

26TH COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH CENTRE: COMPILATION OF STATEMENTS



Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Opening Statement by H.E. Mr. Ajit Kumar, Convenor of the Council.....	2
Report of the Secretariat by Dr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director	3
Statement by H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Chair of the Board	12
General Statements by Representatives	15
Barbados.....	15
Brazil.....	16
Colombia	18
Cuba.....	19
Egypt.....	21
Ghana.....	22
India	23
Indonesia.....	26
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	29
Jamaica.....	33
Malaysia.....	35
Mozambique	37
Nigeria	41
Pakistan.....	42
South Africa.....	44
Sri Lanka	47
State of Palestine	49
Uganda.....	51
United Republic of Tanzania.....	53
Venezuela (Bolivian Republic of).....	55
Zimbabwe	59

Introduction

The Council of Representatives of the South Centre, the highest governing body of the organization, met on 23 April 2026 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, with the participation of representatives from 36 Members States of the Centre. The Council's functions include to examine the Centre's activities, offer advice and recommendations for its future work, and review the financial situation of the Centre.

This document includes the opening statement by H.E. Mr. Ajit Kumar, Convenor of the Council of Representatives, the Spanish and English versions of the report presented by Dr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director of the South Centre under agenda item 4 "Activities and Finances of the South Centre: Report by the Executive Director", the statement of H.E. Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Chairman of the South Centre Board under agenda item 5 "Statement by the Chairman of the Board of the South Centre", and the interventions made by member countries¹ under agenda item 9 "General Statements from Representatives".

¹ This document does not include the intervention by the delegation of the People's Republic of China.



Opening statement by H.E. Mr. Ajit Kumar, Convenor of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre at the 26th Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre, 23 April 2026

Good afternoon, President Mbeki, Chair of the Board; Excellencies; distinguished delegates; members of the South Centre's Board; Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa and members of the Secretariat,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this 26th meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre. Thank you all for making time to attend this meeting.

I would like to thank the Secretariat for organizing the meeting and for circulating in advance the documents for consideration by the Council. I also thank the Secretariat for making arrangements for simultaneous interpretation into French and Spanish, an expression of the importance it gives to multilingualism.

Colleagues, we gather this year at a moment of profound global challenge. Heightened geopolitical tensions continue to reshape international relations. Armed conflicts that directly involve several countries of the Global South, but which indirectly affect all developing countries, have now compounded those tensions. Increased economic uncertainty – marked by debt distress, energy crisis, growing inflationary pressures, and volatile commodity markets pose enormous challenges to those countries. The multilateral system - the very framework designed to ensure fairness and stability - is under unprecedented strain as a result of unilateral actions that undermine the very foundations of a rule-based system. Taken together, these developments risk undermining years of hard-won development gains and the sustained efforts of developing countries.

In such challenging times, I think you all agree with me that the South Centre is more relevant and needed than ever. Demand for its work continues to increase. Despite limited resources, the Centre has remained steadfast in supporting our countries. This is reflected in its substantial research output, timely assistance in multilateral negotiations, and its training and capacity-building activities across a wide range of issues. Today, as usual, we will review the work carried out by the Centre in 2025 at this meeting.

In addition, we will also review the financial situation of the Centre, which, as we are all aware, has become increasingly fragile. We have before us an important agenda item: the proposal submitted by the Secretariat regarding the revision of the currency of assessed voluntary contributions. There is an urgent need for us to find a solution that ensures the Centre's long-term financial sustainability.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, I look forward to our productive deliberations. I now declare open the 26th meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre.



Informe de la Secretaría del South Centre

Punto 4 del orden del día

El año 2025 será recordado como un periodo de intensificación de las tensiones geopolíticas y comerciales, así como de una incertidumbre política sin precedentes.

Estuvo marcado por una ruptura del orden internacional basado en reglas que surgió tras la Segunda Guerra Mundial, un fuerte aumento del enfoque transaccional y del nacionalismo, y niveles de incertidumbre no vistos en las últimas décadas.

Un indicador de esta situación son los serios desafíos que enfrentó el sistema de las Naciones Unidas en 2025, ya que Estados Unidos se retiró del Acuerdo de París sobre el clima y de la Organización Mundial de la Salud. La ONU también enfrenta una grave crisis de liquidez.

Asimismo, Estados Unidos rechazó la Agenda 2030 y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y desmanteló USAID, el mayor programa bilateral de ayuda del mundo.

El uso creciente de medidas comerciales incompatibles con la OMC y de instrumentos de política industrial debilitó la confianza en las disciplinas multilaterales, contribuyendo a una creciente fragmentación de las relaciones económicas globales.

Estas medidas, a menudo justificadas en términos de seguridad nacional, resiliencia y política industrial, reflejan en realidad el ejercicio del poder económico con desprecio por el orden internacional basado en normas construido durante décadas de esfuerzos diplomáticos.

En el contexto de un multilateralismo debilitado y del rápido avance de las tecnologías digitales, el año 2025 también trajo profundos cambios en los ámbitos geopolítico, económico, financiero y social a nivel global.

Resulta evidente que la reconfiguración de las dinámicas de poder global está en curso. Una cuestión clave es cómo se posicionará el Sur Global en este nuevo orden internacional emergente.

Muchos países del Sur Global se han visto profundamente afectados por los desarrollos mencionados, al tiempo que continúan enfrentando obstáculos estructurales y sistémicos de larga data para avanzar en su Desarrollo. Algunos indicadores son provistos en la versión escrita ya distribuida de este informe que obviaré aquí brevitatis causa.

Excelencias, distinguidos delegados

Persistentes brechas y asimetrías limitan el desarrollo socioeconómico en el Sur Global. Sin embargo, tras superar un pasado colonial y de marginación, el Sur Global continúa emergiendo como una fuerza impulsora de la economía mundial.

La tasa media anual de crecimiento económico del Sur Global entre 2000 y 2024, del 5,08%, ha sido significativamente superior al promedio mundial del 3,52%. Hoy en día, el crecimiento de la economía mundial depende en gran medida del dinamismo de los países del Sur Global, en particular China e India.

Actualmente, el Sur Global representa más del 80% de la población mundial y más del 40% del Producto Bruto global. Es el origen del 46% de las exportaciones mundiales de bienes, del 45% de la producción manufacturera global y de más de una cuarta parte del gasto mundial en investigación y desarrollo. A pesar de un descenso reciente, el Sur Global recibe alrededor del 55% de los flujos de inversión extranjera directa.

Mientras los países desarrollados se han ido alejando de sus obligaciones de contribuir a los bienes públicos globales y a la prosperidad común, adoptando enfoques cada vez más nacionalistas, la Cooperación Sur-Sur y triangular se ha convertido en un elemento central de la cooperación para el desarrollo.

La Cooperación Sur-Sur no es solo una modalidad alternativa de cooperación, sino una necesidad urgente en la arquitectura actual del desarrollo global.

El Sur Global puede ser una fuerza motriz en la construcción de un nuevo sistema internacional basado en valores compartidos de inclusión, solidaridad, protección del medio ambiente y desarrollo centrado en las personas.

Esto requiere, entre otras cosas, la reforma de la arquitectura financiera internacional y del funcionamiento del sistema multilateral, abordar los desafíos derivados del dominio del dólar estadounidense y establecer mecanismos para desarrollar y compartir tecnologías que mejoren la productividad y el bienestar

En tanto se adapta a este escenario cambiante, el South Centre continúa cumpliendo su mandato guiado por la visión y los objetivos establecidos por sus fundadores, los principios de la Carta de las Naciones Unidas, los de la

Conferencia de Bandung de 1955 y las orientaciones proporcionadas en otros foros del Sur Global, como la Tercera Cumbre del Sur celebrada en Kampala en enero de 2024.

El Informe Anual sobre las actividades realizadas en 2025, distribuido junto con otros documentos para esta reunión del Consejo (Consejo XXVI/3), detalla las numerosas actividades llevadas a cabo por el Centro durante ese periodo.

Como se muestra en dicho informe, el Centro ha continuado muy activo en su pilar de investigación orientada a políticas, con publicaciones —en muchos casos fruto de la cooperación con otras— descargadas más de 20.000 veces. Dos libros publicados por el Centro y disponibles en línea fueron consultados por más de 380.000 lectores.

El Centro participó en un gran número de reuniones organizadas por gobiernos, organizaciones multilaterales y la sociedad civil. Organizó o coorganizó cerca de 100 reuniones presenciales o virtuales.

También ha continuado brindando apoyo a nuestros Estados miembros y a otros países en desarrollo en negociaciones en áreas como comercio, salud (en particular el Acuerdo sobre Pandemias y su Anexo), propiedad intelectual (especialmente excepciones y limitaciones al derecho de autor y la propuesta de revisión del Acuerdo sobre los ADPIC), fiscalidad (en particular las negociaciones sobre una Convención Marco de la ONU sobre Cooperación Fiscal), el régimen internacional de inversiones, derechos humanos (notablemente la responsabilidad de las empresas) y financiación para el desarrollo (especialmente en el proceso que condujo al Compromiso de Sevilla).

Este apoyo sigue siendo una función clave del Centro, incluyendo su interacción con el Grupo de los 77 + China y los grupos regionales de países en desarrollo. La creación de capacidades mediante formaciones en áreas específicas también ha continuado, sujeta a la disponibilidad de recursos.

En su labor, el Centro ha abordado tanto antiguos como nuevos desafíos de los países en desarrollo, incluidos los relacionados con la resistencia antimicrobiana, el cambio climático, las medidas coercitivas unilaterales, la transformación digital —en particular el despliegue de la inteligencia artificial—, la salud y los derechos sexuales y reproductivos, y la implementación del derecho al desarrollo.

En noviembre de 2025, la Junta del Centro aprobó el Programa de Trabajo para 2026-2028. Una característica clave del enfoque del Centro en su implementación es superar los compartimentos temáticos del sistema

internacional, centrándose en la intersección entre las distintas áreas cubiertas por el programa.

Durante 2025, el South Centre también apoyó la Presidencia del G20. Agradecemos profundamente al gobierno de Sudáfrica por la oportunidad de contribuir al proceso que culminó en la primera Cumbre del G20 organizada en suelo africano.

Por último, en cuanto a la situación financiera del Centro, 2025 será el segundo año en los últimos dieciséis en que los ingresos operativos han sido inferiores a los costos operativos.

Como muestran las cuentas auditadas, el Centro terminó 2025 con un déficit presupuestario superior al de 2024. La principal razón de esta situación ha sido la disminución de las contribuciones de los Estados miembros, que no pudo ser compensada plenamente por las subvenciones recibidas de diversas organizaciones.

Si bien el Centro continúa gestionando estrictamente su liquidez y pudo generar intereses durante el año para cubrir parcialmente el déficit de ingresos, la debilidad del dólar estadounidense contribuyó significativamente a la brecha financiera en 2025.

Los fondos de reserva creados con gran esfuerzo a lo largo de los años han permitido al Centro absorber este déficit presupuestario, como también ocurrió en 2024. Sin embargo, esto puede no ser posible en 2026 y en adelante.

Actualmente, menos del 20% de los Estados miembros paga sus contribuciones voluntarias.

Agradecemos especialmente a los miembros —actualmente India, China y Sudáfrica, y desde este año Indonesia— que generosamente pagan más que sus contribuciones asignadas. Sin embargo, estos países por sí solos no pueden sostener el Centro.

En este contexto, se ha preparado una propuesta para consideración del Consejo con el fin de realizar un ajuste mínimo a las contribuciones voluntarias.

Se propone mantener sin cambios las escalas de contribuciones establecidas en 2005, pero acordar que las contribuciones se paguen en francos suizos, la moneda en la que se realizan casi todos los gastos del Centro.

Así, si se esperaba que un país contribuyera con 55.000 dólares estadounidenses al año, bajo la nueva propuesta se esperaría que contribuya con 55.000 francos suizos anuales.

Este cambio, de ser adoptado, no resolverá completamente la sostenibilidad a largo plazo del Centro, pero ayudará a abordar uno de los factores que impactan seriamente sus operaciones anuales.

Sin el apoyo financiero efectivo y continuo de sus Estados miembros mediante el pago, como mínimo, de las contribuciones asignadas, la sostenibilidad del Centro está seriamente en riesgo.

La Secretaría continuará haciendo esfuerzos para obtener financiación adicional de fundaciones y otras organizaciones, pero solo cuando las actividades propuestas estén plenamente alineadas con el mandato del Centro.

Por último, las múltiples actividades emprendidas por la Secretaría no habrían sido posibles sin la orientación y la interacción con los representantes de nuestros Estados miembros en Ginebra, el trabajo de un personal competente y comprometido, y la guía del Presidente, la Junta y este Consejo.



Report by the Secretariat of the South Centre¹

1. 2025 will be remembered as a year of heightened geopolitical and trade tensions and unprecedented policy uncertainties. It was marked by the rupture from the rule-based international order that emerged after the Second World War, a sharp rise in transactionalism and nationalism, and levels of uncertainty not seen in recent decades.
2. One indicator of this situation are the serious challenges faced by the United Nations system in 2025, as the United States withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement and the World Health Organization. The UN also faces a serious liquidity crisis. The US has also rejected the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and dismantled USAID, the world's largest bilateral aid programme.
3. The expanded use of WTO-inconsistent trade measures and industrial policy instruments strained confidence in the multilateral disciplines while contributing to a growing fragmentation in global economic relations. Those measures, often framed in terms of national security, resilience, and industrial policy, merely reflect the exercise of economic power with contempt for the international rules-based order developed through decades of diplomatic efforts.
4. In the context of weakened multilateralism and the rapid advancement of digital technologies, the year 2025 also ushered in profound shifts in the global geopolitical, economic, financial and social landscapes. It seems clear that the reconfiguration of the global power dynamics is ongoing. A key question is how the Global South will be positioned in this new emerging international order.
5. Many countries in the Global South have been deeply affected by the developments mentioned above, while they continue to endure the longstanding structural and systemic obstacles to advance their development:
 - The financing gap for the SDGs has increased by 60% since 2015, reaching an estimated USD 4 trillion annually and projected to rise to USD 6.4 trillion by 2030.
 - The Official Development Assistance declined 7.1% in 2024, with a further drop projected in 2025.

¹ English version of the Report by the Secretariat as transmitted to the South Centre Member States on 17 March 2026.

- The debt service by developing economies surpassed USD 1.4 trillion per year. A record 61 developing countries were allocating 10% or more of government revenues to interest payments in 2025.
 - The climate crisis continues to hit developing countries disproportionately. However, the climate finance gap has also remained stark. Developing countries' needs reach up to an estimated USD 600 billion annually.
 - The technology divide continues. An estimated 2.6 billion people remain offline. The impact of Artificial Intelligence on development remains uncertain, making inclusive governance urgent.
 - Approximately 2.2 billion people, if not more, lack access to safely managed drinking water.
 - Many developing countries continued to be subjected in 2025 to illegal unilateral coercive measures.
6. These gaps and asymmetries, among many others, certainly limit socio-economic development in the Global South. However, while overcoming a colonial past and marginalization, the Global South continues to emerge as a driving force for the world economy.
 7. The average annual economic growth rate of the Global South from 2000 to 2024, at 5,08%, has been significantly higher than the global average of 3.52%. Today the growth of the world economy largely depends on the dynamism of countries of the Global South, most notably China and India.
 8. Today, the Global South accounts for more than 80% of the global population and more than 40% of the world GDP. It is the origin of 46% of global exports of goods, of 45% of global manufacturing and of more than a quarter of global R&D expenditure. Despite a recent decline, the Global South receives about 55% of foreign direct investment inflows.
 9. While the developed countries have been distancing themselves from their obligations to contribute to global public goods and common prosperity by turning more and more to nationalistic approaches, South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTrC) has become central to development cooperation. SSTrC is not just an alternative modality of cooperation but a pressing imperative in the current global development architecture.
 10. The Global South can be the driving force in building up a new international system based on shared values of inclusiveness, solidarity, protection of the environment, and human-centered development. This requires, inter alia, reform of the international financial architecture and of the functioning of the multilateral system, addressing the challenges posed by the dominance of the US dollar and establishing mechanisms for developing and sharing technologies that improve productivity and well-being.

11. While adapting to this changing scenario, the South Centre continues to perform its mandate guided by the vision and the objectives set by its founders, the principles of the UN Charter, those framed in the Bandung Conference of 1955 and the guidance provided in other Global South fora such as the Third South Summit held in Kampala in January 2024.
12. The Annual Report on activities conducted in 2025, circulated with other documents for this Council meeting (Council XXVI/3), details the many activities carried out by the Centre in the period.
13. As shown in the Annual Report, the Centre has continued to be very active in its policy-oriented research pillar, with publications -in many cases the product of cooperation with other research institutions and organizations- downloaded more than 20,000 times. Two books published by the Centre and available online were accessed by more than 380,000 readers.
14. The Centre participated in a large number of meetings organized by governments, multilateral organizations and civil society. It organized or co-organized near to 100 physical or virtual meetings.
15. It has continued to provide support to our Member States and other developing countries for negotiations in areas such as trade, health (notably the Pandemic Agreement and its Annex), intellectual property (in particular, copyright exceptions and limitations, and the proposed review of the TRIPS Agreement), taxation (particularly the negotiations on a UN Framework Convention on Tax Cooperation), the international investment regime, human rights (notably businesses responsibilities), and finance for development (particularly the process leading to the *Compromiso de Sevilla*). This support continuous to be a key function of the Centre, including through its interaction with the Group of 77+China and regional groups of developing countries. Capacity building through trainings in specific areas has also continued, subject to the availability of resources.
16. In its work, the Centre has addressed both old and new challenges faced by developing countries, including those related to antimicrobial resistance, climate change, unilateral coercive measures, the digital transformation, notably the deployment of artificial intelligence, sexual and reproductive health and rights and the implementation of the Right to Development.
17. In November 2025 the Board of the Centre approved the Work Program for 2026-2028. One key feature of the Centre's approach in implementing it is to overcome the thematic silos in the international system, by focusing on the interphase between different areas covered by the Program.
18. During 2025, the South Centre also supported the G20 Presidency. We are very thankful to the government of South Africa for the opportunity to contribute to the process that culminated with the first G20 Summit organized on African soil.

19. Lastly, on the financial situation of the Centre, 2025 will be the second in the past sixteen years in which operational incomes have fallen short of operational costs. As shown by the audited accounts, the Center ended 2025 with a budgetary deficit higher than that in 2024. The main reason for this shortfall has been the decline in Member States' contributions which could not be fully compensated by the grants received from various organizations.
20. While the Centre continues to manage its liquidity tightly and was able to gain interests during the year to partially cover for the income deficit, the weakness of the US dollar has significantly contributed to the financial gap in 2025.
21. The liquidity buffers that have been created arduously over the years have allowed the Centre to absorb the referred to budget deficit, as was also the case in 2024. However, this may not be possible any longer in 2026 and beyond.
22. Currently, less than 20% of the Member States pay their assessed contributions. We are particularly thankful to the Members -currently India, China and South Africa, and starting this year, Indonesia- who generously pay more than their assessed contributions. But these countries alone cannot sustain the Centre.
23. In this context, a proposal has been prepared for consideration by the Council for a minimal adjustment to the voluntary contributions. It is proposed to keep unchanged the scales of the assessed contributions as established in 2005, but to agree that the contributions will be paid in Swiss Francs, the currency in which almost all the Centre's expenditures are made. Thus, if a country was expected to contribute US\$ 55,000 per year, under the new proposal such a country would be expected to contribute 55,000 Swiss Francs per year.
24. This change, if adopted, will not fully address the long-term sustainability of the Centre but will help to address one of the factors that seriously impacts the Centre's annual operations. Without the effective and continuous financial support of its Member States through payment, as a minimum, of the assessed contributions, the sustainability of the Centre is seriously at risk. The Secretariat will continue to make efforts to obtain additional funding from foundations and other organizations, but only when the proposed activities are fully in line with the mandate of the Centre.
25. Finally, the multiple activities undertaken by the Secretariat would not have been possible without the orientation given by and the interaction with the representatives of our Member States in Geneva, the work of a competent and committed staff, and the guidance of the Chairperson, the Board and this Council.



**Statement by the Chairman of the Board of the South
Centre, President Mbeki
under Council Agenda Item 5:
Geneva, 23 April 2026.**

Chairperson,
Your Excellencies, distinguished representatives of the Member States of
the South Centre:

We meet against the backdrop of heightened conflicts and wars, the worst since WWII. This has prompted the United Nations Secretary General to warn that we are “on the verge of a wider war” with catastrophic global implications. Many countries of the Global South are involved. Such conflicts, however, do not only affect those specific countries but the Global South as a whole, as well as the entire world due to the external shocks and the increasing global economic uncertainty, fragmentation and ever-deepening global inequalities.

It would be justified to see the indiscriminate use of military power, the contempt for international law, as expressed in the UN Charter, as well as disrespect for international trade rules, the challenge to and withdrawal from UN agencies and multilateral processes, as an attempt at the imposition of the unipolarity that emerged at the end of the Cold War.

Among others, these developments point to the critical importance of the need to organise for a multipolar world where the Global South can also be a rule-maker by leveraging its increased economic weight, its wealth of resources, including critical minerals, and its share of the global population.

Certainly, as the countries of the Global South we must reject an emotional reaction to unilateralism, tariff escalation and the disruption to international processes, leading to the view that the multilateral system is impractical and pointless.

The UN Declaration on the New International Economic Order in 1974, the seminal report of the South Commission 'The Challenge to the South' published in 1990, and the hundreds of reports and studies of international organizations, NGOs and both academics, from both the South and the North, emphasise this point.

In previous interventions at the Council, I have mentioned various indicators of the economic weight of the Global South, measured, inter alia, by its share in global GDP and manufacturing. There are, of course, significant vulnerabilities as many countries of the Global South are still struggling to overcome structural obstacles to development, including lack of infrastructure, commodity dependence and extreme poverty. According to some estimates, for instance, in 2025 about 20 percent of the total population in the low-income countries or nearly 130 million people, experienced crisis-level food insecurity or worse. Recent events have aggravated these vulnerabilities even further with higher prices of energy and food, a slower economic growth prospect and inflationary pressures.

Such gaps and asymmetries, while real, do not detract from the hard fact that the multilateral system is an indispensable platform for the common progress of all countries and peoples.

As all of us know, building up a fair, inclusive and stable multilateral system is not a simple task, nor will it occur spontaneously. It requires the sustained efforts and strong commitment of all countries. In this process the Global South must play a pivotal role, using all its organized instruments, including the South Centre.

The recent adoption of the UN Agreement on Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, some elements in the Compromise of Seville and in the Pandemic Agreement, the WIPO Treaty regarding Genetic Resources and associated Traditional Knowledge, the ongoing work for a UN Framework Convention on Tax Cooperation, the unwavering position of developing countries regarding the reform of the World Trade Organisation, the contributions from the recent G20 presidencies by Indonesia, India, Brazil and South Africa, are all good examples of the growing capacity of the Global South to influence international processes, including rule making.

As has just been illustrated by the Report of the Executive Director, and as Council knows, the South Centre, the only intergovernmental think tank exclusively serving the Global South, continues to provide the integrated

analyses, real-time negotiation support, country-level technical assistance, capacity building, and platforms for South-South cooperation all of which enable the Global South proactively to help shape the global order rather than simply react to the initiatives from the countries of the North.

All this emphasizes the heavy and solemn responsibilities that rests on the shoulders of the honoured Member States of the South Centre to ensure that the Centre has the strength and all other capacity to enable it to continue to discharge its mission effectively.

It is therefore essential that we, the Member States of the Centre, ensure its long-term sustainability. Your Board is very pleased and encouraged that Council will address this vitally important matter under item 7 of the Council agenda.

Thank you for your attention.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BARBADOS
26TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
SOUTH CENTRE
GENEVA, 23 APRIL 2026

Thank you Mr. Convener,
President, Executive Director and other Members of the Board
Distinguished Representatives

At the outset, Barbados thanks the South Centre for convening this meeting and for the excellent preparations which have been put in place and for the presentations delivered today. As a small state, Barbados recognizes the value of the South Centre's work in amplifying the voices of developing countries within the multilateral system, especially given the current global climate. We commend the Secretariat and the Board for their leadership. The 2025 report highlights critical challenges which we face and which disproportionately impact small and vulnerable economies, disrupting market access and reducing policy space, among others.

We applaud the Centre for its diligent efforts and achievements over the past year including its efforts to build capacity and foster South-South and Triangular Cooperation; thereby providing an indispensable platform for small states to collaborate, share expertise, and advance our collective interests. In this shifting and unpredictable global landscape, it is imperative that reforms and ongoing work strengthen the inclusivity and equity of international trade and investment regimes, while addressing existing and emerging issues. We underscore the importance of safeguarding policy space and addressing sustainable development priorities in a manner that reflects the realities of all developing countries.

On the matter of financing, we are concerned by the reported net deficit recorded in 2025, compounded by declining member contributions and adverse foreign exchange impacts. We recognize that these financial challenges threaten the Centre's operational reserves and long-term sustainability. We are reviewing the proposal in capital with a view to re-engaging at the meeting next year. Barbados believes that given the current global realities, it is critically important that the Centre's activities continue.

Therefore, we commend those members who meet and exceed their voluntary contributions and call upon all member states to make financial contributions to ensure that the Centre remains a viable entity. We also encourage the Centre's management and Board to continue to leverage partnerships and explore innovative funding mechanisms that protect the Centre's independence while securing resources. Barbados stands ready to engage constructively and support initiatives that ensure the viability of the multilateral system, the South Centre and the delivery of tangible benefits for small states. No one must be left behind.

Thank you Mr. Convener.

Statement by Brazil at the 26th Meeting of the Council of Representatives of South Centre by Ambassador Guilherme Patriota, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the WTO, Geneva, 23 April 2026

Ambassador Ajit Kumar, Convenor of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre,

Mr. Thabo Mbeki, former President of South Africa and Chairman of the Board of the South Centre,

Professor Carlos Correa, Executive Director of the South Centre,

Distinguished colleagues, Members of the Board,

Brazil has always considered the South Centre to be a voice for the Global South. Its consistent defense of reforms to the global economic order and contributions to a multilateral system that benefits developing countries are commendable. This 26th meeting of the Council of Representatives offers a valuable opportunity to review the work done in 2025 and provide guidance for the year ahead.

We value the South Centre's analytical work and issues paper on a variety of areas, such as international trade, finance, technology and governance. We underline, nevertheless, that the agreement establishing the South Centre sets ambitious objectives, such as to foster convergence among countries of the South with respect to evolving concepts of development, sovereignty and security. We believe there is a broader role the Centre can lay at a time when the international order of the post-war is being dismantled and a new order is unclear. In these times of rapid change, we need to better understand and explore the full potential of the South, and assert our influence in shaping a new order to come, one that better responds to the needs and priorities of our countries and peoples.

Looking ahead, multilateralism faces growing challenges and disruptions, a true crisis of credibility. We will have this year a change at the helm of the United Nations, in a context of growing attacks on multilateral institutions. These attacks are perpetrated through blatant disregard for international law by the powers that be, who are flaunting established rules that were meant to promote an international order based on cooperation; not on

threats and aggression. This situation is further aggravated by a deliberate financial crunch that undermines the operational capacity and resources of intergovernmental institutions. Countries of the South must react and respond. We should not be passive observers of the destruction of the multilateral system that was built to serve peace and development for all, and now runs the risk of being replaced by the law of the jungle. We should continue to push for our right to development in fairness and peace, and take on more collective responsibility. The South Centre needs to be our ally in this endeavor.

As President Lula and other global leaders have denounced, more and more resources today are being diverted to war and destruction as conflicts spread. Critically needed funds for development cooperation are drying up. Even a fragment of resources spent on defense would do wonders for humanity's welfare and the sustainability of our planet if redirected towards the fight against poverty, hunger and destitution, or the noble causes of education, health, social inclusion and sustainability, addressing the challenges posed by unequal development opportunities and the impact of climate change.

We hope the South Centre will rise to the occasion and help developing countries in their collective response to today's growing global tensions and asymmetries.

I wish to thank Dr. Carlos Correa for his dedication and leadership as Director of the South Centre, as well as his team, which has continued to perform diligently notwithstanding the contingencies of our time, navigating through a worrisome budgetary squeeze and severe institutional limitations.

Allow me to salute our esteemed Senator and Professor Cristovam Buarque, a member of the South Centre's Board who has made important contributions to Brazilian politics and the education of the Brazilian people.

I also wish to express support for all Board Members, including President Thabo Mbeki and the incoming former-president of Colombia, Ernesto Samper. Presidente Samper served as the Secretary General of UNASUR and had a key role in promoting integration among South American countries with a view to defending the interests our region and of developing nations.

Thank you.

DECLARACIÓN DE LA DELEGACIÓN DE COLOMBIA
26.ª REUNIÓN DEL CONSEJO DE REPRESENTANTES DEL CENTRO SUR
GINEBRA, 23 DE ABRIL DE 2026

Muchas gracias, Embajador Kumar, por concederme la palabra. En primer lugar, deseo reconocer y felicitar al presidente Thabo Mbeki por su liderazgo en la conducción de los trabajos del *Board*, del cual he sido testigo durante los últimos nueve años. Su compromiso y visión han contribuido de manera significativa al fortalecimiento y al buen funcionamiento de la institución.

Al tomar la palabra en el Consejo del Centro Sur en abril del 2026, quisiera expresar nuestra profunda preocupación por los conflictos armados que actualmente afectan distintas regiones del mundo, protagonizados por los países del norte y cuyas consecuencias recaen ya de manera desproporcionada sobre los países del sur. Consideramos que la única vía verdaderamente coherente con el desarrollo sostenible y la estabilidad internacional es la vía de la paz. Deseo expresar también mi firme apoyo a la República de Cuba y formular un llamado de solidaridad internacional en favor de la preservación del sector farmacéutico de Cuba.

La industria farmacéutica cubana es un patrimonio estratégico para garantizar el acceso a medicamentos en numerosos países en desarrollo. Proteger esa capacidad productiva equivale a defender el derecho a la salud de millones de personas. Asimismo, como lo ha señalado en diversas ocasiones el presidente de Colombia, Gustavo Petro, condenamos con toda claridad el genocidio que está siendo víctima el pueblo palestino.

La comunidad internacional, así como el Centro Sur, no pueden permanecer en silencio ante la tragedia humanitaria de esta magnitud. En lo relativo a las publicaciones del Centro Sur, estimamos que la actual coyuntura internacional y las dificultades financieras que enfrenta la institución requieren una redefinición rigurosa de prioridades. Debemos privilegiar la calidad, la pertinencia estratégica y el impacto en las publicaciones para la toma de decisiones, muy por encima de una lógica centrada únicamente en la cantidad.

Finalmente, deseo expresar mi sorpresa y preocupación ante el hecho de que, luego de todas las devastadoras consecuencias de la pandemia COVID-19, dos países hayan decidido retirarse del Foro Multilateral de la Organización Mundial de la Salud. Resulta aún más preocupante que uno de esos países sea miembro del Centro Sur. En estos momentos en que el mundo necesita más cooperación y no menos, decisiones de esta naturaleza debilitan la gobernanza global y ponen en riesgo la capacidad colectiva de respuesta frente a futuras pandemias o problemas sanitarios.

Gracias.

INTERVENCIÓN DE LA DELEGACIÓN DE CUBA, CONSEJERO JOSÉ ERNESTO DÍAZ PÉREZ, ANTE LA VIGÉSIMO SEXTA REUNIÓN DEL CONSEJO CENTRO SUR BAJO EL TEMA 9 DE LA AGENDA. 23 de abril de 2026.

Señor Presidente Thabo Mbeki:

Señor Convocador:

Distinguidos miembros del Consejo:

Aprovecho para felicitarle por sus reelección como Convocador del Consejo. De igual manera queremos felicitar a los nuevos miembros de la Junta Directiva.

Nos reunimos en un momento de definiciones para el Sur Global. El Centro Sur nació como un escudo intelectual y político para nuestras naciones, y nunca su labor ha sido tan necesaria como hoy.

La delegación cubana reitera su reconocimiento a la labor que por más de 30 años ha realizado el Centro Sur, cuyo trabajo de investigación y asesoría técnica es vital para que nuestras naciones enfrenten un orden internacional raigalmente injusto.

Los propósitos para los que fue creada esta institución, el 31 de julio de 1995, están hoy más vigentes que nunca, cuando los países en desarrollo enfrentamos un mundo más complejo y desafiante.

Resulta éticamente indefendible que, mientras el hambre afecta al 8.2% de la población mundial, los gastos militares hayan alcanzado la cifra récord de 2.7 billones de dólares. Es inadmisibile que un solo país, los Estados Unidos, pretenda garantizar su seguridad gastando 901 mil millones de dólares en artefactos para matar, una cifra diez veces superior a lo que se invierte en salvar vidas.

El Centro Sur debe constituir un líder en el reclamo para que estos recursos se reorienten hacia el financiamiento al desarrollo y la lucha contra la pobreza.

En la actual circunstancia no podemos hablar de desarrollo mientras prolifera la amenaza y el chantaje político y económico mediante tarifas contra las naciones del Sur como arma de dominación.

El gobierno de los Estados Unidos persiste en resucitar la Doctrina Monroe, manteniendo un bloqueo ilegal contra Cuba por más de 60 años, el cual ha sido arreciado de manera criminal y sin precedentes tras el cerco energético impuesto el pasado 29 de enero. Estas medidas constituyen una violación flagrante de la Carta de la ONU y el Derecho internacional. Al defender a Cuba, el Centro Sur defiende el derecho de cada nación del Sur a construir su propio destino en paz.

Vemos pertinente la creación de un mecanismo técnico que documente y cuantifique, con rigor académico, el daño humano de estas medidas.

El orden económico actual es injusto, antidemocrático y excluyente. Los resultados de la IV Conferencia sobre Financiación para el Desarrollo en Sevilla son aún insuficientes. Necesitamos, sin más dilación, un mecanismo multilateral para la negociación de la deuda soberana y una reforma profunda de las instituciones financieras. La deuda no es solo financiera, es también una deuda ambiental y climática que pende como espada de Damocles sobre nuestro futuro.

La Inteligencia Artificial y las tecnologías emergentes no pueden ser el nuevo rostro del colonialismo. Proponemos que el Centro Sur coordine y lidere un marco propio que proporcione al Sur Global herramientas para evitar que estas tecnologías se usen para la desestabilización política y asegure que los beneficios del progreso técnico no se concentren únicamente en el Norte.

Señor Presidente:

El Centro Sur debe continuar actuando con una sola voz y afianzarse como un articulador de sinergias y de narrativas alternativas. Cuenten siempre con la posición activa y constructiva de Cuba.

Muchas gracias.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF EGYPT
26TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH CENTRE
GENEVA, 23 APRIL 2026**

Thank you, Mr. Convener.

Your Excellency, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, Chairman of the Board
Ambassador Ajit Kumar, Convener of the Council
Dr. Carlos Correa, Executive Director
Distinguished Board Members, my former boss, Ambassador Mohamed Edrees
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for convening this meeting.

We meet at a time where developing countries continue to face growing pressures, unprecedented geopolitical tensions since the Second World War, economic and extreme economic uncertainty, rising debt levels and widening development gaps, all are placing additional burdens on our economies. At the same time, the multilateral system itself is under increasing strain and challenges. In this context, the role of South Centre remains as important as ever.

The Centre continues to provide valuable support to developing countries through its research, policy advice and engagement in multilateral processes. We appreciate the work carried out by the Secretariat over the past year, including its support on issues related to health, trade, taxation and development. We also take note of the increasing demand for the Centre's work, which reflects its relevance but at the same time puts additional pressure on its limited resources.

On the financial situation, we share the concerns expressed regarding the sustainability of the Centre. The current trends are worrying, particularly with the limited number of members contributing on a regular basis. Despite the importance of the Centre to all of us, addressing this situation requires a collective effort to ensure that all members contribute in line with their capacities.

In this regard, we take note of the proposal concerning the revision of contributions. We understand the challenges related to exchange rate fluctuations and their impact on the Centre's finances. At the same time, it is important to carefully consider the potential implications of any changes on members' ability to contribute.

We believe that priority should remain on encouraging a broader base of members to make their contributions in a way that strengthens collective ownership of the Centre. Any approach going forward should aim to support this objective and maintain the inclusive nature of the Centre. Further consultations among members may be helpful in this regard.

On governance, Egypt proudly welcomes your re-election, Ambassador Ajit Kumar, as Convener of the Council and pledges to extend unwavering support to your mandate and the work of the Center. Finally, Egypt reiterates its commitment to the work of the South Centre and to strengthening South-South cooperation. We believe the Centre continues to play a critical and pivotal role in supporting developing countries in addressing current and emerging challenges.

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GHANA
26TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
SOUTH CENTRE
PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA, 23 APRIL 2026

Mr. Chairperson,
Executive Director, Dr. Carlos M. Correa,
Distinguished Members of the Council,
Excellencies,

Ghana is pleased to address the 26th Meeting of the South Centre's Council of Representatives.

We warmly commend the South Centre for its valuable work as a leading think tank supporting developing countries. Its independent, rigorous analysis remains highly valuable.

My Delegation recognises the South Centre's support during negotiations across key multilateral forums, including the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

We particularly appreciate the South Centre's strong support in the lead-up to the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon, last month. Timely publications, notes, and webinars provided clear, practical analysis and strategic insight. These resources enabled Ghana and other members to engage more effectively and confidently at the Ministerial Conference.

As we move into the post-MC14 period and address other multilateral priorities, we look forward to the South Centre's continued analytical contributions to the implementation and advancement of our shared development priorities.

Ghana remains firmly committed to the South Centre and stands ready to work with all members to strengthen its mandate. We look forward to fruitful discussions.

Thank you.

**Statement by India at 26th Meeting of Council of Representatives of
South Centre by Ambassador Arindam Bagchi, Permanent
Representative of India, Geneva, 23 April 2026
Agenda Item 9: General Statements**

Your Excellency President Thabo Mbeki, Chairperson of the Board
Ambassador Ajit Kumar, Convenor of the Council
Esteemed Members of the Board
Professor Carlos Correa, Executive Director
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates
Members of the Secretariat,

Let me begin with congratulating Convenor and Vice Convenor for renewal of their tenures. I also congratulate newly appointed Board Members and those whose mandate has been renewed.

India thanks the Secretariat for the documentation for this 26th meeting of the Council of Representatives. As a founding member and long-standing supporter of the South Centre, we attach highest importance to this institution and to the guidance it provides to the Global South here in Geneva and beyond.

We meet at a particularly challenging moment for the international community. We are living in a world that is more competitive, fractured and inward looking than in the past. The benefits of globalization are today overshadowed by the temptation to leverage and the temptation to weaponize.

The ongoing conflicts and geopolitical tensions, tightening financial conditions, and a generalized crisis of development finance are placing severe pressure on developing countries and on the multilateral system itself. At precisely such a time, the Global South needs strong, credible institutions, that can articulate our collective perspectives and help us navigate an increasingly complex environment.

For the last three decades, the South Centre has been one such guiding light. Its research, policy advice and coalition-building on trade, development, health, intellectual property, climate change, taxation and South-South cooperation have allowed developing countries to participate meaningfully in negotiations and deliberations across Geneva and other

multilateral hubs. The Centre has helped ensure that development remains at the heart of our engagement with global rules and standards. South Centre's Trade for Development Programme has been critical in supporting developing countries and LDCs on agriculture and a wide range of WTO issues.

On behalf of my WTO colleague, I acknowledge with appreciation, the sustained analytical and advisory work undertaken by the South Centre in support of developing countries' preparations for MC14, particularly on WTO reform. South Centre's timely assessment of negotiating texts and processes, helped to clarify implications for inclusiveness, consensus-based decision-making and the development dimension of WTO reform outcomes.

It is therefore deeply concerning that the financial report before us worrying picture of second consecutive year of operational deficit and the first deficit of balanced budgets and surpluses after sixteen years.

While report suggests that the shortfall was partly mitigated by increased project income, prudent treasury management, non-replacement of departing staff, tighter project allocations and other savings, these efforts cannot substitute for a stable core of predictable member-state financing. Many of these efficiency measures only undermine the effectiveness of South Centre to be able to service our requests.

The non-payment of voluntary member state contributions by all member states is a key problem that cannot be overlooked. Only a small group of around seven to eight countries contribute consistently, with some making contributions, beyond their assessed levels.

This pattern is unsustainable. Project donor income, while higher than in 2024, cannot fully compensate for such a sharp fall in membership contributions and, if over-relied upon, may risk constraining the Centre's independence and its ability to respond flexibly to members' priorities.

It is also worrying to note that if current trends continue, the Centre may be forced to start drawing on its buffers in 2026. What has taken years of careful stewardship to build up could then be eroded much more quickly.

For India, we believe that Member-state contributions, not project grants, should form the backbone of the Centre's finances. India has remained firmly

committed to the Centre through sustained voluntary contributions on an annual basis. We will continue to do so, because we believe in the Centre's mission and in the value it brings to all members. But unless all member states step up and honour their annual commitments, and wherever possible, clear arrears from the last 5 to 10 years, the Centre will not be able to operate at the level that we expect it to operate for long.

We therefore urge all member states to treat contributions to the South Centre as an investment in their own negotiating capacity and policy space. In a world where sustainable development, ODA commitments, debt sustainability and the role of trade as an engine of development are all being questioned or diluted, the Centre is one of the few institutions that continued to systematically defend the development perspective in Geneva. Allowing it to wither would be a collective setback for the South. We understand financial constraints of the developing world, but if we value its work, we need to support the South Centre even with small contribution.

Mr. Convenor

We also see merit in efforts to expand the Centre's membership across the Global South, including in regions that are currently underrepresented. A broader membership would not only strengthen the Centre's legitimacy but could also, over time, broaden its financial base.

In conclusion, India reiterates its strong support for the South Centre. We remain convinced that, with shared responsibility and dynamic leadership, the Centre can overcome its present financial difficulties and continue to serve as a vital instrument for the Global South in shaping a fairer, more development-oriented multilateral system.



**STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT THE 26TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE SOUTH CENTRE
23 APRIL 2026**

**Chairperson of the Board, H.E. Mr. Thabo M. Mbeki,
Convenor and Vice Convenor of the Council of Representatives of the South
Centre, H.E. Mr. Ajit Kumar and H.E. Mr. Ali Bahreini
Executive Director of the South Centre, Dr. Carlos Correa,
Excellencies and colleagues,**

1. At the outset, allow me to express our **appreciation** to the **Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa**, and the **Secretariat** for the excellent organization of this meeting and for the comprehensive documentation provided.
2. We also commend the **Chairperson of the Board, Members of the Board, the Convenor**, and the **Secretariat** for their continued **dedication in advancing the mandate of the South Centre** as a key institution supporting developing countries. We congratulate the re-election of the convenor, vice convenor and some board members, including H.E. Ms. Siti Nugraha Mauludiah.
3. At a time of increasing global uncertainty and fragmentation, **the role of the Centre** as a source of policy analysis and a facilitator of South-South cooperation is **more critical than ever**.
4. Indonesia aligns itself with the **continued importance of the South Centre** as a strategic platform for advancing the collective interests of developing countries.

Mr. Convenor,

5. Allow me to address two main points.
6. **First, on financial issue.** We note that this year's discussion takes place at a critical juncture, as the South Centre faces **increasing financial challenges** that require our **collective attention and action**.
7. In this regard, Indonesia wishes to emphasise that ensuring the financial sustainability of the Centre is a **shared responsibility among its 55 members**.
8. Indonesia reiterates its own commitment, including the **planned increase in our voluntary contribution starting 2026**,
➔ as a **tangible demonstration** of our continued support to the Centre.

→ as well as our **appreciation for the valuable support and policy contributions** that the South Centre has consistently provided to **all member states**.

9. Further, we **encourage** members who have **not yet fulfilled their contributions to do so** in a timely manner. **Timely and sustained contributions** will be essential to maintaining the Centre's operational capacity.

Mr. Convenor,

10. With regard to the **proposal on the revision of the currency of contributions**, Indonesia **recognises the rationale** behind addressing financial imbalances.

11. **However**, given the **voluntary nature of contributions**, we are of the view that any adjustment should remain **flexible** and **not impose additional burdens** on member states.

12. In this spirit, Indonesia suggests that members be given the **option to continue contributing in USD** and open the option to other preferred currencies, including in CHF as proposed by Centre. Such a **flexible** approach would preserve **inclusivity** and ensure that **no member is discouraged** from contributing due to **rigid arrangements**. Indonesia will continue to contribute **in USD**

13. Indonesia would also like to **recall several proposals we put forward** in previous meetings, which remain **highly relevant** and **could be further operationalized**.

→ In particular, we reiterate the importance of **expanding the membership base** of the Centre. With the current number of members, there remains **significant potential to reach out to other developing countries**, including high-income developing countries, to strengthen both the financial base and strategic positioning of the Centre. This could be done by Executive Director, secretariat, and also the support of the Chairman.

→ We also encourage the Secretariat and the Board to further **explore innovative financing approaches**, including through **enhanced partnerships and the effective utilization of existing provisions**, such as Article X (Ten/10), to **broaden funding sources**.

→ The Centre could also open **secondment** from member countries, that has the capacity to do so, to support for administrative matter.

14. Advancing these efforts would not only address immediate financial concerns, but also contribute to the **long-term resilience** of the Centre.

15. Further, Indonesia also sees value in strengthening collective efforts to address the Centre's financial challenges.

16. In this regard, we support the **establishment of a small, representative working group among Council members**, in coordination with the Board and the Secretariat, to **explore concrete and innovative solutions** for long-term financial sustainability.

17. If it is needed, we could also have intersessional meeting of the council and board member to discuss financial issue .

Mr. Convenor,

18. **The second thing** that I wish to address is the need of Centre to sharpen its vision and focus area of work.

19. In this current global situation, we have to define what is the **added value** of the Centre for developing countries.

20. For the focus area of work, Indonesia encourages the South Centre to further deepen its engagement on **emerging global issues**.

21. In particular, **artificial intelligence** presents both a **challenge** and an **opportunity** for the Centre.

22. As a think tank, AI challenges the South Centre to **continuously adapt its analytical approaches, tools, and expertise** in an increasingly data-driven and rapidly evolving landscape. AI could be the competitor of the Centre in providing policy recommendation to the members.

23. At the same time, AI should be **seen as an opportunity** that can be **harnessed to strengthen** the Centre's research capacity, enhance policy analysis, and expand its impact in supporting developing countries.

24. We therefore encourage the Centre **to proactively integrate AI into its work**, while also supporting members in navigating its implications as cross cutting issues, that are discuss in many IOs.

Mr. Convenor,

25. Indonesia remains firmly **committed to supporting the South Centre** in navigating its current challenges and in strengthening its role as a **leading think tank of the Global South**.

26. We believe that with our **collective efforts**, through **enhanced cooperation, shared responsibility, and forward-looking approaches**, the Centre will continue to evolve as a **resilient, relevant, and impactful institution**.

27. Indonesia stands **ready to work closely with all members** to ensure that the South Centre continues to effectively serve the needs and aspirations of developing countries, and to ensure its **long-term financial sustainability**.

Thank you.



Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran

to the United Nations Office and
other International Organizations in Geneva

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Statement

by

H.E. Ambassador Ali BAHREINI

Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United
Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

And Vice Convener of the Council of Representatives

before

26th Council of Representatives

Geneva, 23 April 2026

Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Council for their valued trust and for re-electing me as Vice Convener of the South Center. I also would like to congratulate Ambassador Kumar for his reelection as the Convener of the Centre. I reaffirm my commitment to working closely with all members to advance our shared objectives and strengthen the role of the South Centre in addressing the priorities of developing countries.

The South Centre, as an intergovernmental policy research and analysis institution, remains the essential intellectual pillar of the Global South,

dedicated to promoting our common interests while respecting our immense diversity.

Reflecting on the past year, we have seen a remarkable output of high-level policy papers that have provided developing nations with the necessary tools to navigate an increasingly fragmented multilateral system. The Center contributions have been very important in shaping a unified position among our countries in order to better address the common concerns of global south.

While thanking Executive Director CORREA and his team for their tireless efforts in the course of the year, we appreciate the Centre's valuable and sustained technical support and assistance across a wide range of critical areas, including intellectual property, health, trade and development, as well as its continued engagement in advancing policy discussions and supporting developing countries, all of which have played an important role in promoting more balanced, inclusive, and development-oriented international frameworks and strengthening the voice and interests of the Global South in multilateral processes. We invite the Center to continue its constructive and impactful engagement in the aforementioned areas, while also giving due consideration to emerging fields of interest.

Dear colleagues

Looking toward the next year, the South Centre should direct its research toward the most important developments in international arena including emerging frontiers of inequality, technological governance, and effects of the armed attack on the development of the countries.

In an increasingly contested global environment, the Centre has an important role to play in producing analysis that supports developing countries, strengthens multilateral fairness, and protects the policy space needed for sustainable development. Its upcoming research agenda should therefore focus

on issues that are not only timely, but also central to the ability of the Global South to participate in and shape international norms.

First, on Global AI Governance and Data Sovereignty, the South Centre should examine how emerging artificial intelligence frameworks can be made more inclusive, transparent, and development-oriented. This work should aim to prevent digital colonialism, where data and technological power become concentrated in the hands of a few, while developing countries are left as passive consumers rather than active shapers of digital transformation. The Centre should also emphasize the importance of data sovereignty, ensuring that nations retain the right to govern, protect, and benefit from their own data resources in ways that support national development, innovation, and public interest.

Second, the South Centre should deepen its work on the digital divide, which continues to widen inequalities between countries. Research in this area should assess the structural barriers that prevent many developing nations from accessing digital infrastructure, connectivity, skills, and advanced technologies on equal terms. The Centre should also explore how unequal access to digital tools affects education, employment, trade, public services, and participation in global economic life, while identifying practical policy options to close these gaps in a way that is equitable and sustainable.

Third, the Right to Development in the context of military attacks is another topic which deserves greater attention. Addressing this topic should provide robust legal and policy analysis of the consequences of aggression against civilian infrastructure, particularly health and educational facilities, on the long-term development prospects of Southern nations. The Centre's work in this area would help reaffirm that development cannot be separated from peace, security, and respect for international law.

Finally, we must address the persistent and unlawful application of unilateral coercive measures, which function as tools of economic warfare and run counter to the principles of the UN Charter. Their impact is especially severe for developing countries, where such measures obstruct access to finance, technology, trade, and essential imports, thereby undermining economic stability, social welfare, and long-term national development. In this sense, UCMs do not merely create political pressure; they directly weaken the conditions necessary for the realization of the right to development.

The Centre should continue its rigorous analysis of UCMs and their human rights and development impacts. By sustaining this work, the Centre can help build stronger international understanding of the harmful effects of coercive measures and support efforts to defend the sovereignty and development prospects of affected countries.

In conclusion, let us reaffirm our unwavering commitment to South-South cooperation as the cornerstone of our collective progress and resilience. Our true strength resides in our unity, solidarity, and shared determination to advance the common interests of developing nations in the face of global challenges.

By steadfastly supporting the South Centre's mission through enhanced resources, strategic partnerships, and active engagement, we empower the Global South not merely to participate in the world of tomorrow, but to actively shape its rules, norms, and opportunities in a manner that reflects equity, justice, and sustainable development for all.

Thank you.

Jamaica Statement

26th Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre

23 April 2026, 15h00 CEST; Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Item 9: General Statements by Representatives

Jamaica is pleased to participate in this Twenty-Sixth Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre and aligns itself with the collective objective of strengthening the voice and agency of developing countries within the multilateral system.

Jamaica attaches great importance to the work of the South Centre and its longstanding mandate to support developing countries through policy-oriented research, technical analysis, and intellectual and strategic guidance. The South Centre continues to play a vital role in assisting countries like Jamaica to navigate complex global negotiations, while advancing our development priorities and contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

For Jamaica, as a small island developing State, the value of the South Centre lies not only in its analytical outputs, but also in its ability to amplify the perspectives of the Global South and foster meaningful South-South cooperation. Through its work in areas including trade, intellectual property, health, and the digital economy, the engagement of developing countries in multilateral fora has been effectively strengthened. There is also enhanced capacity to advocate effectively on issues of critical national importance.

Amidst intersecting and increasingly complex challenges such as geopolitical tensions, climate change, food insecurity, indebtedness, and the lingering effects of other global crises, the role of the South Centre is more critical than ever. These challenges threaten to erode hard-won development gains and underscore the importance of coordinated, evidence-based responses that reflect the realities and priorities of developing economies.

Jamaica, therefore, underscores the importance of ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of the South Centre's work. In this regard, we recognize ongoing discussions on the financing of the Centre and the proposal related to assessed voluntary contributions. Jamaica remains committed to engaging constructively on these matters, with a view to identifying practical and sustainable solutions that will allow the Centre to continue delivering on its mandate and supporting Member States.

Looking ahead, Jamaica encourages the continued strengthening of the Centre's role as a platform for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and strategic coordination among developing countries. We reaffirm our commitment to working with the South Centre and fellow Member States to advance inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development pathways.



26TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH CENTRE

**3.00 – 6.00 PM | 23 APRIL 2026
ROOM VIII | PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA**

AGENDA ITEM 9: GENERAL STATEMENTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

**Mr. Convener,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. Malaysia expresses our appreciation to the Secretariat for the preparation and organisation of this 26th Meeting of the Council of Representatives.
2. We would like to commend the continued leadership of H.E. President Thabo Mbeki and the dedication of the Executive Director, Mr. Carlos Correa, board members as well as the South Centre team for their commitment to serving the developing States.
3. Malaysia has had a long and close relations with the South Centre and reaffirms its strong support for it's work. As the only intergovernmental policy think tank of the developing world, the Centre plays a critical role in helping Member States to better understand and navigate an increasingly complex global landscape.
4. Over the past year, the Centre has addressed issues, related to health, digital governance, intellectual property, investment reform, and international tax cooperation. We have found the papers to be extremely useful and look forward to more such papers.
5. These efforts are timely and essential, especially as the multilateral system faces increasing strain and the Global South continues to face challenges, compounded by geo-political tensions.

6. Malaysia places high value on the Centre's ability to provide high-quality policy research, negotiation support, and capacity building. In particular, its contribution in upholding the rights of the South; in strengthening South-South cooperation; and helping formulate collective negotiating strategy on current global issues here in Geneva is unmatched.
7. As a regular financial contributor, Malaysia notes with concern the budgetary deficit experienced by the Centre in 2025 and 2024. We further recognise the Centre's prudent financial management in mitigating this shortfall.
8. In this context, Malaysia has taken note of the proposal to denominate assessed voluntary contributions in Swiss Francs. While we understand the rationale, our concern remains that it would result in higher contributions for Member States. We see merit in Indonesia's proposal that allows States the flexibility and space to choose. This would maintain sustainability and solidarity among States. At the same time, the inconsistent contributions remain an issue to be addressed, and we echo the call for all countries to abide to their assessed contributions.

Mr. Chair,

9. Malaysia remains committed to the Centre's mandate and to the principle of shared responsibility. We believe its financial future must be equitable, flexible, and reflective of the diversity of its membership.
10. Malaysia intends to continue our constructive engagement and close consultation with the South Centre.
11. In conclusion, Malaysia reiterates our confidence in the South Centre and stands ready to work with all Member States to continue to strengthen this meaningful institution.

Thank you.

**MALAWAKIL GENEVA
23 APRIL 2026**



**REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
MOZAMBIQUE- GENEVA**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MOZAMBIQUE ON THE
OCCASION OF THE 26th MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH CENTRE**

***H.E. GERALDO GONÇALVES MIGUEL SARANGA, AMBASSADOR
EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPONTENTIARY AND PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE***

AGENDA ITEM 9

GENEVA, APRIL 23 2026

**H.E. Thabo Mbeki, Former President of South Africa and
Chairman of the South Centre,**

Distinguished Members of the Board

**Your Excellency Ambassador Ajit Kumar, Convenor of the Council
of Representatives,**

Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of my Ambassador who is unable to be here, today, due to conflicting interests in his agenda.

Mozambique expresses its appreciation to the Executive Director and the Secretariat of the South Centre for organizing this meeting of the Council of Representatives.

We would like to congratulate you, Mr. Convenor, on your reelection, as well as the Vice Convenor and the new and renewed members of the Board.

We also extend our gratitude to **H.E. Thabo Mbeki**, Chairman of the Board of the South Centre, and to the Executive Director, **Dr. Carlos Correa**, for their comprehensive report.

Mozambique acknowledges the leadership of H.E. Thabo Mbeki as Chairman of the Board of the South Centre. In this capacity, he has underscored the importance of **advancing the common interests of**

the Global South and supporting Member States in addressing structural asymmetries and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

My delegation also appreciates the work of all members of the Board of the South Centre.

Mr. Convenor,

Mozambique takes note of the report on the activities and finances of the South Centre for the year 2025, presented by the Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa.

We also **take note of the proposal for the revision of the currency of assessed voluntary contributions** under consideration, as well as the scenarios and rationale presented for shifting the currency from the US dollar to the Swiss franc (CHF). In this regard, we will submit the matter to our capital for further consideration.

We underscore that, in 2025, the South Centre continued to support developing countries in navigating a complex global environment marked by challenges to the multilateral system, including trade tensions and unilateral measures.

In this context, the Centre provided **technical support and policy analysis** to enhance countries' capacity to engage in international discussions and negotiations on key issues such as **trade, intellectual property, taxation, digital transformation, and development.**

We also wish to highlight the important analytical work and policy briefs prepared by the South Centre in support of Members' participation in

major global processes, including the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC14) held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in March 2026.

Mr. Convenor,

My delegation commends the South Centre for its continued work despite financial constraints and the challenging international context. We note that, like many international organizations, the Centre faces resource limitations, yet it continues to deliver on its mandate through strong cooperation with partners and Member States.

We call upon the South Centre to continue providing support to our countries so that they may participate on **an equal footing in multilateral processes and negotiations.**

In conclusion, **we reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Mozambique to continue working closely with the South Centre.**

Thank You, Mr. Convenor for your attention!

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF NIGERIA
26TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
SOUTH CENTRE
GENEVA, 23 APRIL 2026

Thank you Chair.

His Excellency Thabo Mbeki, Chairperson of the Board of the South Centre;

Distinguished Members of the Board.

I am here on behalf of Mr. Sunday Eyo Edem, Chargé d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations, who is unable to attend this meeting due to other pressing commitments.

It is with great honour that Nigeria addresses the 26th Meeting of the Council of Representatives. At the outset, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to both the convener and the vice convener on their re-election. This accomplishment is a testament to their effective leadership and the confidence placed in them by the Council.

Your Excellency, the global economy is currently characterized by widespread uncertainty, heightened volatility, and persistent inequality. These challenges have become increasingly complex due to rising trade tensions and unilateral actions that undermine the economic benefits for developing nations. At the same time developing countries face significant pressure within various multilateral institutions to accept rules which, from our perspective, would impede efforts to achieve inclusive growth, meaningful transformation, and sustainable development.

Amidst the prevailing global challenges, the South Centre distinguishes itself as a pivotal institution dedicated to advancing South-South cooperation. Through its continued support, the Centre empowers developing countries to navigate complex international landscapes, ensuring that the formulation and implementation of global rules actively foster development rather than impede progress.

Nigeria expresses its appreciation to the South Centre for its valuable support, especially regarding Multilateral Trade matters. The centre's rigorous research on trade issues is instrumental in equipping developing countries with the technical expertise necessary to participate effectively in multilateral trade negotiations. The African Group working on WTO issues has also gained significantly from the South Centre's technical assistance, with particular reference to support on the agriculture file.

Regarding the financing of the Centre, Nigeria encourages all Members to strengthen their efforts in meeting their financial obligations to the South Centre. Fulfilling these commitments is essential for the Centre to maintain its core activities in supporting developing countries. Nigeria reaffirms its commitment to fulfilling its financial obligations in support of the South Centre.

We acknowledge and value the proposal concerning the revision of the assessed voluntary contribution. Our delegation has thoroughly considered the comments and views expressed by Members on this matter. We will consult with our capital and provide a response in due course.

Thank you.



Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN Geneva

Statement by Pakistan

at the

Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre

(23 April 2026, Geneva, Switzerland)

**Hon'ble Chairman of the Board
Convener of the Council of Representatives
Executive Director – Excellencies and
Distinguished Delegates,**

Thank you, Mr. Convener,

At the outset, Pakistan expresses its appreciation to the Hon'able Chairman Thebo Mbeki and Executive Director of the South Centre, Mr. Carlos Correa, for their continued leadership and steadfast advocacy for the Global South.

We commend the South Centre for its valuable contributions over the past year in advancing the interests of developing countries across key areas such as trade, finance, health, and technology as reflected in its 2025 Report.

Pakistan particularly values the Centre's support in areas such as international tax cooperation, digital governance, and equitable access to health technologies. Its engagement on emerging issues, including artificial intelligence, data governance, and climate finance, remains timely and relevant for developing countries navigating an increasingly complex global landscape.

We request the South Centre to strengthen its work, among others, on international financial architecture including issues related to debt sustainability and access to affordable finance.

Mr. Convener,

We take note of the liquidity challenges faced by the South Centre and recognize the importance of ensuring predictable and sustainable resources for its work.

We would also like to underline that, for many members, a shift from US dollars to Swiss Francs could have financial implications due to exchange rate movements and may result in an increase in the effective contribution burden for member countries. In this context, it is important to ensure that any such transition remains financially neutral, predictable, and does not place additional burden on member States.

In the current context, many developing countries continue to face significant fiscal constraints, which may limit their ability to consider increases in voluntary contributions.

We would therefore encourage exploring alternative approaches, including efficiency measures, voluntary contributions from a broader base, and partnerships.

In conclusion, Pakistan reiterates its full support for the South Centre and its mandate. We look forward to continued collective efforts to advance the shared priorities of the Global South.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SOUTH AFRICA
26TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH CENTRE
GENEVA, 23 APRIL 2026**

Thank you very much for giving me the floor, Chairperson.

Your Excellency President Thabo Mbeki, Chairperson of the Board of the South Center.
Your Excellency Ambassador Ajit Kumar, Convener of the Council of the South Center.
Esteemed members of the Board of the South Center.
Honorable Executive Director of the South Center, Dr. Carlos Correa.
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

At the outset, permit me to congratulate you, Chairperson, on your brilliant election for a third consecutive term as Convener of the Council of the South Centre. And Ambassador Ali Bahraini on his re-election as the Vice-Convener.

South Africa wishes to commend the South Centre for the work delivered in all program areas in 2025. The annual report reflects intensive engagement across a wide range of issues. Sustaining this volume and quality of work in financially constrained circumstances is no small achievement.

South Africa would also like to express its appreciation to the South Centre for the direct support provided to its G20 presidency. As the annual report 2025 states, and I quote, The South Centre was specifically acknowledged in the Ministerial Declaration for its contribution to the work of the G20 Development Working Group, the G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Statement, and, importantly, the Chairman's Summary of the G20 Digital Economy Working Group. Close quote.

The recognition of the South Centre by a premier intergovernmental forum like the G20 is indeed significant. We also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Centre's work in the area of trade and intellectual property. International trade has become a new frontier of geopolitical contestation, characterized by the weaponization of tariffs, the erosion of WTO disciplines, and the pressure exerted on developing countries to accept unfair terms of trade.

Against this backdrop, the Centre's trade and IP work has been well targeted and operationally relevant. We note in particular the Centre's work in countering attempts to rewrite the history of the multilateral trading system and in providing useful policy advice that served delegations well in the lead-up to and at the MC14 in Yaoundé. Chairperson, we meet at a moment of profound systemic disruption, uncertainty, and vulnerability.

The multilateral order is facing its most unprecedented challenge with the erosion of international law and the principles of the UN Charter, the weaponization of tariffs, the withdrawal of some countries from international institutions and treaties, the liquidity crisis afflicting the UN and other international agencies, devastating wars which pose a threat to global peace and security, and the sharp decline in official development assistance. The war in the Gulf region has sent tremors through the global economy, with countries of the global

south being the most exposed to the fallout. Developing economies are bearing the brunt of surging energy costs.

For a majority of developing economies, especially those already grappling with debt and high import dependence, they are facing a potent mix of inflation, currency pressures, and fiscal strains. The hardest hit are net energy and food importers, especially those with fragile macroeconomic foundations and pre-existing vulnerabilities that typified countries with low per capita income and high poverty rates. Without any doubt, these developments, including the so-called Black Swan events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the green crisis precipitated by the war in Ukraine, and the impact of the war in the Gulf region, have exacerbated historical and structural inequalities.

Over and above the context of geopolitical tensions and polarization, the South Centre finds itself in an extremely constrained fiscal environment. The Centre continues to rely significantly on grant funding and partnerships with external institutions to sustain its operations. This is a big risk, as it has the potential of undermining the Centre's independence, credibility, and its future sustainability.

While we understand the numerous competing challenges that Member States face, we would like to endorse the proposal made by the Executive Director and the impassioned plea by His Excellency President Mbeki to stabilize the Centre's finances in order to ensure its viability. In view of the observations made during the consideration of this item, we would like to humbly request the Board to engage those countries that have expressed reservations at a political level. We believe that such an engagement will yield positive results.

The South Centre was established by and for developing countries to serve our needs and our interests. We should always remember this. Growing dependence on external funding in the context of declining development finance poses a major existential threat to the institution.

Chairperson, the most urgent policy debate in Geneva at the moment is the one taking place in the WHO concerning the pathogen access and benefit sharing annexed to the pandemic treaty that was adopted in May 2025. We would like to thank the South Centre for its sustained engagement on this issue and for providing incisive policy advice to delegations from the Global South in the PABS negotiations. We would also like to seize this opportunity to urge this Council meeting through the delegations that are present here to ensure that the countries of the Global South maintain their unity and cohesion during these crucial negotiations.

It is important that we continue to insist on a robust PABS system to ensure that countries sharing pathogen data benefit equitably through access to vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics and also that we should stress the importance of technology transfer, local manufacturing capacities to reduce dependence on developed countries. Further, that the pandemic treaty should be strengthened with commitments on equity, technology sharing and fair distribution of medical resources as well as actionable commitments on equitable access, technology transfer and financing for developing countries. Chairperson, the broader context of UND funding presents both risks and opportunities for the South Centre.

Realizing these opportunities require a paradigm shift, innovation and strategic response. The South Centre cannot simply do more of the same. It should carve a niche for itself as a

dedicated policy hub that not only responds but projects future scenarios and their impact on developing countries.

It is critical that the Centre focuses on artificial intelligence and digitalization and how these technologies can be harnessed to leapfrog development. In addition, the Centre should reflect on how it can improve its visibility and profile in order to ensure that its research and policy positions reach wider audiences including through international forums, media engagements, etc. Allow me to conclude by reaffirming South Africa's commitment to the mission, purposes and objectives of the South Centre.

We believe in the South Centre's mission and for this to be fulfilled it must be matched by responsibility and primarily this responsibility rests with Member States and the Council as a whole. We thus call on all of us to reaffirm our commitment to the South Centre and to translate this into reality by fulfilling our obligations to the Centre.

I thank you.

Intervention by Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations in Geneva at the 26th Council of Representatives of the South Centre – 23 April 2026

President Thabo Mbeki, Chairman of the Board
Distinguished Members of the Board
Representatives of the Council
Excellencies

It is a great honour to participate at the 26th Council of Representatives of the South Centre this evening. I join the other Member States to congratulate the Chairman, Members of the Board, Executive Director and the Secretariat of the South Centre for their tireless commitment to continue the work of the Centre in this challenging multilateral environment.

At a time when the multilateral system is confronted with increasing fragmentation, evolving geopolitical dynamics, and widening development gaps, the role of institutions such as the South Centre has become ever more critical in amplifying the collective voice of the Global South and safeguarding its development interests.

The South Centre has been an important partner to developing countries and in particular, its research and policy analysis has provided guidance to develop common views and to work together on major international development related policy issues. In this regard, the Centre continues to play an important role in strengthening South-South cooperation and fostering informed engagement of developing countries in global negotiations.

Over the years, Sri Lanka has been receiving benefits from the South Centre through technical inputs and policy guidelines to address issues of economic and development challenges across international trade, debt, taxation, climate change, finance for development, intellectual property and health, among many others. The South Centre has been particularly useful to its members working without technical experts of their own, including Sri Lanka. These contributions have been instrumental in enabling countries like Sri Lanka to navigate complex global policy landscapes, strengthen national policy frameworks, and participate more effectively in international rule-making processes.

I take this opportunity to appreciate the Centre for its recent publication on “Trade Policy Uncertainty and Impacts on Developing Countries’ Exporters: The Case of Sri Lanka”. The insights provided in this study are timely and highly relevant, particularly as developing countries continue to grapple with external shocks and shifting trade dynamics.

I understand that the Centre is currently facing financial constraints due to lack of funding. As a precaution, I wish to propose the South Centre to explore avenues to obtain voluntary contributions from all Members and philanthropists. In addition, innovative financing mechanisms and strengthened partnerships could also be considered to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Centre’s valuable work. I wish to mention that Sri Lanka, while facing its own financial challenges, has made its contribution to the Centre regularly including in 2025, in recognition of the important work carried out by the South Centre.

As a long-standing Member of the South Centre, Sri Lanka wishes to see the continuation of the commendable activities of the Centre, in the coming years, as well. Sri Lanka remains committed to supporting the Centre and working collectively with fellow Member States to further strengthen its mandate and impact.

In closing, allow me to reaffirm Sri Lanka’s strong belief in multilateralism, solidarity among developing nations, and the continued relevance of the South Centre as a platform for advancing equitable and inclusive global development.

I thank you.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE
26TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH CENTRE
GENEVA, 23 APRIL 2026**

Excellencies, colleagues, dear all, a very good afternoon to everyone.

Palestine joins the previous speakers and delegations in thanking the South Centre for convening this Council and welcoming His Excellency President Mbeki, Chairman of the Board, a warm welcome from Palestine, Your Excellency, Mr. President, former President of South Africa, a big pleasure to see you here in Geneva again. And also a warm welcome to former President of Colombia, present with us here in this hall.

Palestine welcomes the appointment and the re-election of Ambassador Kumar of India as Convener for the third term. Wishing you, Ambassador, all the best. Congratulations to you. And to Ambassador Bahraini of Iran as a Vice-Convener also.

Palestine welcomes Ambassador Chen Xu of China, the incoming member of the Board. Wishing him all the success. And we congratulate as well Indonesia and Dominican Republic for their re-elections for the second term as Board members.

Many thanks to Executive Director Dr. Correa for his presentation. Without forgetting thanking the whole staff of South Centre for their tireless efforts and support to our delegations here in Geneva and in New York. Mr. Convener, the State of Palestine and the Palestinian people extend again our gratitude to South Centre's valuable and useful work and excellent researches on several topics like health, on the pandemic agreement adoption and the ongoing PABS annex negotiations or on trade and development affairs at UNCTAD or within the UN system or outside the UN system at the WTO when it came to trade affairs.

Although the environment files like the Plastic Treaty, all of this assistance is a real add value to our work at national and multilateral level. The State of Palestine remains committed to supporting the South Centre work and working closely with all members of our South community. Indeed, South-South cooperation plays a vital role for development in our respective countries.

Once again, thank you very much to all of you, dear members and observers for the support that you have shown to Palestine during the darkest moments in the past two years during the genocidal war against Palestinians. Mr. President, Chairperson of the Board, thank you for the presentation on the report and the actual situation of the Centre. We are very proud to be part of this family, the South Centre family as a full member since the 23rd of June 2017.

We try to keep our regular contributions and financial obligations timely submitted since our accession, but unfortunately, during the last past three years, we are facing a very serious financial problem and a very bad situation on collecting our VAT and fund blocked and confiscated by the occupying power Israel far-right government right now. We are in a situation of non-payment of all public servant and services. We are receiving less than 50% of our salaries and this month we get less than 600 Swiss francs as salary, including myself here in Geneva, my ambassador, my minister, all of us, all the public servants of Palestine getting

2,000 new Israeli shekels salary, around 600 Swiss francs: this is our salaries that we are getting right now. So, we are struggling and keeping our presence in these meetings despite this very difficult time. We will survive and we will continue fighting for our rights and we are all believing that justice will prevail so Palestine will be free for sure. We can assure you, Palestine will not forget paying the arrears once we get back our money.

I conclude with President Madiba Nelson Mandela, quote, it always seems impossible until it's done. We are confident that the South Centre will continue supporting our countries despite the huge financial challenges and the geopolitical instability around the world. And for that we need unity and solidarity.

As we said in Swahili, Harambee. Harambee, together we will succeed. I Thank you.



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT

AT THE

26th MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

23 APRIL 2026

GENEVA

[Please check against delivery]

Chairperson of the Board,
Convener of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre,
Executive Director of the South Centre,
Distinguished Representatives,

At the outset, I wish to thank the Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa and the entire team at the South Centre Secretariat for its work and organizing the 26th session of the Council of Representatives.

Uganda commends His Excellency Thabo Mbeki, the Chairperson of the Board, for his leadership and extend our sincere appreciation to all members of the Board for giving guidance and direction to the Centre.

Uganda commends the South Centre for fulfilling its mandate as well elaborated in the Annual Report. As the Chair rightfully stated, the foundations of the multilateral system are being strained with decisions that significantly undermine the role of international organizations. Collective action of the developing countries in international fora is imperative. There is a need to exercise to the full potential this collective influence on the global scene by working more effectively and closely together.

We commend the Centre for its technical reports, advice on key international negotiations and policy-oriented research. These have provided useful analyses and informed participation in international negotiations.

The South Centre has remarkably facilitated and informed critical work and we value its continued support as the current chair of the Non-Allied Movement.

We share concern regarding the financial situation of the Centre and take note of the measures taken to ameliorate the situation.

We believe that the long-term sustainability of the Centre needs to be ensured, and I wish to reiterate Uganda's commitment to strengthen collaboration and support for the Centre.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA**

**26TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
SOUTH CENTRE**

GENEVA, 23 APRIL 2026

H.E. Thabo Mvuyelwa MBEKI, Chair of the Board

Dr. Carlos María Correa, the Executive Director of the South Centre

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Chair

My delegation would like to sincerely thank you for the exceptional work you put into preparing the twenty-sixth Meeting of the Council of Representatives. Your attention to detail, careful planning, and dedication to excellence were evident in the smooth execution and overall success of the event. From handling logistics to preparing materials and providing support during the sessions, your efforts made a big difference and did not go unnoticed.

Chair

The Delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania extends heartfelt thanks to the South Centre for its invaluable support, expertise, and steadfast dedication to promoting the interests of developing countries in global multilateral forums.

Chair

Despite the challenges and financial constraints, the Centre has continued to play a key role in boosting our members' ability to engage effectively in international negotiations, especially in areas like trade, intellectual property, human rights, health, tax, and science and technology. Thanks to its policy research, technical support, and smart guidance, our delegation has been able to present and defend Tanzania's positions with more confidence and clarity.

Chair

Just recently, the Centre demonstrated exemplary leadership and technical capacity before and during the WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) in Cameroon. By delivering incisive policy research and real-time negotiating support that empowered most of our countries to defend our interests with unprecedented coherence and confidence. The centre played a crucial role by producing a timely analytical briefs and on-the-ground expert advice. By doing so, the voices of the Global South were not only heard but actively shaped the progress on critical issues such as WTO Reforms, Moratorium, and Fisheries to mention few.

Chair

We deeply appreciate the Centre's role in fostering solidarity among developing nations, ensuring that our collective voice is heard in shaping fair and equitable global policies. The South Centre's dedication to promoting South-South cooperation aligns with Tanzania's vision for inclusive and sustainable development.

Chair,

Based on our discussions, let's move ahead with putting our agreed strategies into action to boost the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization.

Chair

Having saying so, Chair I thank you very much for giving me the floor.

Statement of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela at the Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Board of Representatives of the South Centre

Geneva, April 23, 2026 – Palais des Nations, Room VIII

Mr. Convenor, Mr. President, Mr. Executive Director of the South Centre, Distinguished Representatives of member countries, I make this statement on behalf of my Deputy Permanent Representative.

1. On behalf of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I extend my congratulations for the conduct of this Board of Representatives, in an international scenario that is going through a phase of high turbulence where the multilateral framework and its institutions are subjected to extraordinary pressure. Faced with this reality, the articulation of the Global South ceases to be a political option and becomes an objective necessity for sovereign survival.

Mr. Convenor,

2. We cannot ignore an event that redefines the terms of international legal security for all States represented here. Last January 3, Venezuelan territory was the object of an unjustified bombing, flagrantly violating the United Nations Charter and the fundamental principles of International Law, ending with the kidnapping of our Head of State, Nicolás Maduro, and the First Lady, Cilia Flores, in an unprecedented transgression of the personal immunity that customary law guarantees to the highest national dignitaries. More than one hundred citizens, uniformed and civilian, died defending our territorial integrity.
3. This precedent is not an exclusive matter for Venezuela; it is a warning issued against any nation of the South that decides to fully exercise its sovereign prerogatives.
4. Mr. Convenor, allow me to share some actions of vital importance for the Centre's records.
5. In recent days we have witnessed a periodic and partial lifting of certain coercive measures. On April 14, financial operations with the Central Bank of Venezuela and three state banks were authorized, adding to recent licenses for the oil and mining sectors. Although these are a small step forward, Venezuela's demand is the lifting of all these illegal measures. For this reason,

our acting president, Delcy Rodríguez, is promoting a 13-day national pilgrimage for the total lifting of all unilateral coercive measures.

6. Along those lines, we reiterate the invitation to the authorities of the South Centre to coordinate an upcoming visit to the country, trusting that this will make it possible to articulate with our public and academic institutions a substantive agenda that strengthens our productive apparatus. We recognize in the Centre a key intellectual ally, whose mission is to help developing countries defend their common interests, and whose solid arguments allow us to challenge the hegemonic narrative and document the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures.

Mr. Convenor,

7. Regarding the administrative matters under consideration, we have carefully examined the proposal to modify the currency of payment. Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to the Centre's sustainability and expresses its support for any initiative aimed at strengthening the financial stability of our institution.
8. In that constructive spirit, we take the liberty of pointing out three conditions we consider necessary for this measure to faithfully reflect the principles of solidarity that unite us: 1) that the change of denomination does not imply a real increase in the financial burden for those States whose economies are under external siege; 2) preserve the voluntary nature of contributions; 3) and establish a flexibility mechanism that allows countries affected by blockades to regularize arrears without affecting their full membership.
9. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will continue to insist on genuine international cooperation, based on complementarity, solidarity and respect for each country's own development models. Multilateralism is the only tool to jointly face common challenges, and the South Centre is a strategic space to articulate the new geometry of world power. That is why we support its efforts on key issues, convinced that South-South Cooperation must be built on three immovable pillars: defense of national sovereignty, deepening of regional integration, and active protection of the right to self-determination.

Thank you very much, Mr. Convenor.

Statement de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela en la Vigésima sexta reunión del Consejo de Representantes del South Centre

Ginebra, 23 de abril de 2026-Palacio de las Naciones, Sala VIII

Señor Convocador, Presidente, Señor Director Ejecutivo del Centro Sur, Distinguidos Representantes de los países miembros, hago esta declaración en nombre de mi Representante Permanente Adjunto

1. En nombre del Gobierno de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, le extiendo mis felicitaciones por la conducción de este Consejo de Representantes, en un escenario internacional que atraviesa una fase de alta turbulencia donde el andamiaje multilateral y sus instituciones son sometidos a una presión extraordinaria. Ante esta realidad, la articulación del Sur Global deja de ser una opción política para convertirse en una necesidad objetiva de sobrevivencia soberana.

Sr. Convocador,

2. No podemos soslayar un acontecimiento que redefine los términos de la seguridad jurídica internacional para todos los Estados aquí representados. El pasado 3 de enero, el territorio venezolano fue objeto de un bombardeo injustificado, violando flagrantemente la Carta de las Naciones Unidas y los principios primordiales del Derecho Internacional, terminado con el secuestro de nuestro Jefe de Estado, Nicolás Maduro, y de la Primera Dama, Cilia Flores, en una transgresión inédita de la inmunidad personal que el derecho consuetudinario garantiza a los más altos dignatarios nacionales. Más de cien ciudadanos, uniformados y civiles, murieron defendiendo nuestra integridad territorial.
3. Este precedente no es un asunto exclusivo de Venezuela, es una advertencia lanzada contra cualquier nación del Sur que decida ejercer plenamente sus prerrogativas soberanas.
4. Sr. Convocador, me permito compartir algunas acciones de vital importancia para documentación del Centro.
5. En los últimos días hemos sido testigos de un levantamiento periódico y parcial de ciertas medidas coercitivas. El 14 de abril se autorizaron operaciones financieras con el Banco Central de Venezuela y tres bancos estatales, sumándose a recientes licencias para los sectores petrolero y minero. Si bien son un pequeño avance, la exigencia de Venezuela es el

levantamiento de todas estas medidas ilegales. Por ello, nuestra presidenta encargada, Delcy Rodríguez, impulsa una peregrinación nacional de 13 días por el levantamiento total de todas las medidas coercitivas unilaterales.

6. En esa línea, reiteramos la invitación a las autoridades del Centro Sur para coordinar una próxima visita al país, confiando en que ello permitirá articular con nuestras instituciones públicas y académicas una agenda sustantiva que fortalezca nuestro aparato productivo. Reconocemos en el Centro a un aliado intelectual clave, cuya misión es ayudar a los países en desarrollo a defender sus intereses comunes, y cuyos argumentos sólidos nos permiten disputar la narrativa hegemónica y documentar el impacto negativo de las medidas coercitivas unilaterales.

Señor Convocador,

7. En cuanto a los asuntos administrativos bajo consideración, hemos examinado con atención la propuesta de modificación de la moneda de pago. Venezuela reafirma su compromiso con la sostenibilidad del Centro y expresa su respaldo a toda iniciativa orientada a fortalecer la estabilidad financiera de nuestra institución.
8. En ese espíritu constructivo, nos permitimos señalar tres condiciones que consideramos necesarias para que esta medida refleje fielmente los principios de solidaridad que nos unen: 1) que el cambio de denominación no implique un incremento real de la carga financiera para aquellos Estados cuyas economías se encuentran bajo asedio externo; 2) preservar el carácter voluntario de las contribuciones; 3) y establecer un mecanismo de flexibilidad que permita a países afectados por bloqueos regularizar atrasos sin afectar su plena membresía.
9. La República Bolivariana de Venezuela seguirá insistiendo en una cooperación internacional genuina, basada en complementariedad, solidaridad y el respeto a los modelos propios de desarrollo. El multilateralismo es la única herramienta para enfrentar juntos los desafíos comunes, y el Centro Sur es un espacio estratégico para articular la nueva geometría del poder mundial. Por eso respaldamos sus esfuerzos en temas clave, convencidos de que la Cooperación Sur-Sur debe edificarse sobre tres pilares inamovibles: defensa de la soberanía nacional, profundización de la integración regional y protección activa del derecho a la autodeterminación.

Muchas gracias, Sr. Convocador.



**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY EVER MLILO,
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, AT THE
TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SOUTH CENTRE: 23 APRIL
2026, PALAIS DES NATIONS, ROOM XXIII**

Chairperson of the South Centre Board, H.E. Comrade Thabo Mbeki, former President of the Republic of South Africa

**Convener of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre,
H.E. Ambassador Ajit Kumar**

Distinguished Board Members

Executive Director Dr Carlos Correa

Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to express sincere appreciation for the convening of this 26th Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre. As we reflect on the Centre's 30-year legacy, we remain proud to be part of an institution that has consistently advanced the collective interests of the Global South.

Zimbabwe commends the Chairperson, the Convenor, the Board, and the Executive Director for their strong leadership and for a comprehensive report that clearly demonstrates the Centre's impactful work in support of developing countries.

Excellencies,

The global environment remains deeply challenging. As highlighted in the report, we are witnessing heightened geopolitical tensions, rising nationalism, and increasing strain on the multilateral system. The erosion

of the rules-based international order and the growing use of unilateral measures continue to undermine cooperation.

At the same time, developing countries face mounting pressures. The financing gap for the Sustainable Development Goals has reached approximately USD 4 trillion annually. Debt service burdens now exceed USD 1.4 trillion per year, with many countries allocating significant shares of public revenues to interest payments. Climate impacts are intensifying, while financing needs remain vast, and structural inequalities persist, including a digital divide affecting billions.

In this context, the South Centre's role as a trusted source of independent analysis and technical support is more critical than ever. Its continued assistance to Member States in key negotiations, including trade, intellectual property, health, and finance, remains invaluable.

Zimbabwe wishes, in particular, to underscore the importance of enhanced support in ongoing multilateral negotiations. We encourage the South Centre to deepen its research, technical guidance, and advisory services in relation to:

- developments at the World Trade Organization, particularly in the aftermath of the inconclusive MC14
- intellectual property under the TRIPS Agreement, including pending issues on pandemic response and technology access, and
- global health governance, including pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, with a focus on equitable access to medicines and vaccines.

These processes carry significant implications for our policy space, public health systems, and long-term development prospects. It is therefore essential that developing countries are equipped with timely, evidence-based analysis and strategic guidance.

Excellencies,

Despite these challenges, the Global South continues to demonstrate resilience and dynamism. It accounts for the majority of the world's population and an increasing share of global economic output. This

underscores the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation and ensuring that our collective voice is effectively represented in global decision-making.

We reiterate the unique role of the South Centre as the only intergovernmental organisation in Geneva dedicated to advancing the priorities of the Global South. We encourage the Centre to deepen its engagement and partnerships in support of Member States.

At the same time, we note with concern the Centre's financial situation. The sustainability of its work depends on predictable resources. We therefore call on all Member States to honour their financial commitments and support efforts to ensure the Centre's long-term viability.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe reaffirms its strong commitment to the South Centre and its mission. We remain confident that, with collective support, the Centre will continue to play a pivotal role in advancing our shared development objectives.

I thank you.



South Centre

International Environment House 2

Chemin de Balexert 7-9


1219 Geneva

Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 791 8050

south@southcentre.int


www.southcentre.int


 [SouthCentre](https://twitter.com/SouthCentre)

 [South Centre, Geneva](https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-centre-geneva)

 [SouthCentre GVA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGVA)

 [southcentre_gva](https://www.instagram.com/southcentre_gva)

 [South_Centre](https://twitter.com/South_Centre)

 [SouthCentre](https://www.facebook.com/SouthCentre)