

DEVELOPMENT CONVERGENCE: IDEAS EMERGING FROM VoGSS

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Global South is at cross-roads today. The 3rd Voice of the Global South Summit (VoGSS) is being held under such concerning circumstances. The speech of PM Narendra Modi is intended to share such concerns and suggest ways to take care of them for

Global South to move forward so that “no one is left behind”. Historically, Southern countries faced a process of extraction of both primary resources and labour and in turn, emerged as the market of finished products supplied by the North.

To achieve the required convergence, PM Modi mentioned that collectively countries of the Global South should come together and learn from each other. The current global crises of pandemic, conflicts including terrorism and radicalisation, and challenges in the areas of economy, health, food, and energy security require collaborative and concerted efforts by the countries of the Global South. The idea of reforms to ensure just and inclusive global governance including relevant changes in global financial institutions is also mentioned in the opening statement.

Operationally, the establishment of DAKSHIN (The Global South Centre of Excellence) is considered an effective initiative towards achieving the convergence. DAKSHIN to begin with is working towards sharing knowledge with the developing world in the areas of health, agriculture, and digital solutions. In the coming years, the mandate of DAKSHIN is set to expand in other areas of mutual benefits. Commitments and responsibilities from all the Southern countries are required to ensure collective action to achieve the desired objectives. The PM also pointed towards the historical responsibility of the Global North in the achievement of the necessary convergence.

Another major initiative is in the field of Digital Public Infrastructures and their associated products that are being shared with the Global South, free from any intellectual property right related conditionalities. Social Impact Fund with a contribution of USD 25 million and Trade Facilitation Fund worth USD 2.5 million along with a separate USD 1 million set aside for capacity building in the area of trade negotiations have also been announced by the PM. PM

also pointed out the need for women-led development and the idea of One World, One Health invoking the Indian traditional health system. In the recent past, India has also been an important responder in humanitarian disasters in Papua and New Guinea, Kenya, Ukraine, and Gaza as specifically mentioned by the PM.

PM further wished that VoGSS should emerge as a discussion and operational platform for the developing countries to facilitate the process of convergence through emphasis on mutual learning. This exercise will bring in the process of collective action in achievement of mutual development among the countries from the Global South.

One major announcement towards operationalising the ideas of convergence was in terms of institutionalising “Development Compact” that talks about multidimensional and multisectoral linkages that are necessary for ensuring development. The fundamental point that comes out in the concept of “Development Compact” is the fact that development cannot be ensured by providing financial support alone. It requires sufficient efforts in terms of capacity building, technology sharing, trade facilitation, concessional finance, grants and humanitarian assistance. They ought to be considered simultaneously and in an intersubstitutable manner for the integrated economic growth of Global South. (Consultants, RIS)



- “Attended the Inaugural Leaders’ Session of the third Voice of Global South Summit 2024, chaired by Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi. I commended India’s leadership, which shines as a guiding light for the Global South.
- “India’s growth, marked by solidarity and inclusivity, treats developing countries as partners rather than followers, and this human-centric approach resonates with Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness principles.”
- “I am optimistic that, under India’s leadership, we can build a more inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous Global South.”



H. E. Tshering Tobgay

Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan

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