



SOUTHERN VOICE

Global South Perspectives Launch: Rethinking Development in a Shifting Global Landscape

Concept Note

Date: 29 May 2025
Time: 8:45 AM - 10:00 AM (UTC-5) | 2.45 PM - 4.00 PM (BST)
Format: Virtual, ensuring global accessibility.
Duration: 1h15
Registration: Please register for this event at <https://bit.ly/GSPLaunch>

Background

Current geopolitical developments with policy shifts such as reduced official development assistance (ODA) can hinder actions to accelerate SDG achievements.¹ Approaching 2030, the [UN](#) in 2024 stated that only 17% of the SDG targets are currently on track, with nearly half showing minimal or moderate progress, and over one-third stalled or regressing due to various factors such as COVID-19 and geopolitical tensions.² The reversal of progress toward achieving the SDGs, among a deepening global crisis, is exacerbating inequalities at an unprecedented scale. Moreover, the declining ODA is pressing for the Global South as think tanks in the region also require external funding that frequently comes from ODA to carry out research or programs aiming to promote sustainable development. These circumstances have underscored the urgent need to reimagine the development agenda, the role of the Global South, and the leadership of Southern actors amid emerging and complex challenges.

¹ United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2023). Economic and Social Council High-level segment on accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels: Development Cooperation Forum Trends and progress in international development cooperation. In *United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs*. <https://financing.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/2300096E.pdf>

² United Nations. (2024, June 28). Press Release | With less than one fifth of targets on track, world is failing to deliver on promise of the Sustainable Development Goals, warns new UN report. United Nations Sustainable Development. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2024/06/press-release-sdg-report-2024/>



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Purpose

The virtual event will serve three key purposes: first, to launch the Global South Perspectives publication, second, to explore the role of think tanks amid pressing geopolitical developments and policy shifts, such as reductions in official development assistance and the equity backlash, and third, to kickstart Southern Voice Talks (SV Talks), a series of conversations led by the Global South to discuss strategic issues and influence global debate. This will be an opportunity to discuss how Global South think tanks can navigate these challenges and identify opportunities to thrive in the current circumstances.

Event Description

The launch of the Global South Perspectives (GSP) publication will be at the core of this 75-minute virtual event. This new publication brings together unique insights and actionable recommendations from across the Global South highlighting urgent global challenges—including the climate crisis, debt burdens, and other critical governance issues.

To mark its release, the launch event will open a timely and forward-looking discussion on how think tanks in the Global South are navigating complex geopolitical shifts, and shrinking official development assistance. Issues that directly affect the influence, sustainability, and role of Global South actors in shaping global governance.

The conversation will serve as a platform to launch the **Global South Perspectives (GSP)** publication and to emphasise the urgent need for Global South unity and cooperation in navigating these rapid changes through high quality, evidence-based research. This event will also kickstart *Southern Voice Talks*, a series of monthly discussions throughout the year that will delve deeper into the ideas and voices featured in the publication.

Panellists

- Fareeha Adil, Research Fellow - Economic Cluster and heads Center of Evidence Action Research, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI)



- Jorge Chediek, Former Director - Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation
- Nouzha Chekrouni, Senior Fellow - Policy Center for the New South and Member of Southern Voice Steering Committee
- Peter Taylor, Director - Institute of Development Studies (IDS)

Key Questions

During the event, we aim to address the following questions through a panel discussion format:

- How does geopolitical and policy shifts affect the sustainability and role of think tanks in the Global South? Considering their role in providing first-hand knowledge about national realities.
- What strategies are think tanks implementing to address the emerging challenges?
- How can we leverage the shifting global power dynamics to empower the global south's representation in the global landscape? Strategies.

Event agenda

Time (UTC-5)	Activity
08:45 - 08:50	Welcome and introduction by Estefania Charvet, Director of Programmes and Research of Southern Voice as event moderator
08:50 - 08:55	Opening remarks by Margarita Gómez, Executive Director of Southern Voice
08:55 - 09:35	Panel discussion
09:35 - 09:55	Audience Q&A
09:55 - 10:00	Closing remarks