SOUTH CENTRE

Vacancy Announcement

Posting Title: Executive Director
Duty Station: Geneva, Switzerland

Application Period: 30 October 2026 to 31 December 2026 (11.59 pm CET)

The Board of the South Centre (**the Board**) hereby announces the vacancy for the position of Executive Director of the South Centre. It therefore invites all interested persons from the Member Countries of the South Centre and/or the Group of 77 + China to apply to fill this position.

Established in 1994, the South Centre is the Inter-Governmental Policy Research Institution of developing countries, with currently 54 developing country Member States from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. The South Centre undertakes policy-oriented research on issues of relevance for the Global South, supports developing countries' effective participation in multilateral fora, and provides advice, technical assistance and capacity building to governments on development-related policies and international negotiations.

The main activities of the Centre include policy research and analysis, convening of meetings for developing countries to share views and experiences and develop common negotiating positions, and technical assistance and capacity building. The issues addressed by the Centre include, inter alia, international and regional trade, finance for development, global public health, innovation and intellectual property, climate change, biodiversity, sustainable development, tax policy, investment, human rights and South-South cooperation.[1]

The South Centre has three institutional pillars: the Council of Representatives in which the Member States are represented; the Board comprising a Chairperson and members who act in their individual capacities and provide guidance to the Secretariat; and the Secretariat headed by the Executive Director which implements the activities of the South Centre. The Secretariat is accountable to and works under the guidance of the Board and the Council.

[1] See the Work Program of the South Centre at https://www.southcentre.int/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/THEMATIC-WORK-PROGRAMME-OF-THE-SOUTH-CENTRE-2026-TO-2028.pdf.

Nationality

Eligible candidates should be nationals of Member States of the South Centre or the Group of 77+China.

General Terms

- The appointment will be for a term of three years with the possibility of renewal upon satisfactory performance.
- The appointee will work in close consultation with the Chairperson of the Board of the South Centre.
- The appointee will be subject to the application of the South Centre's staff regulations.

Job Description

The job is both highly challenging and greatly rewarding. The Executive Director is expected to take on heavy responsibilities and have the opportunity to contribute to improving the economic and social development of countries of the South. He or she will lead a highly qualified and committed staff. He or she is expected to inspire the staff to continue to give of their best, to work with developing country leaders, policy makers and diplomats, and to generate strong links of collaboration with research institutions, intellectuals and scholars especially of the Global South.

As the head of the Secretariat of the South Centre, the appointee is required to perform the following functions:

1. Lead and direct the Secretariat in carrying out the Centre's activities to advance the interests of developing countries in the international arena and in providing technical assistance and capacity building.
2. Liaise closely with and assist the Chairperson of the Board of the Centre.
3. Lead the Secretariat staff in undertaking substantive work to fulfil the objectives of the Centre, including the following:
    a. Implement the substantive work programme of the South Centre approved by the Board by ensuring the relevance and high quality of the Centre's research outputs.
    b. Advise and assist member States and other developing countries on policy issues, in accordance with the Centre's work programme;
    c. Cooperate with the Board in raising funds to fulfil the Centre's budgetary requirements.
4. Prepare regular reports on the activities and financial situation of the South Centre, for the consideration of the Board and the Council;
5. Take charge of the Centre's administrative and financial management to ensure the Centre's transparent and smooth functioning, and that activities are carried out in a timely manner with high quality;

6. Manage the staff of the Secretariat in accordance with the Centre's staff regulations and rules; train staff members and foster teamwork and coordination among them; and
7. Represent the Centre and provide expertise, as appropriate, at international, regional and national meetings.

Qualifications

Record of work promoting the interests of developing countries

Pursuant to the Agreement Establishing the South Centre, the Executive Director must be **'a person of recognized stature from the South'**.

Candidates should be able to show a record of engagement and deep commitment in promoting the development interests of developing countries, notably in the multilateral arena.

Knowledge and Education

Excellent knowledge of the issues covered by the South Centre's work program and of the multilateral system is required. An advanced university degree (PhD, Master's degree or equivalent) in Economics, Development Studies, International Law, International Relations or a similar field with specialization and/or work experience in related disciplines with a development focus is required.

Languages

Excellent command of written and spoken English is required. Knowledge of other UN languages is an advantage.

Work Experience

Experience in the following areas is required or desirable:

- A minimum of fifteen years of experience including at least five years of experience at the international level, in a combination of multilateral policy research and analysis, engagement in national and multilateral policy processes, human and institutional capacity-development, and organizational management in an international setting.

- Mobilising of funds from governments, international agencies, philanthropic foundations, and/or other sources, and ability to take advantage of opportunities for fundraising from various sources.

- Experience in administration and management, including finances and personnel management, of a sizable work unit in a multicultural environment.

- Experience in having worked in a developing country region and in an international organization would be useful.

- Experience in policy-oriented research and analysis, in an academic context, or in regional or international institutions, especially on the policy issues taken up by the South Centre.

- Experience with or knowledge of the multilateral policymaking processes and the interface between research and negotiations.

- Familiarity with the United Nations system and its activities, including Agenda 2030 and South-South cooperation.

- Experience in managing relations with governments, diplomats, policy makers, civil society.

Remuneration

The successful candidate will be offered a position equivalent to the level of Director (salary grade ASG) in the UN system.

Selection Process

Applicants should send their CVs and an application letter electronically to the Secretariat of the South Centre at applications@southcentre.int, with a brief response to these two questions: Why I consider myself suitable for the post? and what contributions can I bring to the Centre as the Executive Director?

Short listed candidates will be contacted for a personal interview. The appointee will be expected to take up the assignment by 1 October 2027.