

Southern Voice Activities

- Creating a platform for Southern think tanks to exchange views on post-2015 global development agenda and also beyond.
- Providing research grants to:
 - reinterpret existing research from the post-2015 perspectives.
 - conduct new research to address knowledge gaps underpinning the ongoing post-2015 discourse.
- Showcasing outputs of *Southern Voice* network members through expert group meetings, research conferences, side events and other initiatives.
- Disseminating outputs of *Southern Voice* through website and digital outreach, publication of working papers and reports, writing op-eds and blogs.
- Pursuing strategic engagements through interactions with key stakeholders of the post-2015 official and parallel processes at national, regional and international platforms.
- Undertaking forward-looking assessments of implementational challenges including data-related issues.

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Southern Voice
2015 On Post-MDG International Development Goals

Bringing
Global South Research
to the Post-MDG Debate

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The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) constitute one of the ideas of the United Nations (UN) that has had a profound impact on international development thinking and practice. With the 2015 deadline drawing near, and debate on the actual state of delivery of the MDGs intensifying, it is now widely recognised that after 2015 a new international development framework must be put in place. Against this backdrop, the global discourse on post-MDGs is an opportunity for contemplation and reflection on how the new agenda will address the fault lines of its precursors, deal with new risks, confront implementation challenges and ensure political commitments.

The Network

48 think tanks from Africa, Latin America and South Asia which have identified a unique space and scope for themselves to contribute to the post-MDG dialogue.

All members of the network are grantees of the *Think Tank Initiative (TTI)* (www.thinktankinitiative.org) – a testimony of their competence.

The Rationale

Discussions on the future of MDGs are currently taking place globally through a number of channels and in a variety of platforms, with the UN Secretary-General receiving high level inputs to provide the overall guidance. However, as was seen in the past, this global development agenda building suffers from both ‘participation deficit’ and ‘knowledge asymmetry’ from developing countries. The concept of *Southern Voice* emerged to create a structured initiative to allow the global South to channel their evidence-based policy inputs into the ongoing discussion on the post-2015 framework and targets. Such an opportunity not only seeks to influence the global agenda drawing on local perspectives, but also allows actors in developing countries to explore the robustness of global goals and targets in local contexts.



.....the guiding spirit of the programme will rest with the Southern think tanks, but it will operate as an open platform, where concerned institutions and individuals from both South and North will interact with the network members.....

The idea to launch the initiative was taken at a TTI grantee meeting in Cape Town, South Africa (18-20 June 2012). An expert group meeting held in Dhaka (10-12 January 2013) endorsed the activity plan of the initiative, elected a steering committee and the immediate inputs to be sent to the UN High Level Panel on Post-MDGs.

Southern Voice's document “First Approximations on Post-MDG International Development Goals” was shared with key authors of the High Level Panel (HLP) Report as well as with the advisors to the members of the HLP. *Southern Voice* also contributed to a number of high level events highlighting its perspectives on post-MDG issues.

