



## **Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the UN** **Geneva**

**Statement by Pakistan**  
**at the**  
**Twenty-Second Virtual Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South**  
**Centre**  
**(24 February 2022)**  
**Geneva, Switzerland**

**Hon'ble Chairperson,** (H. E. Thabo Mvuyelwa MBEKI)

**Executive Director,** (Dr. Carlos Correa)

**Convener of the Council of Representatives,** (Ambassador (Retd.) Ajit Kumar)

**Distinguished Colleagues,**

Let me begin by thanking President Thabo Mbeki for his leadership. I also wish to recognize Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa, under whose guidance the South Centre continues to discharge its duties ably and efficiently.

The South Centre is doing a commendable job by carrying out extensive research and by providing advocacy and advice on international public policy issues of interest to developing countries. The Centre's provision of technical and capacity building assistance and advisory support to developing countries has also been very valuable.

We also note with appreciation Dr Correa's presentation and report on the activities undertaken by the South Centre in the past year. Specifically, on the COVID-19 response, the Centre has provided useful advice to its members and other developing countries. The Centre's role has been particularly helpful in its raising awareness and advocacy efforts in highlighting:

- i)** the negative social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on developing countries that in turn were exacerbated by vaccine inequity;
- ii)** implications of the shrinking policy space in developing countries especially as a result of liquidity and fiscal crunch, debt burdens, barriers to access health technologies;
- iii)** the urgency and importance of expanding the vaccine manufacturing capacity including in developing countries, and;
- iv)** strengthening the capacity of developing countries to participate in South-South and Triangular cooperation.

Pakistan has always been staunch advocate of solidarity and self-sufficiency among southern nations and closer technical and economic cooperation under the rubric of South-South Cooperation.

Today developing countries are facing many socio-economic challenges. COVID-19 pandemic has hit the developing countries the hardest, further accentuating economic and social inequalities.

Developing countries are obliged to deal with the problems of the past but have also those exacerbated issues generated by the pandemic. The southern countries are also obliged to walk a tight rope; on other hand, they must protect the health and lives of their populations, while simultaneously shielding their economies and people from rising unemployment, poverty. Recovery from the effects of the pandemic has posed daunting challenges to developing countries due to dwindling foreign exchange reserves, mounting debts, globally rising oil and food prices, breakdown in supply chains and the widening digital divide.

In short, many developing countries are at the proverbial ‘tipping point’.

**Mr. Convener,**

The current crisis has reinforced the imperative to address the systemic anomalies of the global economic system. The current architecture, mechanism and policies have once again failed to respond to the existing and new challenges faced by the developing countries.

The awareness raising and advocacy role of the South Centre therefore is more salient than ever.

**Mr. Convener,**

The Global South has several common interests and priorities, the advancement of which however demands greater coordination, collaboration and cooperation among our countries.

I would like to highlight some issues that South Center may prioritize in its program for the next year.

First, Enhanced awareness raising and advocacy towards reform of International Economic and Financial Architecture: The South Centre may build on and amplify its support to the proposals for debt relief, creation of International Debt Authority, Multidimensional Vulnerability Index and an independent Global Credit Rating Agency.

Second, Continued advocacy for capacity building and technical assistance to developing countries to ward off risks of claims arising from provisions of International Investment Agreements and to advocate for temporary waiver of Intellectual Property Rights so that manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines in developing countries in enhanced.

Third, Reform in International Taxation System: South Centre has done a great job in this important area under its Tax Initiative. Fair taxation of multinational and digital companies is necessary. The Centre should continue to provide developing countries policy proposals, guidance and

expert opinion in the on-going reforms of the international tax system in OECD.

Fourth, Assisting developing countries in tackling illicit financial outflows: The South Centre may enhance its advocacy towards implementation of the recommendations of FACTI Panel and explore ways of supporting developing countries in retrieval of their stolen assets parked in developed countries.

Fifth, Continue to provide policy, legal and technical advice across the range of WTO issues including development issues, services, e-commerce, fisheries agriculture, WTO reform and MC12 Outcome Document. We encourage the Centre to establish a platform under its umbrella to provide opportunity for its members to engage, strategize and coordinate over issues at the WTO.

Sixth, Continue to advise and guide the developing countries on the technical aspects of negotiations on the pandemic treaty.

Seventh, Intensify its engagement with G77 and NAM and continue to provide inputs on strengthening the provisions of the draft legal instrument on the right to development, investment protection and reform of investor-state dispute resolution system; and mobilizing the support for fulfilment of financing commitments in the Paris Agreement.

Finally, we encourage South Centre to expand its collaboration with other institutions and scholars of the South.

**Mr. Convener,**

Pakistan stands ready to work with other Member States to further strengthen the South Centre in all areas of its work.

**Thank you.**

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