



Three Decades of Global Engagement: The South Centre's Contribution to Intellectual Property and Development

By Nirmalya Syam

This paper is part of a series of publications made in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the South Centre, an intergovernmental organization established in 1995 to advance the interests of developing countries in global governance. Tracing its origins to the 1990 South Commission, it examines the Centre's pivotal role in shaping intellectual property (IP) policies to promote equitable development. Through rigorous research, advocacy, and technical assistance, the South Centre has supported negotiations at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and World Trade Organization (WTO), influencing milestones like the 2007 WIPO Development Agenda and extensions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) transition periods for least developed countries.

Key contributions include promoting TRIPS flexibilities for public health, biodiversity, and technology transfer, with seminal publications on compulsory licensing, patent examination, and traditional knowledge protection. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre advocated for IP waivers to enhance access to vaccines and therapeutics. Impacts include empowering Global South nations to implement development-oriented IP strategies and reform patent laws. Looking ahead, the paper addresses challenges from digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), and data governance, calling for strengthened South-South cooperation and proactive advocacy to ensure inclusive IP frameworks. The South Centre remains essential for fostering sustainable development and reducing global inequalities.

Cet article s'inscrit dans une série de publications réalisées à l'occasion du 30e anniversaire du South Centre, une organisation intergouvernementale créée en 1995 visant à promouvoir les intérêts des pays en développement dans le cadre de la gouvernance mondiale. S'inscrivant dans la continuité de la Commission du Sud de 1990, il examine le rôle central joué par le Centre dans l'élaboration de politiques en matière de propriété intellectuelle destinées à favoriser un développement équitable. Grâce à des travaux de recherche rigoureux, à des initiatives de plaidoyer et à une assistance technique, le South Centre a soutenu les négociations au sein de l'Organisation mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle (OMPI) et de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC), contribuant ainsi à des avancées majeures telles que l'Agenda du développement de l'OMPI de 2007 et la prolongation des périodes de transition des pays les moins avancés dans la mise en œuvre de l'Accord sur les aspects des droits de propriété intellectuelle qui touchent au commerce (ADPIC).

Parmi ses principales contributions figurent la promotion des flexibilités prévues par l'Accord sur les ADPIC en matière de santé publique, de biodiversité et de transfert de technologies, ainsi que des publications de référence sur les licences obligatoires, l'examen des brevets et la protection des savoirs traditionnels. Pendant la pandémie de COVID-19, le South Centre a plaidé en faveur de dérogations aux droits de propriété intellectuelle afin d'améliorer l'accès aux vaccins et aux traitements. Parmi ses impacts, on peut citer le fait d'avoir donné aux pays du Sud les moyens de mettre en œuvre des stratégies de propriété intellectuelle axées sur le développement et de réformer leurs législations en matière de brevets. Pour l'avenir, le document aborde les défis liés à la transformation numérique, à l'intelligence artificielle (IA) et à la gouvernance des données, appelant à un renforcement de la coopération Sud-Sud et à un plaidoyer proactif afin de garantir des cadres de propriété intellectuelle inclusifs. Le South Centre reste un acteur essentiel de la promotion du développement durable et de la réduction des inégalités mondiales.

Este documento forma parte de una serie de publicaciones elaboradas en conmemoración del 30º aniversario de South Centre, una organización intergubernamental creada en 1995 para promover los intereses de los países en desarrollo en la gobernanza global. Remontándose a sus orígenes en la Comisión del Sur de 1990, examina el papel fundamental del Centro en la configuración de políticas de propiedad intelectual (PI) orientadas a promover un desarrollo equitativo. A través de investigación rigurosa, promoción y asistencia técnica, el South Centre ha respaldado negociaciones en la Organización Mundial de la Propiedad Intelectual (OMPI) y la Organización Mundial del Comercio (OMC), influyendo en hitos como la Agenda de la OMPI para el Desarrollo de 2007 y las prórrogas de los períodos de transición del Acuerdo sobre los Aspectos de los Derechos de Propiedad Intelectual relacionados con el Comercio (ADPIC) para los países menos adelantados.

Entre sus contribuciones clave se incluyen la promoción de las flexibilidades del ADPIC en materia de salud pública, biodiversidad y transferencia de tecnología, con publicaciones fundamentales sobre licencias obligatorias, examen de patentes y protección de los conocimientos tradicionales. Durante la pandemia de COVID-19, el Centro abogó por la exención de los derechos de propiedad intelectual para mejorar el acceso a las vacunas y tratamientos. Entre sus impactos se destaca el fortalecimiento de los países del Sur Global para implementar estrategias de PI orientadas al desarrollo y reformar sus leyes de patentes. De cara al futuro, el documento aborda los desafíos que plantean la transformación digital, la inteligencia artificial (IA) y la gobernanza de los datos, y pide que se refuerce la cooperación Sur-Sur y se lleve a cabo una labor de promoción proactiva para garantizar marcos de PI inclusivos. South Centre sigue siendo esencial para fomentar el desarrollo sostenible y reducir las desigualdades mundiales.

本文是南方中心成立30周年纪念系列出版物的一部分。南方中心是一个成立于1995年的政府间组织，旨在维护发展中国家在全球治理中的利益。该中心可追溯至1990年的南方委员会，本文探讨了南方中心在制定知识产权（IP）政策以促进公平发展方面所发挥的关键作用。通过严谨的研究、倡导和技术援助，南方中心支持了世界知识产权组织（WIPO）和世界贸易组织（WTO）框架下的谈判，对2007年《世界知识产权组织发展议程》以及延长最不发达国家《与贸易有关的知识产权协议》（TRIPS）过渡期等里程碑事件产生了重要影响。

其主要贡献包括推动《与贸易有关的知识产权协定》（TRIPS）在公共卫生、生物多样性和技术转让方面的灵活性，并在强制许可、专利审查和传统知识保护领域发表了开创性著作。在新冠疫情期间，该中心倡导知识产权豁免，以促进疫苗和治疗药物的获取。其影响包括赋能全球南方国家实施以发展为导向的知识产权战略并改革专利法。展望未来，本文探讨了数字化转型、人工智能（AI）及数据治理带来的挑战，呼吁加强南南合作并开展积极倡导，以确保建立包容性的知识产权框架。南方中心在促进可持续发展和减少全球不平等方面依然发挥着至关重要的作用。

I. Introduction

The South Centre was established as an intergovernmental organization in 1995 with the entry into force of the 1994 [Agreement to Establish the South Centre](#), but its history spans over 30 years, as it was initially set up as an institution in 1990 to follow up on the recommendations of the South Commission on how the South could collectively address ongoing development challenges.

The seminal report of the South Commission – [The Challenge to the South](#) – had observed that the South faces significant challenges in accessing technology and navigating restrictive intellectual property regimes that favour industrialized countries, reinforcing technological dependence and economic disparities. It pointed out in the context of the proposed Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights ([TRIPS Agreement](#)) in the Uruguay Round that global intellectual property (IP) frameworks have limited the ability of developing countries to innovate, raising costs for essential goods and slowing knowledge diffusion. Weak domestic research and development (R&D) investment, brain drain, and reliance on foreign technology further hinder self-reliance and economic progress. To overcome these barriers, the South Commission stressed that the South must shape national IP policies to prioritize public interest, strengthen indigenous technological capabilities, and foster South-South cooperation for shared innovation. A more balanced international framework is crucial to ensuring equitable access to technology, promoting sustainable development, and reducing global inequalities.

The 30th anniversary of the South Centre marks a pivotal milestone in its ongoing efforts to promote equitable IP policies and development-oriented global governance. Over the past three decades, the South Centre has played a crucial role in advocating for the interests of developing countries within international IP frameworks, supporting developing countries in negotiations at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), and providing technical assistance to policymakers and institutions.

This anniversary is not only a moment to reflect on the Centre's achievements but also an opportunity to reaffirm its mission in the face of evolving global challenges. Rapid technological advancements, digital transformation, and [emerging debates around artificial intelligence \(AI\) and data governance](#) have reshaped the global IP landscape, presenting [new hurdles for the Global South](#). The South Centre's continued engagement is essential to ensuring that developing countries can navigate these shifts while safeguarding their policy space, promoting knowledge-sharing, and fostering innovation that aligns with sustainable development goals.

Moreover, the anniversary serves as a call for renewed South-South cooperation, reinforcing the importance of collective action in addressing ongoing disparities in access to technology and other knowledge resources. It is a reminder that while progress has been made, persistent inequalities necessitate sustained advocacy, capacity-building, and institutional support. By commemorating this milestone, the South Centre reaffirms its dedication to shaping an IP system that prioritizes equity, development, and long-term resilience for the Global South.

Over the past three decades, the Centre has played a critical role in promoting a more balanced IP system that prioritizes equitable access to technology, knowledge, and essential goods. This paper aims to document and analyse the main contributions of the South Centre to shaping global IP policies in support of developing countries. By examining its engagements in key international forums such as WIPO and WTO, this paper highlights the Centre's role in advocating for development-oriented IP frameworks, supporting policy formulation, and strengthening the negotiating capacity of the Global South.

The paper also explores the Centre's technical assistance efforts, particularly in enabling developing countries to effectively implement TRIPS flexibilities and develop national IP strategies that align with broader development objectives. Additionally, it assesses the evolving global IP landscape, including challenges posed by digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and data governance, and considers how the South Centre can continue to play a pivotal role in addressing these issues.

By reflecting on these contributions and challenges, this paper seeks to inform future policymaking, foster South-South cooperation, and reinforce the importance of a development-centred approach to IP governance. It serves as a resource for policymakers, scholars, and stakeholders interested in advancing a more inclusive and equitable global IP system.

II. Major Contributions on IP and Development

For over three decades, the South Centre has been a driving force in shaping IP and development policy, supporting developing countries in critical negotiations within the WTO TRIPS Council, WIPO and other related fora,^[1] as well as through technical assistance and capacity building activities at regional, sub-regional and national levels in the global South. Through a combination of rigorous research, strategic advocacy, and direct support to developing country delegates, the Centre has ensured that developing countries have the tools, technical knowledge, and negotiation capacity needed to engage effectively in global IP discussions.

With the entry into force of the TRIPS Agreement, developing countries faced significant challenges in asserting their rights and leveraging TRIPS flexibilities to support public health, biodiversity, and technology transfer. The South Centre responded with [The TRIPS Agreement: A Guide for the South \(1997\)](#), a foundational publication that identified policy space under TRIPS, including compulsory licensing, parallel imports, and transition periods, and provided legal strategies for their effective use.

The Centre also provided an early analysis of developed countries' provisions and use (notably by the United States) of compulsory licenses and the potential use of this instrument by developing countries ("[Intellectual Property Rights and the Use of Compulsory Licenses: Options for Developing Countries](#)", 1999), followed by other publications on the subject such as [Pharmaceutical Innovation, Incremental Patenting and Compulsory Licensing](#) (2013), and the [Guide for the Granting of Compulsory Licenses and Government Use of Pharmaceutical Patents](#) (2020).

In WIPO, the Centre played a pivotal role in advocating for a more development-oriented approach to IP, contributing to the negotiations that led to the adoption of the WIPO Development Agenda in 2007. Through extensive research and policy briefs, including [T.R.A.D.E Working Paper 12 - "The WIPO Patent Agenda: The Risks for Developing Countries"](#) (2002), and the [T.R.A.D.E Working Paper 17 - "The WIPO Draft Substantive Patent Law Treaty: A Review of Selected Provisions"](#) (2004), the Centre exposed how existing IP frameworks favoured developed countries at the expense of technological self-reliance in the Global South. These efforts contributed to the dismissal of the initiative to establish substantive standards on patent law under a proposed Substantive Patent Law Treaty (SPLT) and to the adoption of the WIPO Development Agenda and the establishment of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) in 2008 to oversee the implementation of the Agenda.

[1] The South Centre is an observer intergovernmental organization in WIPO. The Centre has also applied for observer status in the TRIPS Council.

The Centre has been actively involved in supporting developing countries in TRIPS Council^[2] discussions on the relationship between TRIPS and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The South Centre [T.R.A.D.E Working Paper 18 – “Update on International Developments relating to the Intellectual Property Protection of Traditional Knowledge including Traditional Medicine” \(2004\)](#) points out the fragmented approaches to protect traditional knowledge in WIPO, WTO, the CBD and other fora. Its 2007 policy brief, [“Mandatory Disclosure of the Source and Origin of Biological Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge under the TRIPS Agreement”](#), provided a strong legal foundation for mandatory disclosure requirements in patent applications related to genetic resources and traditional knowledge. This research supported developing countries in both WTO TRIPS Council discussions and WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge, and Folklore (IGC-GRTKF) negotiations. The Centre also published [Policy Brief No. 129 \(2024\)](#) providing an assessment of the final act of this new WIPO Treaty at the 2024 WIPO Diplomatic Conference which resulted in the adoption of the WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge.

The Centre's support has also been instrumental in assisting developing countries in the WTO TRIPS Council discussions on the scope and modalities of application of non-violation and situation complaints to disputes arising under TRIPS, and the related issue of extension of the moratorium on initiating such complaints and the implications of non-extension of the moratorium. The [T.R.A.D.E Occasional Papers 1 – “Non-violation Complaints and the TRIPS Agreement: Some Considerations for WTO Members”](#) recommended against the application of non-violation and situation complaints to TRIPS, which has been consistently reflected in the position of developing countries in relation to this topic in the WTO negotiations. The South Centre also published [Research Paper No. 109 \(2020\)](#) updating on discussions on the moratorium on non-violation and situation complaints under TRIPS and the implications of non-extension of the moratorium on such complaints.



The South Centre participated in the Intellectual Property For Development Group – TRIPS Council Side Event “30 Years of TRIPS: Expectations and Concerns of Developing Countries”, on 19 March 2025 at the WTO.

[2] The Centre has also applied for observer status in the TRIPS Council.

Moreover, the Centre has been deeply engaged in providing developing countries inputs for TRIPS Council discussions on **Article 27.3(b) of TRIPS**, which addresses the **patentability of life forms and the protection of traditional knowledge**. Through studies such as [Patent Protection for Plants: Legal Options for Developing Countries \(2014\)](#), it provided developing countries with **legal arguments to implement sui generis systems of protection of plant varieties required under article 27.3(b) of TRIPS**, while balancing the protection of farmers' rights and breeders' rights. The [T.R.A.D.E Occasional Papers 2 – “Technical Issues on Protecting Plant Varieties by Effective Sui Generis Systems”](#), also provided guidance for related discussions in the TRIPS Council.

At the same time, the Centre played an essential role in supporting least developed countries (LDCs) in proposing and negotiating extensions of the TRIPS transition periods for LDCs. Through research publications including [Policy Brief No. 88 \(2021\)](#), strategic briefings, and [public statements](#) the Centre supported LDC demands for extended transition periods, leading to successive WTO decisions granting extensions.

The South Centre played a pioneering role in addressing how developing countries can make use of the flexibilities in the TRIPS Agreement to address public health needs. The Centre published a seminal book on [Integrating Public Health Concerns into Patent Legislations in Developing Countries \(2000\)](#), presenting options for developing countries in formulating national legislations in conformity with the TRIPS Agreement while safeguarding their public health objectives. Another book published by the Centre – [Utilizing TRIPS Flexibilities for Public Health Protection through South-South Regional Frameworks \(2004\)](#) - explored how South-South cooperation can create a facilitative environment for the use of TRIPS flexibilities for public health. Following the adoption of the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health (2001), the South Centre intensified its efforts to promote the use of TRIPS flexibilities. In 2006 the South Centre and the World Health Organization (WHO) jointly published [The Use of Flexibilities in TRIPS by Developing Countries: Can they Promote Access to Medicines?](#) which became a key resource for discussions on use of TRIPS flexibilities for access to medicines in WTO, WIPO, WHO and other related fora.

The Centre also played a **crucial role during the COVID-19 pandemic**, producing a number of publications including [Policy Brief No. 99 \(2021\)](#), [Policy Brief No. 92 \(2021\)](#), and [Research Paper 129 No. \(2021\)](#) which argued for **temporary waivers of IP rights on vaccines and medical products**. These publications strengthened the case for the **TRIPS Waiver Proposal** submitted by India and South Africa, for developing countries' push for greater access to **life-saving medical technologies**. Following the TRIPS decision of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12), the Centre also produced [Research Paper No. 191 \(2024\)](#) arguing for extension of the TRIPS Decision to therapeutics and diagnostics.

Beyond research, the South Centre provided direct support to developing country delegations in WIPO negotiations, offering preparatory briefings, informal background notes, and technical advice. This assistance focused on the work in WIPO standing committees, including the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents (SCP), the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), the Standing Committee on Trademarks (SCT), the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC-GRTKF), and the Program and Budget Committee.

A major area of technical assistance by the South Centre has been on supporting patent offices in developing countries in conducting robust examination of pharmaceutical patent applications to mitigate the risk of grants of patents of questionable validity with consequent adverse implications for affordable access to medicines for peoples in developing countries. Such technical assistance is delivered through national and regional [trainings of patent examiners](#), which the Centre has scaled up in recent years. A number of countries have adopted patent office guidelines for examination of pharmaceutical patents based on [guidelines](#) proposed by the South Centre.

At the TRIPS Council, the Centre has actively contributed with inputs to developing country delegates regarding recent discussions on TRIPS review under Article 71.1, which mandates regular review of TRIPS implementation. As early as 2000, the Centre had produced an analysis of article 71.1 of TRIPS in [T.R.A.D.E. Occasional Papers 3](#) which recommended that the review should address the impact of the TRIPS Agreement. This remains a critical aspect in the current TRIPS Council discussions on the scope of the review, where developed countries are seeking to limit the scope of the review to national implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

Shaping the Future: AI, Data Governance, and Digital Trade (2025 and Beyond)

As the world enters the digital age, the South Centre has expanded its focus to **emerging IP challenges related to artificial intelligence, data governance, and e-commerce**. The South Centre's [submission on WIPO's Draft Issues Paper on IP Policy and AI](#) emphasizes the need for a **development-focused, member-driven approach** that considers the specific challenges of developing countries, ensures balanced discussions on AI and IP without pre-emptive proposals, safeguards against unintended legal harmonization, and incorporates AI's role in protecting genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and cultural expressions. The Centre also published a Research Paper on the proposals relating to the Global Digital Compact ([Research Paper No.187, 2023](#)) adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2024, which emphasized the need to ensure equitable access to AI technologies, address AI-related IP challenges from a development perspective, prevent monopolization of AI-generated innovations, promote technology transfer to developing countries, safeguard traditional knowledge and data sovereignty, and ensure AI governance aligns with public interest rather than private corporate control.

III. Key Impacts and Success Stories

Over the past three decades, the South Centre has made a significant impact in shaping global intellectual property policies to reflect the interests of developing countries. Through advocacy, technical assistance, and strategic research, the Centre has empowered nations in the Global South to navigate complex international frameworks, secure policy space, and implement development-oriented IP strategies.

One of the most notable impacts of the South Centre has been its role in influencing the negotiations and adoption of the WIPO Development Agenda in 2007. By providing critical research and policy guidance, the Centre ensured that development priorities became central to WIPO's discussions, leading to the establishment of the Committee on Development and Intellectual Property (CDIP) in 2008. This institutional milestone strengthened the inclusion of developing countries in global IP governance.

Another success story is the Centre's contribution to public health through its work on TRIPS flexibilities. Its early publications, including [Integrating Public Health Concerns into Patent Legislations in Developing Countries \(2000\)](#), equipped governments with legal frameworks to implement compulsory licensing and parallel imports, facilitating greater access to essential medicines. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Centre's advocacy for a TRIPS waiver for vaccines and medical products played a key role in strengthening the case for equitable access to health technologies.

Additionally, the Centre's sustained engagement in patent law reform has helped several developing countries establish guidelines for pharmaceutical patent examination, reducing the risk of patent 'evergreening' and ensuring access to affordable medicines.

Through these and other efforts, the South Centre has cemented its legacy as an important advocate for the Global South in the realm of IP and development.

IV. Challenges and Future Directions

Despite its significant contributions, the South Centre continues to navigate a rapidly evolving global IP landscape fraught with challenges for developing countries. Ongoing inequalities in access to technology, rigid international IP frameworks, and pressures from developed countries to adopt higher standards of protection threaten the policy space available for the Global South.

One of the primary challenges remains the effective implementation of TRIPS flexibilities. While legal pathways exist to safeguard public health, promote technology transfer, and protect biodiversity, practical enforcement is hindered by political pressure, capacity constraints, and complex legal interpretations. Strengthening institutional capacities, expanding legal and technical assistance, and reinforcing South-South collaboration will be essential in ensuring that developing countries can fully utilize these flexibilities.

The digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and data governance represent emerging frontiers where developing nations must assert their interests. The monopolization of AI-driven innovations, unequal access to AI technologies, and the growing influence of major technology firms threaten to further widen global disparities. The South Centre must deepen its engagement in international discussions at WIPO, WTO, and the UN to ensure that governance frameworks prioritize equity, public interest and knowledge-sharing rather than reinforcing technological dependencies.

Moreover, geopolitical shifts and new trade agreements pose additional hurdles. The increasing push for more restrictive IP clauses in bilateral and regional trade agreements risks eroding hard-won flexibilities under multilateral frameworks like TRIPS. The Centre will continue to advocate for balanced agreements that safeguard development priorities and prevent the imposition of overly stringent IP rules.

Looking ahead, South-South cooperation will be key to overcoming these challenges. Strengthening capacity-building initiatives, fostering regional partnerships, and advancing collective negotiations will help counterbalance global asymmetries. Expanding technical assistance for IP policy design, patent examination, and AI governance will empower developing countries to shape IP rules that better align with their development needs.

In this shifting global environment, the South Centre will continue to adopt a proactive, rather than reactive, approach—anticipating policy shifts, equipping developing nations with strategic responses, and reinforcing its advocacy for a fair and development-oriented IP system.

V. Conclusion

Reflecting on three decades of engagement, the South Centre has played an important role in advancing the interests of developing countries within the global IP landscape. Its contributions in shaping national policies and international discussions, advocating for TRIPS flexibilities, providing advice for law making, and strengthening the negotiating capacity of the Global South have aimed at achieving a more balanced and development-oriented IP system.

The Centre's engagement, *inter alia*, to secure policy space for developing countries, promote equitable access to technology and medicines, and influence the global discourse on a multiplicity of IP matters underscores its commitment to fostering a global IP framework that responds, within the limitations imposed by the TRIPS Agreement, to the development needs of developing countries. Through research, technical assistance, and strategic advocacy, the South Centre has empowered countries to navigate and reform IP regimes to that end.

However, there is a lot more to be done. As emerging technologies, new trade frameworks, and evolving geopolitical dynamics reshape the global IP order, the South Centre must remain agile and forward-looking. In the coming decade, three key areas will define its strategic direction:

Harnessing AI and Digital Transformation – The Centre must ensure that AI and data governance policies reflect the realities of developing countries, advocating for fair access, ethical regulations, and technology transfer mechanisms that promote inclusive innovation.

Strengthening Institutional and Negotiation Capacities – Developing countries need robust legal, technical, and institutional capacities to implement TRIPS flexibilities, negotiate fairer trade agreements, and challenge restrictive IP norms.

Deepening South-South Cooperation – The Centre needs to continue its efforts to promote partnerships to create a collective front in multilateral forums, ensuring that the voices of the Global South remain influential in shaping IP policies.

As the world enters a new phase of technological and economic transformation, the South Centre's role remains more vital than ever. A renewed commitment to collaboration, informed policymaking, and equity-driven governance will be essential in shaping an IP system that serves the interests of all nations, particularly those in the developing world. By anticipating challenges, empowering nations, and championing a more just global IP framework, the South Centre will continue to be a key advocate for sustainable and inclusive development in the decades ahead.

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The South Centre is the intergovernmental organization of developing countries that helps developing countries to combine their efforts and expertise to promote their common interests in the international arena. The South Centre was established by an Intergovernmental Agreement which came into force on 31 July 1995. Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.

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