

Press Release

GDC-RIS signs MoU with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to promote South-South Collaboration

New Delhi, October 05, 2021 – Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi based autonomous policy research institute, today signed a 5 year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to advance cross-sharing of ideas, innovations, and solutions across developing countries and beyond through its specialized wing, Global Development Centre (GDC). GDC-RIS and Gates Foundation will work together towards strengthening and building new partnerships for South-South cooperation in areas such as nutrition, health systems, pandemic preparedness, agriculture, digital financial inclusion, and women empowerment among other key development issues.

This partnership will facilitate knowledge sharing of development innovations and best practices among the Global South, with a vision towards building a vibrant, constructive, and continued engagement for progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This engagement will encompass horizontally and vertically integrated partnership to identify and document innovations and best practices across development solutions, outreach to a wide range of stakeholders including national/state governments, private sector, think tanks, civil society and academia. It aims to facilitate thought partnerships to boost knowledge exchange programs, capacity building and implementation support efforts. The association will enable a platform for engaging with various stakeholders in addressing developmental challenges in India and the Global South by providing comprehensive holistic support to curate best practices locally and globally to strengthen the overarching goals of South-South Cooperation.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs, said “India is perceived as a first responder in the regional in times of crisis, a climate action leader, the pharmacy of the world, a reservoir of talent and a reliable development partner. I am extremely glad to note that RIS has established a specialised wing at its premises, the Global Development Centre, GDC for taking Hon'ble Prime Minister's ideas forward to other developing countries, within the framework of South-South Cooperation. This partnership between RIS and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation would pave the way for institutionalized transfer of knowledge, promotion of policy research and outreach for knowledge exchange, capacity building and skills development among their interested partners countries and institutions as part of India's policy to promote global goods. I'd very much like to congratulate the GDC team at RIS and our friends from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for this very constructive initiative for a better world.”

“At the outset our idea of the Global Development Centre is to promote several major programs started by Hon'ble Prime Minister which have contributed immensely in terms of both bringing in inclusion in our economic development initiatives and also trying to bring in sustainability. These two dimensions have been the core strength of almost all programs that we have launched such as Aadhaar enabled e-payment services or UPI or BHIM or even the National Payment Systems, etc. These programs have been trying to contribute towards the idea of sustainability, inclusion and to bring efficiency in governance by stopping the leakages, identifying beneficiaries targeting benefits to the most desired communities of India,” said Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

“India’s leadership on the global stage – from vaccine manufacturing and digital health to digital financial inclusion and beyond – are great examples of innovation and scale that offer enormous potential for cross-learning and collaboration. We are excited about this engagement with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries and optimistic that this platform will offer opportunities for expanded partnerships across the Global South and accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals,” said Gargee Ghosh, President, Global Policy & Advocacy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Talking about the importance of the collaboration, Hari Menon, India Country Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, stated “Collaboration and partnerships are critical now more than ever, to accelerate research, develop new tools, and drive continued progress in health and development. Given the Government of India’s deep commitment to global partnerships, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is honoured to work with the Ministry of External Affairs and the RIS to support strong collaboration between governments, multilateral institutions, academia, and voluntary and private sectors, to enable joint commitment and shared learning that address the biggest challenges in health and development in the Global South.”

About the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) & Global Development Centre (GDC)

RIS is a New Delhi based autonomous policy research institute specialised in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. Established and funded by the Ministry of External Affairs, it promotes South-South Cooperation and collaborates with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

RIS launched the Global Development Centre (GDC) to take the Indian development experience to the Global South. GDC aims to showcase global leadership across countries through development cooperation. It encourages sharing of evidences of knowledge and experiences of best practices to promote suitable adoption and boost universal resilience by engaging partner institutions like government agencies, think-tanks and Civil Society Organisations having footprints in the national and international domains. GDC encourages enhanced engagement of partnering nations for studying the roles, linkages and partnerships of private and public sectors in India and the rest of the world.

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