



SOUTHERN VOICE



Young Think Tankers pitching for a united Global South

Call for Applications

Please note that applications are **closed**.

Background

The [Our Common Agenda](#) report by the UN Secretary General emphasised including youth into decision making and delivering on their priorities. However, the role of young think tankers from the Global South has been largely missing from global development discourse. Think tanks, situated at the confluence of research and policy, are critical in supporting evidence-based policymaking. The young researchers and policy advocates within these think tanks are the potential leaders of tomorrow, and hence inclusion of their voices will help center southern perspectives in the international agenda. Furthermore, an investment into their collaborations will translate into a future where think tanks in the Global South are better interconnected.

Young Think Tankers (YTTs) are early career research and policy professionals working in think tanks and research/policy organisations to support a diversity of social changes. A recent [survey](#) of Southern Voice's YTT network highlights the low rate of collaborations among young think tankers of the Global South. Half of the respondents had only *occasionally* or *never* worked with peers within their continent, and this figure increased to 77% when we asked them about working with young

researchers from other regions in the Global South. However, the YTTs showed great interest in working together more, agreeing that joint work would enhance their research impact and benefit the Global South as a whole.

Pitching contest

[Southern Voice](#), in partnership with [On Think Tanks](#) (OTT), is launching the call for proposals for an exciting pitching contest for YTTs from the Global South in September, 2023. The key theme of this event is **fostering collaboration among young think tankers from the Global South**. It aims to bring to the forefront concrete proposals on how to enhance these types of partnerships, and provide them an effective networking platform to ensure impact. Applications are invited from young think tankers based in the Global South, with a deadline of **31st May 2023 (by 12 midnight GMT)**.

Received applications will undergo an internal evaluation process and the top proposals will be selected for the next phase. The selected participants will be informed by the end of June 2023. The facilitators will organise a feedback session for the selected participants before the contest. The purpose of this session will be to prepare them for the final pitching round and also to provide useful feedback on their submitted proposals. Finally, at the pitching contest, the participants will make 3-minute pitches before a group of distinguished judges in a virtual event.

The pitches should feature practical and applicable solutions to increase and improve collaboration among the young think tankers of the Global South. Three winners shall be selected from among the presented pitches and results will be announced in the SV newsletter and also via emails to the participants.

Eligibility

Young think tankers must fulfill the following criteria:

- up to 35 years old
- affiliated with research organisations, think tanks, policy wings of government/legislatures, universities/other academic institutions, policy network organisations or any such development research institutions of government/non-government nature from the Global South (see list of countries in Annex).

The challenge

Imagine you are appointed as the UN Youth Envoy, who is also the presiding officer of the newly established UN Office for Youth. As a mandate of the resolution [A/RES/76/306](#) passed by the General Assembly, your office has to promote meaningful, inclusive and effective engagement of youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the work of the United Nations. You are interested in including the voices of the youth from the Global South. However, you discover through a recent [study](#) by Southern Voice that there are currently not many avenues for collaboration available to the young think tankers from the Global South. This inspires you to think about how to enable these collaborations among Southern Young Think Tankers (YTTs). Hence, you will need to prepare a proposal to the Secretary General of the UN.

Provide your unique and practical solution to improve the present state of collaborations among young think tankers. You can register your participation in the contest by filling this [form](#). Kindly note that your proposal should be concise and compelling, of maximum 1200 words.

You can take into consideration the following guiding questions while drafting your proposal:

- 1) How can collaboration among the YTTs of the Global South be transformative for the United Nations?

- 2) What needs to be done to increase and improve collaboration among YTTs across the Global South?
- 3) How can the UN Office for Youth support these efforts?

The winners

The three winners will get the opportunity to showcase their ideas at the Southern Voice conference in November in Kenya. Southern Voice will fund their travel. They will also be invited to become the steering group for improving networking opportunities among early career policy professionals of the Global South to promote the ideas suggested throughout the pitching contest.

Recognition for other shortlisted participants

Some shortlisted participants will also get the opportunity to publish their ideas with support and guidance from the organisers.

Timeline

Milestones	Tentative dates
Call for Applications	18th April 2023
Submission of proposals by the candidates	31st May 2023
Shortlisting of candidates by SV-OTT	30th June 2023
Feedback session(s)	July 2023 (TBC)
Virtual pitching contest	7th September 2023 (TBC)
Southern Voice Conference	October 2023

Frequently Asked Questions

For more information about the contest, please refer to the [FAQs](#).

Contact Information

In case of any questions or comments, please write to secretariat@southernvoice.org.

Annex

Eligible Countries

1. Afghanistan
2. Algeria
3. Angola
4. Antigua and Barbuda
5. Argentina
6. Bahamas
7. Bahrain
8. Bangladesh
9. Barbados
10. Belize
11. Benin
12. Bhutan
13. Bolivia
14. Botswana

15. Brazil
16. Brunei
17. Burkina Faso
18. Burundi
19. Cambodia
20. Cameroon
21. Cape Verde
22. Central African Republic
23. Chad
24. Chile
25. China
26. Colombia
27. Comoros
28. Congo
29. Costa Rica
30. Côte d'Ivoire
31. Cuba
32. Democratic People's Republic of Korea
33. Democratic Republic of the Congo
34. Djibouti
35. Dominica
36. Dominican Republic
37. Ecuador
38. Egypt
39. El Salvador
40. Equatorial Guinea
41. Eritrea
42. Eswatini
43. Ethiopia

44. Fiji
45. Gabon
46. Gambia
47. Ghana
48. Grenada
49. Guatemala
50. Guinea
51. Guinea-Bissau
52. Guyana
53. Haiti
54. Honduras
55. India
56. Indonesia
57. Iran (Islamic Republic of)
58. Iraq
59. Jamaica
60. Jordan
61. Kenya
62. Kiribati
63. Kuwait
64. Lao People's Democratic Republic
65. Lebanon
66. Lesotho
67. Liberia
68. Libya
69. Madagascar
70. Malawi
71. Malaysia
72. Maldives

73. Mali
74. Marshall Islands
75. Mauritania
76. Mauritius
77. Mexico
78. Micronesia (Federated States of)
79. Mongolia
80. Morocco
81. Mozambique
82. Myanmar
83. Namibia
84. Nauru
85. Nepal
86. Nicaragua
87. Niger
88. Nigeria
89. Oman
90. Pakistan
91. Panama
92. Papua New Guinea
93. Paraguay
94. Peru
95. Philippines
96. Qatar
97. Rwanda
98. Saint Kitts and Nevis
99. Saint Lucia
100. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
101. Samoa

102. Sao Tome and Principe
103. Saudi Arabia
104. Senegal
105. Seychelles
106. Sierra Leone
107. Singapore
108. Solomon Islands
109. Somalia
110. South Africa
111. South Sudan
112. Sri Lanka
113. State of Palestine
114. Sudan
115. Suriname
116. Swaziland
117. Syrian Arab Republic
118. Tajikistan
119. Tanzania
120. Thailand
121. Timor-Leste
122. Togo
123. Tonga
124. Trinidad and Tobago
125. Tunisia
126. Turkmenistan
127. Uganda
128. United Arab Emirates
129. United Republic of Tanzania
130. Uruguay

- 131. Vanuatu
- 132. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
- 133. Vietnam
- 134. Yemen
- 135. Zambia
- 136. Zimbabwe