DAKSHIN
Development and Knowledge Sharing Initiative
GLOBAL SOUTH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

RIS
Research and Information System for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

From Recommendations to Roadmaps
Brainstorming Session on Global South Cooperation

9:30 am – 12:00 pm (IST) | Thursday, 19 November 2026

G Parthasarathi Conference Hall, RIS

Concept Note

DAKSHIN – Global South Centre of Excellence at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) organised the High-Level Policy Dialogue on "Global South: Towards a New Strategic Partnership" on 17–18 November 2026 in New Delhi, to mark the Third Foundation Day of DAKSHIN. The Dialogue deliberated on the future of India–Africa engagement, including Global South partnership, agriculture, health, digital public infrastructure, trade and investment, connectivity, and Africa's structural transformation. Think tanks and other research organisations are well placed to translate these deliberations into evidence-based policy options and sustained institutional cooperation.

In this context, DAKSHIN-RIS is convening a half-day roundtable on Thursday, 19 November 2026 with the participants of Africa who attended the High-Level Policy Dialogue. The roundtable is envisaged as an informal forum for a candid exchange of views on the future of India–Africa engagement, especially to discuss how to convert the discussions to actions.

The principal objective of the roundtable is to carry forward the deliberations of the Dialogue by translating the priorities identified into practical avenues for cooperation. It will take stock of the key issues and recommendations emerging from the Dialogue and discuss translating these recommendations into concrete actions through sustained engagement, institutional ownership, and collaborative implementation mechanisms. African think tanks, as key knowledge and policy partners, are uniquely positioned to contribute to this process by generating evidence-based policy solutions, fostering South-South learning, and supporting governments in advancing shared development priorities. The brainstorming session will provide an opportunity to reflect on the outcomes of the High-Level Dialogue, identify priority areas for collaboration, and explore mechanisms for maintaining momentum beyond the event.

The discussion will be structured in two parts. The first will focus on the strengths and expertise of participating institutions, potential areas of cooperation with one another, including triangular cooperation with DAKSHIN, and approaches to taking such cooperation forward in

alignment with their respective national and institutional priorities. The second will build on this exchange to develop a viable work plan and implementation approach, setting out priority areas, the roles of participating institutions and timelines for follow-up.

The programme will also include a separate interactive brainstorming session on “Building Trust and Accelerating the Use of Digital Payments: Lessons from India and Africa”, moderated by UNDP and the Better Than Cash Alliance. Drawing on India’s experience of scaling digital payments through public infrastructure and regulatory innovation, and on the diverse experiences of African markets, from established mobile money ecosystems to emerging payment systems and cross-border initiatives under the AfCFTA, the session will provide a platform to exchange evidence on building trust in digital payments and sustaining their use, particularly among women, small merchants, and underserved communities. It will also explore what is needed for safe and affordable cross-border payments, and identify key evidence gaps where further policy work could be most useful.

The roundtable is expected to yield an agreed set of priority areas for cooperation, expressions of interest from participating institutions, and a work plan setting out practical next steps for follow-up. It will provide a basis for sustained and practical engagement between DAKSHIN and its LoA partners.