

REPORT
GDC Project
on
Creating Digital Public Goods
for Global South
at
Paris Peace Forum



RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

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GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

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Published in November 2021 by:



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Context

Paris Peace Forum (PPF) was founded as a global platform open to all seeking to develop coordination, rules, and capacities that answer global problems. Its year-round support activities and an annual event in November help PPF better organize our planet by convening the world, boosting projects, and incubating initiatives.

The challenges the world faces—climate change, terrorism, migration, cyber insecurity require international cooperation and collective action despite the reality that collaboration is increasingly becoming difficult as countries are turning inwards. Today, the international community is struggling at producing the needed solutions for global governance.



US Vice President Kamala Harris speaking at the inaugural ceremony at PPF



Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

PPF considers that nation states are competing hard for advantage and populism is undermining the institutions and mechanisms for collective action. Democratic spaces are shrinking and inequalities are widening. Military expenditures are growing fast while the United Nations budget is cut. International norms, in particular, human rights, are being disregarded by many countries. The internet is becoming a jungle where data is hacked and fake news spread for attainment of particular purposes. International justice is being questioned and the world is rapidly losing the race against global warming. As such, it is imperative to restore global peace. Peace is made up of all the solutions that help reduce international tensions: cooperation to fight climate change and mitigate resource scarcity, institutions to channel power rivalries and better administer global public goods, regulation to address abuses of power and inequalities, intergenerational bridges and gender equality to create more peaceful societies. In

other words, peace will only be sustainable if effective global governance underpins it. PPF works to bridge this governance gap by bringing together all stakeholders to advance concrete solutions where none exist. It strongly supports, improves, and complements multilateral institutions as they have universal membership and legitimate mandates for the creation of rules and mechanisms to solve transnational problems.

PPF foster hybrid coalitions by gathering old and new actors of global governance: states and international organizations, but also NGOs, companies, foundations, philanthropic organizations, development agencies, religious groups, trade unions, think tanks, universities, and civil society at large. It showcases and supports concrete projects that are either normative instruments of law, standards, and good practices or capacity-building together with new institutions, mechanisms, and innovations.

Every year from November 11th to 13th, PPF puts global governance on the agenda of leaders and civil society. It invites public and private organizations from around the world to present their governance projects. These projects are presented in the form of stands and project leaders take part in debates with elected officials, experts and other stakeholders.

The annual Forum acts also as a platform for launching multi-actor initiatives, i.e., new normative or organizational instruments that have a direct impact on global governance. More broadly, it is a place for dialogue and cooperation on global governance solutions. It is also a space for networking, bilateral meetings and mediation.

The annual Forum is more than a conference as it is also a congress, an exhibition and a summit, structured around three complementary spaces:

The Space for Solutions: any organization can present and advance a

new governance project.

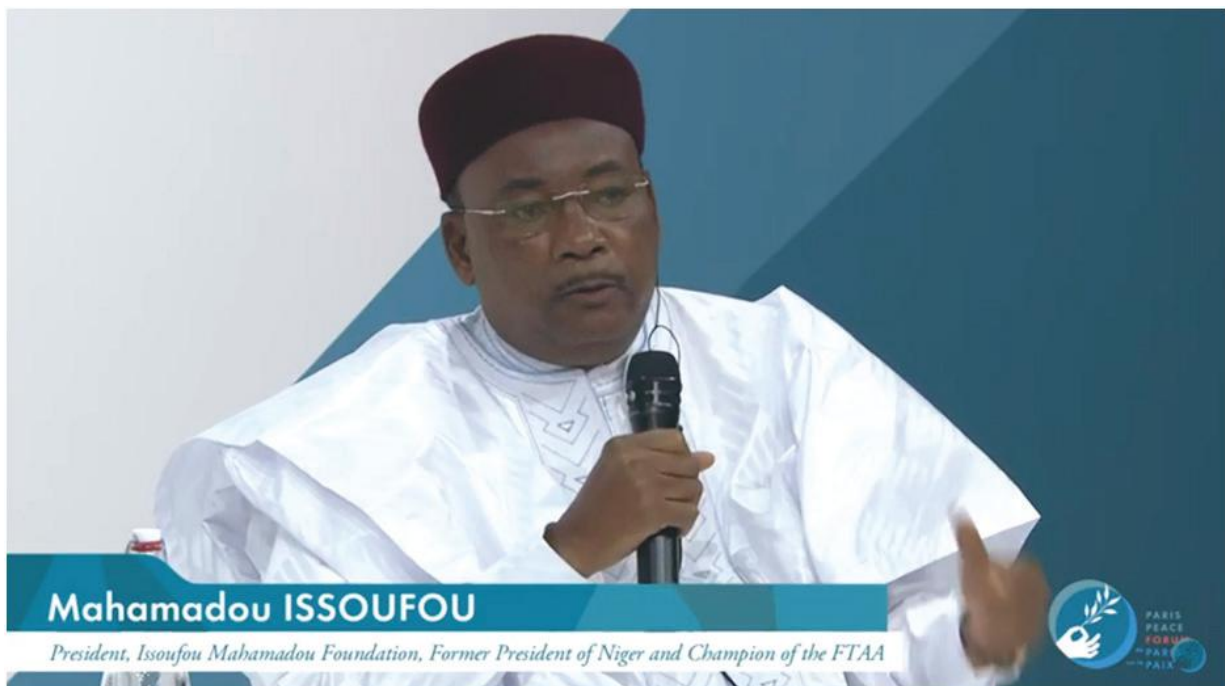
The Debate Agenda: where stakeholders in global governance can discuss projects, initiatives and ideas to address contemporary challenges.

The Space for Innovation: where specialists bring out the technological solutions of tomorrow's world.

Leveraging RIS for GDC

PPF is also a platform for advancing the most promising governance projects. Each year, PPF supports ten governance projects selected from those presented at the annual Forum. Throughout the year, the forum provides these selected projects with tailored support for their advocacy, communication and organizational development activities.

RIS is working very closely with the PPF through its unique 'do-tank' platform Global Development Centre (GDC). GDC shall continue to remain the anchor of this partnership and aspires to leverage



Mahamadou Issoufou, President, Issoufou Mahamadou Foundation, Former President of Niger

wider multi-stakeholders' engagement extended by PPF for innovative and outcome driven collective action and financing for development/SDGs. This will add to arriving at 'governance solutions' that promote mutual learning, knowledge sharing and capacity building in targeted geographies under a robust South-South and Triangular Cooperation framework. The 'solution' that has been envisioned, conceptualized and is being implemented through the GDC substantially complements the mandates and objectives of the PPF and its role in developing countries.

GDC's project, 'Creating Digital Public Goods for Global South' got selected as part of solutions for Global South under South-South Cooperation. The project orchestrated the pioneering achievements of Co-WIN as a best practice for suitable adoption in Asia and Africa.

Presence of GDC at PPF

In 2021, PPF Summit took place between November 11th-13th, extending online and onsite participation at La Grande Halle de La Villette at Paris in France in the wake of unending impact of Covid-19 pandemic globally. The conference drew the participation of a number of heads of state and government, notably President Emmanuel Macron of France, President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, Vice President Kamala Harris of the United States, among others. Other notable participants included heads of government and non-government international organizations, philanthropic organizations, and different organisations of repute.

A 4-member delegation from GDC consisting of the following took part in the PPF edition this year:

Ambassador Dr. Mohan Kumar,
Chairman RIS - Head of the delegation,



Muhammad Al Jasser, President, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Chairman, IsDB Group



Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator

Mr. Rohit Deo Jha, Deputy Director, National Health Authority, Ministry of Health, Government of India, Technical Expert for Co-WIN Digital Vaccination Platform.

Ms. Rituparna Banerjee, GDC Manager, Project Leader for '*Creating Digital Public Goods for Global South*'.

Mr. Omegere John Patrick, GDC Resource Person based in Uganda.

GDC's engagement at PPF was principally meant to utilize its global platform to mainstream game changing innovations emerging from the South, including some of the best development practices being followed by India, and their relevance for catalysing South-South Cooperation, especially during the pandemic. PPF as a leadership platform was also leveraged for wider reach, capacity building and knowledge sharing within the PPF mandate of accelerating/ scaling real and meaningful 'solutions' to world's problems. PPF platform also offered a major

opportunity for GDC to connect with a wide range of potential partners.

The 2021 edition of the PPF was convened under the theme 'Bridging Global Gaps and Improving Global Governance for the post-COVID world'. Under the above theme, the forum explored sub-themes of specific relevance to GDC thematic focus such as strengthening South-South Cooperation, fighting against COVID-19 crisis, gender equality, better governing the digital world.

Based on its expertise, RIS-GDC steered discussions on South-South cooperation at the 2021 edition of the PPF. Amb. Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman RIS led GDC-RIS on-site delegation at PPF and chaired a high-level session on 'Achieving the SDGs: South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the decade of Action'. The panel discussion which involved Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, Muhammed Al Jasser, President of Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Mahamadou Issoufou Former President of Niger, and Mr. Achim Steiner,



Ambassador Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries

UNDP Administrator who shared his video message, explored how South-South cooperation can be harnessed for advancing the SDGs. Following are the key take away from the session:

- Development is no longer a one-way transfer of funds, expertise and technology, rather co-investing in solutions.
- South-South and triangular cooperation is a trusted and proven mechanism for implementing development solutions.
- Creative solutions and cost effectiveness of South-South Cooperation are the two critical components for attaining Agenda 2030.
- South-South Cooperation has placed a vital role in the response against the pandemic in terms of technical assistance and capacity building, and supply of critical medical supplies.
- There is need to harness South-South Cooperation to accelerate progress towards vaccine equity, debt relief and sustainable development finance, green economy and the digital revolution.
- It is imperative to enhance funding to South-South Cooperation projects and mainstream South-South Development Cooperation to the International Development discourse.
- With more finance, home grown solutions in the Global South need to be implemented and scaled up in other developing countries to avoid reinventing development solutions.
- Financial and technological capacity of the North can increase the transparency and cost effectiveness of South-South cooperation.
- In view of inequitable vaccine access, developing countries need TRIPS waiver and technical assistance to locally manufacture COVID-19 vaccines.
- Bangladesh has been working with other developing countries to share its success

in agriculture, community healthcare, non-formal education, reproductive healthcare, disaster management, micro-financing and micro-savings.

- Bangladesh has also offered to engage in humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan.
- With support from UNDP, Bangladesh has gained considerable experience on community level digital services and public service innovation.
- Bangladesh has also offered to set up a Southern Knowledge and Innovation Centre to serve as a centre to developing technological solutions in the South.
- In Africa, South-South Cooperation is critical for attaining the continents' Agenda 2063. There are several South-South Cooperation projects most notably AfCFTA, infrastructure projects etc.
- South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation have also been useful in fighting terrorism and other security challenges in the Sahel region.
- To strengthen South-South Cooperation, there is need to strengthen institutions in recipient countries, especially coordinating agencies and Project management offices, and enhance capacity in project preparation.
- GDC is prepared to extend its experience and expertise to its partner countries in Asia and Africa for attainment of SDGs through intensified localization.
- Chairman RIS also briefed the panellists about the work being done at GDC during his personal interactions with them. With these deliberations, connection at the highest possible political level was established by GDC at PPF and efforts would now be

made to consolidate the preliminary engagement for exchange of ideas and best practices in Asia and Africa.

Presentation on CO-WIN



GDC Project on *Creating Digital Public Goods for Global South*

Most importantly, GDC's project 'creating digital public goods in the global South' was one of the 80 projects selected and showcased during the PPF. The project entails the GDC effort in supporting developing countries in Africa to build digital vaccination programs based on India's model called COVID-19 Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-WIN). In India, Co-WIN has been critical for the successful roll-out of one of the world's largest COVID vaccination programmes. Recently, India surpassed one billion COVID vaccine doses administered. Co-WIN provides an end-to-end solution for vaccine management and distribution including scheduling vaccination appointments, data management, and issuing globally recognized vaccination certificates. It has relevance not just for COVID-19 vaccination, but also for pre-existing vaccination programmes.

The project was also showcased through an online stall and on-site GDC representatives. Mr. Rohit Deo Jha, the technical expert of the National Health



Chairman, RIS presenting GDC project 'Creating Digital Public Goods for Global South' at PPF

Authority (NHA), Ministry of Health, Government of India was critical in providing technical insights on Co-WIN. Additionally, a joint presentation was prepared by GDC in consultation with Mr. Rohit Deo Jha from NHA team, and delivered by Amb. Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman RIS, during a session 'Inspiration from the South: How to boost South-South Cooperation'. Amb. Dr. Kumar's presentation illustrated how India's experience can offer its robust digital vaccination platform as a global public good towards advancing South-South Cooperation. Below are some of the highlights from his presentation:

- In view of the scale of the country's vaccination programme, Co-WIN was devised to manage vaccination ecosystem at multiple locations in terms of vaccination appointments, vaccine stock levels, and data management; keep stakeholders apprised of the latest research vaccination protocols; managing CSR incentives for vaccination; and providing authenticable certificates to all.
- The system leverages on high phone and internet penetration estimated at 900 million and 800 million people respectively. Assisted registration processes provides support to people who do not have phone.
- Co-WIN provides for an equitable and inclusive access to COVID vaccines and data thereof, dynamic and scalable system, and feedback and analysis mechanism.
- Electronic Vaccine Intelligence network (e-VIN) provides for real time tracking of vaccine temperature and stock.
- Unique features such blended (offline and online) registration ensures inclusivity of the system; and use of open Application Programming Interfaces (API) enables further innovations. The systems have minimal data requirements, and hence less concerns for data privacy.
- Owing to its success in India, the Government of India is offering Co-

WIN to other developing countries to emulate. The offer entails customising the technology to meet local demands and capacity enhancement.

- India's offer of Co-WIN, a digital public good, fulfils all the principle of South-South Cooperation especially mutual beneficial, non-conditional with open source, demand driven and voluntary, has no license fee and encourages local ownership.
- GDC had earlier organised webinar on 'Coping with COVID: Experiences of developing countries in vaccine platforms and rollout' on 19 May 2021. The event was attended by health officials from Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya and Nigeria, along with Dr. Ram Sewak Sharma, CEO, NHA.
- Subsequently on 27 October 2021, a demo on Co-WIN was presented by NHA to participants from Ministry of Health, Kenya to promote the idea of South-South Cooperation. Experts from NHA gave the demo and provided technical nuances of Co-WIN. GDC had the privilege to facilitate the process.

Outreach of GDC

As such, the PPF provided an opportunity for the GDC to project its activities to an audience of over 29 heads of state and government and 13 heads of international organisations, and 15000 digital participants from 157 counties. GDC was part of the 80 projects that were showcased in the summit.

On the side-lines of the PPF, GDC Resource Person in Africa Mr. Omegere John Patrick and GDC Manager Ms. Rituparna Banerjee held highly productive interactions with multiple stakeholders.



Representative, National Health Authority attending session on South-South Cooperation.

The interactions were aimed to develop partnerships for future engagements and create awareness of GDC objectives. The most notable interactions were with the persons mentioned in table 1.

Additionally, Mr. Omegere John Patrick and Ms. Rituparna Banerjee interacted with many other Project Leaders during the Forum. Notable among them were mentioned in table 2.

Overall, the stakeholders engaged were profoundly excited to learn about the work being done by GDC and expressed interest in its activities. GDC would leverage on these engagements for future partnerships and for connections to target areas and geographies. Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has already expressed interest in



GDC team with Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, UNAIDS at PPF

partnering in the work programmes of GDC. The GDC would also use the insights from the discussions in designing future plan of activities.



Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director, UNAIDS discussing on issues related to vaccines



Closing Ceremony on climate issues with US Presidential envoy John Kerry

Table 1

S/no	Name	Designation	Organisation
1	Ms. Winnie Byanyima	Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations/ Executive Director UNAIDS	UNAIDS
2	Mr. Nedzad Ajanovic	Senior Executive Coordinator (Partnerships)/ Chief Product and Partnership Officer Directorate	Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
3	Mr. Majibur Rahman	Director General, Office of the Prime Minister, Bangladesh.	Government of Bangladesh
4	Mr. Amadou Mahaman Mousa	Executive Assistant to Mahamadou Issoufou, Former President of Niger.	Issoufou Muhamadou Foundation.
5	Mr. Stefano Manservasi	Chair of the Governing Board	Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund.

Table 2

S/no.	Organisation	Project	Project leaders	Lessons Learnt
1.	International Trade Centre (ITC)	Supporting Indian Trade and Investments for Africa (SITA)	Ms. Tara Bhuwanee & Soumyajit Kar	Importance of leveraging private sector investments to develop technical capacity, facilitate knowledge transfer and creating jobs for women and youth.
2.	Elevar Equity (USA)	The Elevar Method of investing – providing access to finance to low-income customers providing essential products and services.	Ms. Jyostna Krishnan & Ms. Richa Pandey	Use of private sector models for implementing development interventions.
3.	Perfectors of Sentiments (PoS) Foundation (Ghana)	Justice for all Amid COVID	Mr. Jonathan Osei Owusu & Mr. Richard Boakye	Potential role of digital technologies in administering justice.

About GDC

Global Development Centre (GDC) established at RIS aims to take the Indian development experience to other countries. The Centre will contribute towards evolving an alternative development paradigm anchored on the virtues of inclusiveness and sustainability. It strives to promote indigenous alternative development programmes/flagship missions advocated by India for their possible replication among its partner countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

GDC envisages institutionalising knowledge on India's development transformations and external cooperation. The Centre shall support India's efforts in creation of global public goods and help in establishing global relevance of India's development efforts. It will also help India learn from the experiences and development initiatives of other countries.

The broad thematic focus/verticals for research and advocacy under GDC include: Health, STI & Digital Technologies, Agriculture and Development Practices & New Frameworks.

For more information about GDC and its work programme, please visit its website: www.gdcin.org



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