak to policy makers and development commentators on regional integration in Africa. I therefore commend the South Centre for its 30 years Anniversary and thank it for remaining steadfast in its goal of being the voice for the global south in development policy.

Africa Kiiza, PhD Fellow, Hamburg University

Other Reflections

There are many things that the developing world remembers Julius Nyerere for, and one of these is the founding of the South Centre as a global South think tank on world issues. Given its limited resources, the contribution the South Centre has made in articulating the developing world perspective on global issues is remarkable. While the West has umpteen institutions tirelessly producing policy analysis outputs to be subsequently adopted as global, even as they are grossly unfair on the North-South divide, in the South we have barely a few such independent institutions, even the rare ones we have often depend on western funding for their existence, with predictable impact on their outputs. South Centre's significance therefore is critical.

My relation with the Centre dates back to its early years. I am happy that some of my contributions to the South Bulletin and SouthViews have created impact even beyond my expectations. My article on the failure of the Convention on Biological Diversity in implementing the pro-South provisions of the treaty- in the making of which I had been a negotiator- as well as the one explaining why the national sovereignty provision of CBD is not negotiable have been widely used by CBD negotiators. The SouthViews I wrote on the further silencing of the South-friendly provisions, following the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework, ended up with me corresponding with a lot of negotiators from the global South. I am particularly happy that the SouthViews essay I wrote on the need for criminalizing ecocide had many takers of the concept and a few countries have even introduced such legislation. That is the influence of SouthViews, not mine.

I would very much like the South Centre to expand adequately to be able to cater to the massive demand for policy analysis related to multilateral negotiations, even by having a subcentre in one of the developing countries. As the rule based multilateralism is falling apart in recent years, it is important that the South Centre advance its capacities to produce robust studies and negotiation briefs to help strengthen democratic multilateralism. I send all the best wishes to the Centre in these efforts.

S Faizi
Ecologist
UN Environmental Negotiator
Review Editor: Global Environment Outlook-7
Trivandrum, India

As the senior consultant for the Quaker UN Office in Geneva, and Quaker International Affairs Programme in Canada, for their work on intellectual property, trade, food, biodiversity and health in the 2000s it was very helpful to have the South Centre cooperate with QUNO and others to strengthen the hand of developing countries in negotiations about the TRIPS Agreement at WTO and related negotiations at WIPO. We took turns in hosting various meetings, helped coordinate the actions of various Non-governmental and Intergovernmental agencies concerned about the impact of rules on intellectual property on the food, health and well-being of people in developing countries and the biodiversity therein.

Geoff Tansey

One of my role model personalities is Mwalimu, and his idea to set up the Centre was an idea whose time had come. Countries in the South needed a think tank to help them level the playing field in negotiating with the North, at a time when they did not have the resources or expertise to fight the fight. The Centre came to provide that.

As a co-founder of the People's Health Movement (PHM) and as a member of the Campaign on TNCs and their HR responsibilities, I have interacted with the Centre on many occasions, directly and indirectly.

I can remember discussions with Vicente Sanchez, B. Gosovic, Martin Khor, German Velazquez and others on different issues the Centre was involved in (or we wanted it to get involved in).

What I do not see --and it should be published by you-- is the impact your many contributions have had and are having on strengthening countries' negotiation successes.

I congratulate you on your 30th.

Claudio Schuftan
Ho Chi Minh City

I participated in the ReAct Africa - South Centre AMR conference in Zambia. As a youth I have learnt a lot and it has helped me have knowledge on AMR, and also contribute like other champions world wide.

As part of WAVE, a youth led organization in Uganda we won a grant last year in 2024 under South Centre, and this enhanced our work on the ground creating more visibility and awareness.

Thank you South Centre for the great work.

Congratulations on reaching this great milestone.

Request: I kindly request more opportunities for us the youth to be fully part of this struggle, for example, more of sponsorships for conferences and for ground activities to increase our reach.

With passion and hope, one day AMR will be a tale.

Timothy Mugarura
Uganda



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