



# Eye on the **SOUTH**

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## Diplomatic Cooperation Within the Global South



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## Introduction

Global cooperation is essential for addressing shared challenges, as countries can leverage each other's strengths to tackle development issues through collaborative efforts. It encompasses diverse perspectives and combined resources, leading to more comprehensive solutions. It also enhances global solidarity within the Global South.

One of the key tools is “diplomatic cooperation” which refers to coordination between multiple countries to achieve goals for economic development. It is a crucial avenue to promote the development of the Global South amidst a changing global political economy. Through bilateral, multilateral, and ad-hoc agreements, many countries in the Global South passed international agreements that led to economic development of the region.

Diplomatic cooperation also helps in reforming the legacy world trade order established after the end of the Second World War, which disadvantages the Global South at the expense of the Global North. Through diplomacy and international agreements these legal barriers can be removed to help develop the economies of the Global South.

There are various types of diplomatic cooperation mainly North-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and South-South cooperation not to mention bilateral cooperation between countries from the Global South.

North-South Cooperation is the most common type of cooperation and usually involves a developed country supporting a less developed one, typically in the form of financial or humanitarian aid. This type of cooperation aims to transfer finance and/or knowledge from the Global North to the South. An example of this type of cooperation is Japan providing disaster relief to developing Asian countries to help them rebuild. Another example is the UK providing £72 million to Kenya as development assistance to help overcome the effects of drought and COVID-19 in 2023.

Triangular cooperation involves a single northern state (donor country) and multiple southern states (recipient countries). This type of cooperation is usually facilitated through international organizations as a third partner. An example of this is the Japanese government funding healthcare infrastructure in several Latin American countries through the World Health Organization. Another example is Germany supporting India and Kenya in developing its renewable energy sector through the World Bank.

South-South diplomatic cooperation involves collaboration among developing countries, sharing knowledge, resources, and expertise to overcome common challenges and promote self-reliance. This kind of cooperation can also be used for the



Southern countries to negotiate as a single bloc, to help build negotiating leverage to gain favorable trade agreements using the combined economic power of those states. Examples of this include technical cooperation between India and Brazil to share knowledge in low-cost vaccine production and space technology. This type of cooperation exists bilaterally, regionally and on a global scale.

This type of South-south cooperation is growing and tends to be overlooked. It is unique because it involves the exchange of relevant expertise and finance in both directions, meaning both sides have an incentive to continue and expand it. South-south cooperation can also lead to slight reforms in the international global order which can unlock great change in the future.

This cooperation started to emerge in the 1990s due to various factors in the global political economy. Many developing countries at the time were shifting their economic policies towards more market-oriented economies. This transition was experienced by several countries in the Global South at the same time required new types of shared expertise that traditional North-South cooperation was not relevant. The end of the Cold War meant there was a reduced emphasis on ideological alignment and more focus on pragmatic economic partnerships. Countries in the Global South began to recognize that they shared similar developmental challenges and opportunities, making South-South cooperation a more appealing and mutually beneficial approach. Additionally, globalization was accelerating, leading to greater interconnectedness and the realization that economic growth in one part of the South could have positive spillover effects on other developing nations.

This edition of “Eye on the South” will focus specifically on South-South diplomatic cooperation as a crucial avenue for the developing world to achieve its development potential, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and more to address the new challenges faced due to the climate crisis. It will highlight successful examples of diplomatic cooperation and how they can be expanded, and the lessons learned as to why they were not able to reach their full potential.

Below is the list of initiatives analyzed in this edition:

Initiative	Geographic Scope	Type	Parent organization
<b>Industry and Trade UNCTAD trade negotiations under G77</b>	Global	Diplomatic grouping within the Global South	G-77
<b>IPR and Trips negotiations</b>	Global	Unified diplomatic bloc	
<b>Climate Justice</b>	Global	Unified diplomatic bloc	
<b>India Brazil South Africa dialogue forum</b>	Global	Ad-hoc forum	IBSA
<b>MERCOSUR trade bloc</b>	Regional (South America)	Trade bloc	MERCOSUR
<b>APRM</b>	Regional (Africa)	Development organization	African Union
<b>ASEAN trade bloc</b>	Regional (South-East Asia)	Trade bloc	ASEAN

### 1. Global South-South Cooperation through the G77

The G77 was established in 1964, during the first session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) by 77 members from the global south. It is the largest grouping representing countries of the Global South and is the most significant multilateral organization representing its operations on a global scale. Organizations like the G77 serve as a vehicle for cooperation, enabling developing countries to work as a forum and amplify their voices on the global stage. The primary purpose of the group is to provide a forum for developing nations to promote their economic interests on the global stage and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity within the UN. The Charter of Algiers was adopted in 1967 to amplify their voice. Today the G77 consists of 134 member countries, accounting for 80% of the global population.

The G77 works on several policy areas which include.

- **Development Agenda:** This agenda aims to boost the economies of the global South and address the challenges faced by developing countries. The bloc aims



to overcome obstacles such as decreasing purchasing power, high debt, and unfavorable trade relations with the Global North.

- **Climate Change:** The G77 has pushed for climate justice by pointing out the historical responsibility of developed countries for greenhouse gas emissions. It advocates for fair and equitable climate action, resisting binding commitments that disproportionately burden developing nations.
- **Peace and Security:** The G77 has raised concerns about conflicts worldwide, calling for peace and humanitarian assistance in all regions.
- **Global Governance Reform:** There have been many proposals by members of the G77 to lead efforts in reforming outdated multilateral institutions and frameworks that are viewed as biased towards the Global North.

The G77 has been actively engaged in various areas of focus, including industry and trade, intellectual property rights, and promoting climate justice.

### A. Industry and Trade

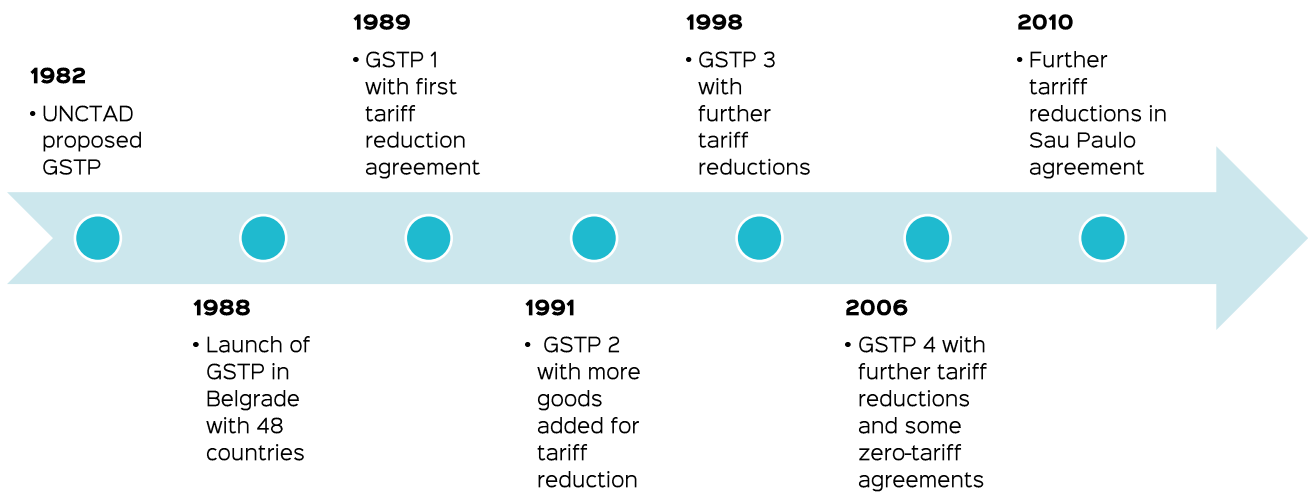
The G77 played a pivotal role in the UNCTAD negotiations advocating for the collective economic interests of developing countries. Among the trade initiatives was the establishment of the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP) in 1988, which aims to enhance South-South trade through preferential tariff reductions between those states<sup>1</sup>.

In 1998 GSTOP 3 was introduced with further tariff reductions but also special provisions for the Least Developing Countries (LDCs), such as a longer timeframe for tariff reduction to help them adjust to the new economic environment. GSTP encompasses 42 member states and aims to increase trade within the developing world by offering mutual tariff preferences<sup>1</sup> and has been evolving through multiple negotiation stages. In the long run it is designed to replace regional economic groupings of developing countries<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The Group of 77 - Member States. <https://www.g77.org/doc/members.html>

<sup>2</sup> Global System of Trade Preferences | UNCTAD. <https://unctad.org/topic/trade-agreements/global-system-of-trade-preferences>

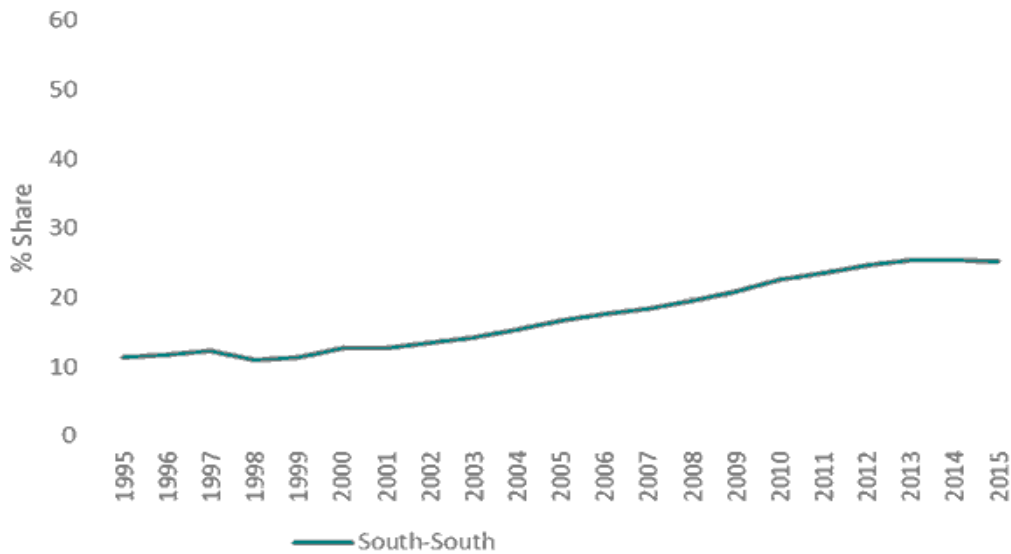
**Figure 1: Timeline of GSTP agreements over time**



Source: Prepared by ECES

GSTP has had some success and contributed significantly to increased trade and development cooperation among G-77 member states. Trade within the global south increased from \$600 billion in 1995 to \$5.3 trillion in 2021<sup>3</sup>. In addition, this growth in trade has led to an unspecified value in consumer savings in importing countries due to lower tariffs. It has also benefited exporting countries by creating stable employment. The increased trade by this scheme created a financial incentive for developing countries to upgrade their infrastructure to meet the increasing demand for trade. It has also incentivized investment in the private sector, which sees trade with developing countries as a first step to becoming significant players in the global market. A case of a successful commercial enterprise in the developing world, facilitated by GTSP, is Tata Motors in India. In the 1980s, Tata Motors primarily focused on the domestic Indian market. During the 1990s, as a result of lower tariffs and barriers, the company expanded its reach by exporting vehicles to South Africa and forming a joint venture with a Brazilian bus company. By the 2000s, Tata Motors had entered developed markets, including Japan, South Korea, and the United Kingdom.

<sup>3</sup> The South-South trade partnership for accelerating the SDGs achievement - <https://unctad.org/meeting/south-south-trade-partnership-accelerating-sdgs-achievement>

**Figure 2: South-South trade under GTSP over time**

Source: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

However there have also been issues with implementation due to the diverse economic landscapes of the member states, leading to unequal benefits and difficulties in meeting common objectives<sup>4</sup>. For example, Latin American countries rely on agriculture and tourism, while African countries rely on commodity exports, and Asia-Pacific countries rely on a growing manufacturing base boosted by cheap labor. These varied economic conditions highlight the need for implementing tailored approaches to ensure inclusive benefits from trade and development cooperation, so that they can progress uniformly towards sustainable development<sup>5</sup>.

The benefits of trade due to GSTP were uneven, with over 70% of trade growth going to five countries: India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Pakistan. It is also estimated that between 65% and 95% of the benefits were in the textiles and fishing sectors, leaving other sectors without significant gains. In addition, many non-tariff barriers to trade such as procedures, regulations and overall bureaucracy are much harder to overcome than simply reducing tariffs<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Ministerial Declaration - Group of 77. <https://g77.org/doc/Declaration2021.htm>

<sup>5</sup> Global System of Trade Preferences | UNCTAD. <https://unctad.org/topic/trade-agreements/global-system-of-trade-preferences>

<sup>6</sup> How to increase benefits from the generalized system of trade preferences - <https://unctad.org/news/how-increase-benefits-generalized-system-trade-preferences>



## B. IPR and TRIPS

The Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement is a significant international legal agreement resulting from diplomatic cooperation led by Brazil. This cooperation unified the Global South to act as a unified negotiating bloc. The G77's contribution to the Doha Declaration on public health established the scope of TRIPS, emphasizing that it should be implemented in a manner that protects public health even for countries that signed the WTO intellectual property laws.

One of the key successes of the TRIPS agreement has been the for the G-77 push for further flexibilities, with the aim of leading to improved access to affordable medicines. These flexibilities include legal provisions for compulsory licensing and parallel importation of medicines. Compulsory licensing allows the government to produce a patented drug without the consent of the drug IP, especially during a period of a public health crisis. Parallel imports allow the government to import medicines from other countries without the permission of the producer in the host country. This allows developing countries to import drugs from markets where the product is cheaper, thus improving access to affordable health.

An example of how compulsory licensing for medicines helped the developing world is India's use of compulsory licensing for the cancer drug sorafenib. In 2012, the Indian government granted a compulsory license to a local pharmaceutical company to produce a generic version of sorafenib, a drug patented by Bayer. This decision dramatically reduced the cost of the drug, making it more affordable and accessible to Indian patients suffering from kidney and liver cancer which were widespread in the country at the time. They allowed many more patients to receive life-saving treatment that would have otherwise been financially out of reach.

An example of how parallel imports for medicines helped a developing country is the case of Zimbabwe. In the early 2000s, Zimbabwe used parallel importation to access more affordable antiretroviral drugs from India. India which has an established pharmaceutical industry, offered these drugs at a fraction of the cost of the patented versions available in developed countries. This allowed Zimbabwe to provide more affordable and accessible treatment for its population and improving the overall quality of healthcare.

However, despite these notable successes, the TRIPS Agreement has faced several challenges and shortcomings. Implementation gaps and ongoing obstacles in accessing patented drugs remain significant issues. For example, there has been a lack of substantial efforts to fulfill commitments such as technology transfer, which is a critical

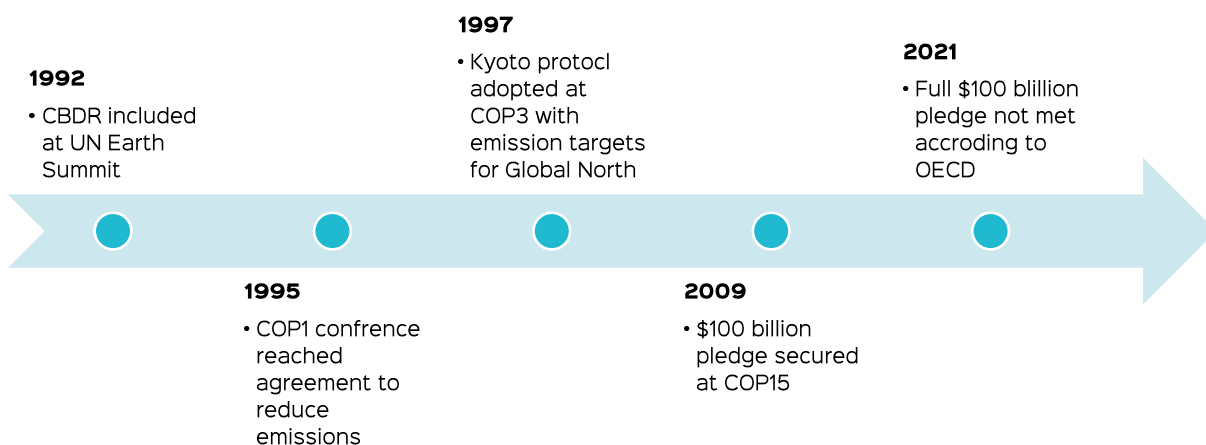
component of the TRIPS Agreement. Additionally, many developing countries lack the necessary resources to engage in the legal processes required to invoke compulsory licensing and parallel importation mechanisms effectively. This situation underscores the need for a better framework within the TRIPS Agreement that promotes the transfer of technology and capabilities from the Global North to South, ensuring that the agreement fulfills its purpose of balancing intellectual property rights with public health needs.

### C. Climate justice

The G77 also played a pivotal role using their combined diplomatic pressure on the Global North to accept greater responsibility for the climate crisis. They managed to push the UNFCCC negotiations by advocating for the common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) principle. This principle recognizes that developed nations bear greater responsibility for climate change due to their higher historical emissions.

These successes include securing the inclusion of CBDR in the UNFC Earth summit in 1992. This principle differentiated actions based on countries' capacities and contributions to climate change. The Kyoto protocol passed at COP3 conference was the first to set binding emission targets specifically for the Global North. At COP15 in Copenhagen the G77 successfully managed to secure a pledge of \$100 billion from the OECD countries towards climate finance in 2009 at the COP 15 conference in Copenhagen. At COP15 and those that followed, many developed countries pledged further financial and technical support for developing countries. Between 2009 and 2019 many Asian and Latin American countries have tapped into this fund to successfully implement mitigation projects. India has used its strong institutional capacity to access climate finance in large-scale renewable energy projects. Bangladesh has also been successful in accessing the GCF for coastal protection and flood management.

**Figure 3 Key milestones in global climate cooperation**



Source: Prepared by ECES

Despite certain pledges towards the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the full \$100 billion commitment had not been met by 2021, according to the OECD. Furthermore, there has been a notable lack of approved climate projects in African and Middle Eastern countries, with most of the funding directed towards India and Bangladesh, as many developing countries still lack the institutional capacity to apply for such funds. The approval rate for adaptation projects has been minimal, with most projects focusing on mitigation. The G77 has been unsuccessful in persuading major emitters to reduce their emissions by 2019 as part of the pledge. Additionally, significant disparities within the G77 have impeded vulnerable nations' efforts to build resilience against climate impacts.

## **2. South-South global cooperation through ad-hoc cooperation – IBSA dialogue forum**

In addition to global diplomatic cooperation through the G-77 there are smaller initiatives led by government development agencies but mostly executed by the private sector.

The IBSA Dialogue Forum is an ad-hoc forum that brings together India, Brazil, and South Africa to promote international cooperation. This forum represents different regions for South-South collaboration, fostering understanding between Africa, Asia, and South America. The forum focuses discussions on agriculture, trade, culture, defense, and other areas, and has recently focused on coordination in foreign policy . Although the forum is represented by only three countries it focuses on developing other countries in the global south.

One successful case study of the IBSA Dialogue Forum is the "IBSA Fund for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation" project in Guinea-Bissau. This project aimed to improve agricultural productivity and food security in the country. The project combined the expertise of South Africa with financing from India to improve agricultural productivity and develop sustainable farming practices in Guinea-Bissau. The implementation involved capacity-building programs where the private sector in South Africa trained local farmers on modern agricultural techniques and sustainable practices. It was followed with the construction of irrigation systems, storage facilities, and roads to improve market access for farmers. Additionally, quality seeds, fertilizers, and farming equipment were financed by the forum for small farmers. As a result, the project significantly increased crop yields, leading to greater food production, while also enhancing farmers' incomes through better market access and improved agricultural methods. The adoption of sustainable farming practices fostered long-term agricultural

development and environmental conservation, benefiting thousands of farmers and contributing to the broader development of Guinea-Bissau.

In 2019, IBSA also launched an eLearning Project in South Sudan aimed at enhancing educational opportunities and building local capacity using ICT. The project established learning centers, provided training for teachers and school administrators on using ICT for learning, and developed a curriculum tailored to the needs of South Sudanese students. The project succeeded in improving access to education in remote and underserved areas significantly. This led to higher literacy rates and educational outcomes in many of the remote areas where education was provided. This project not only addressed the immediate educational needs of South Sudan but also promoted human development by building local capacity and encouraging the use of technology in education.

One of the major successes of the aforementioned projects is that the time from planning to execution is typically less than nine months. This efficiency is often attributed to the fact that many projects are financed and implemented by the private sector, which bypasses the need for approval through government development plans. However, the involvement of the private sector also has its drawbacks, with the major one being a lack of sustainable commitment on a yearly basis.

The IBSA Dialogue Forum faces several challenges that impact its efficacy. The differing geopolitical interests and priorities of its member countries—India, Brazil, and South Africa—complicate decision-making and coordinated action. Additionally, IBSA's limited institutional framework, lacking a legal mandate and a permanent secretariat, affects its continuity. Funding is inconsistent since it comes from donations from the private sector, further hampering the long-term sustainability of its projects. For example, while there has been success in improving agricultural yields for farmers in Guinea-Bissau, there is no sustainable funding source for seeds in future seasons. Many recipient countries also face logistical, administrative, and political challenges, leading to delays, inefficiencies, and reduced effectiveness.

### **3. Regional diplomatic initiatives**

In addition to these global initiatives there has also been regional diplomatic cooperation within the continents of Africa, South America and Asia. Regional diplomatic initiatives offer several advantages over global ones. They enable countries with shared geographical, cultural, and economic contexts to address specific regional challenges more effectively. This leads to quicker decision-making and implementation, due to fewer parties with more aligned geographic interests. Additionally, regional

cooperation can improve diplomatic relationships among neighboring countries, leading to relationships in the future. They allow for tailored solutions that consider regional particularities, which can be overlooked global agreements.

### A. Diplomatic operation within MERCOSUR

The Southern Common Market or MERCOSUR is a regional trade bloc in South America founded in 1991, with its members consisting of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela. It is the largest trade bloc in the Global South and the fourth largest trade bloc in the world, after NAFTA, EU and China. Its primary goal is to promote economic integration and free trade among member states and full South American economic integration. The organization promotes trade facilitation through eliminating tariffs, implementing common external tariff (CET) market access, cross-border investment, and the exchange of human resources. The organization aims to reduce lengthy negotiations by resolving trade disputes through informal channels instead of legal proceedings, which reduces administrative and legal costs. However, the organization also provides a legal mechanism known as the Brasilia protocol as a legal mechanism to solve disputes between member states of private parties.

**Figure 4: Member states of MERCOSUR**



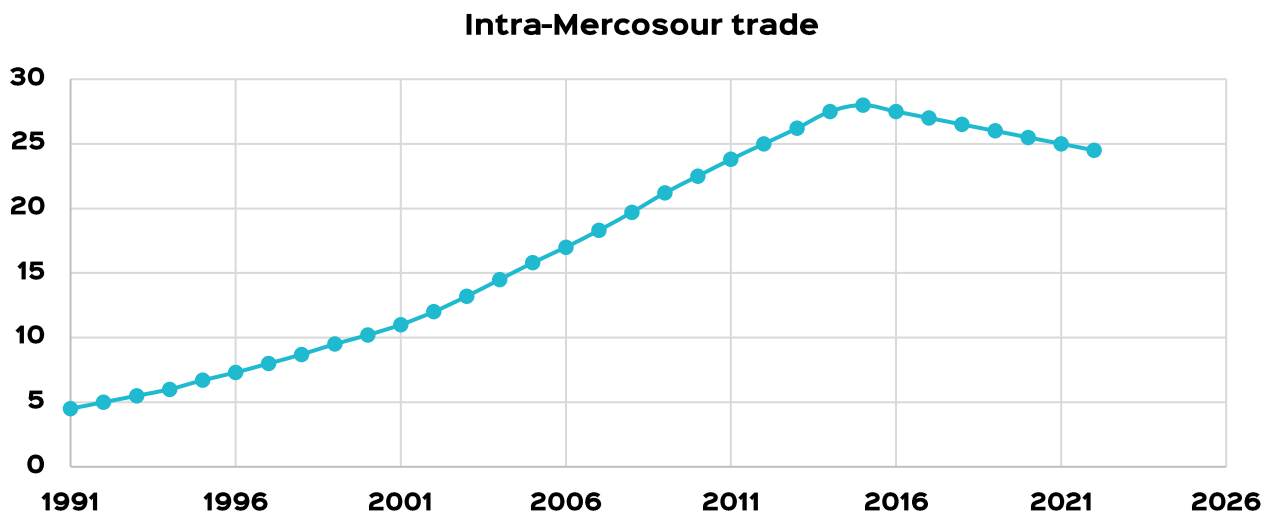
Source: MERCOSUR website

Since its founding, MERCOSUR has implemented several policies which leading to significant achievements. The implementation of a Common External Tariff (CET) has transformed the region into a more cohesive economic bloc, strengthened its bargaining power in trade negotiations by preventing unilateral tariff reductions to zero. The bloc also fostered the development of regional value chains, where different stages of production were spread across member countries. This allowed different countries to specialize in various stages of production.

The establishment of a common automotive policy harmonized regulations and reduced tariffs for auto parts and vehicles among member countries. This strengthens the value chain of the automotive sector in the region with each country specializing in parts of the chain. This was seen with the creation of a regional automotive industry, which benefited countries like Argentina and Brazil.

Additionally, MERCOSUR established a common customs code leading to smoother and faster cross-border trade. This has led to increased trade among its member countries. For instance, intra-MERCOSUR trade grew from \$4.1 billion in 1990 to \$41 billion by 2010. This growth has fostered economic integration and boosted growth within the region.

**Figure 5: Value of trade between MERCOSUR member states**



Source: MERCOSUR website

MERCOSUR faces significant challenges which have hindered further trade within the bloc. This includes economic disparities among its member countries, with Brazil and Argentina dominating economically, leading to imbalances and conflicts of interest with smaller members like Paraguay and Uruguay. Despite the elimination of tariff barriers

and establishing a common external tariff, non-tariff barriers such as bureaucratic red tape, regulatory discrepancies, and protectionist policies persist preventing further integration.

There is also inconsistent enforcement and compliance among member states, with different countries applying different tariffs to the same goods within the bloc. Despite improvements in connectivity and road networks, infrastructure and logistical impediments continue to hinder the efficient trade of goods and services, affecting overall economic integration.

Moreover, many member states have increasingly opted to trade with larger economic blocs due to financial attractiveness. There has been increased trade between the bloc and the EU since 2020; Brazil has increased commodity exports to China while Paraguay and Uruguay increased trade with the United States. All these factors led to decreased trade within the bloc.

### **B. African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) for Economic Development Within Africa**

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is a self-monitoring initiative established by the African Union in 2003, aimed at promoting good governance and sustainable development in Africa through voluntary participation and peer review. Under this mechanism, countries choose to participate by subjecting themselves to periodic reviews conducted by other African countries. This process allows participating nations to identify strengths and weaknesses in their governance practices and receive constructive feedback and recommendations from other member states. Given that African peers share similar challenges and experiences, their feedback is more relatable and actionable. Receiving feedback from African peers is respectful of sovereignty, compared to external players such as wealthier countries or international institutions, which leads to a more collaborative review process that exchanges ideas between states.

The APRM has achieved significant successes for the member countries. It has led to policy improvements which allowed peer reviewed countries to identify areas where their policies can be improved. It has also increased accountability by making government policy more transparent during the review process. It has also provided valuable learning opportunities for countries participating as peer reviewers. By studying best practices in the countries under review, these reviewers gain insights and knowledge that contribute to their own governance improvements. Among the member states that benefited from the process



- **Kenya** has faced governance challenges including electoral reform. The APRM provided a platform for various stakeholders (political leaders, the business community, and community leaders) to communicate and enhance democratic governance in the country.
- **Ghana** was one of the first countries to benefit from the APRM process. It helped the country improve its governance practices by introducing anti-corruption measures and provided better public services.
- **Rwanda** has benefited from the APRM process by improving political stability and social cohesion following the civil war.
- **South Africa** is a founding member of the APRM and has benefited from it by strengthening its democratic governance and improved its health and educational public services.
- **Uganda:** The APRM has helped Uganda focus on improving its governance structures and tackling corruption. The reviews have provided valuable insights into areas needing reform, contributing to better governance and socio-economic development.

Despite its successes, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) faces several challenges. There is incomplete coverage, with only 35 participating countries and only 17 having undergone peer reviews. The implementation of policy recommendations is slow and inadequate due to a lack of institutional capacity and limited financial resources. Additionally, many countries have concerns about confidentiality, which hinders their willingness to share data and information with other countries and civil society members. Inconsistent follow-up after the initial review further complicates progress monitoring. Moreover, although many countries have been reviewed, most have only undergone a single review period, limiting the ability to monitor ongoing progress. Despite these drawbacks, the APRM is regarded as one of the most cost-effective development programs for improving policy and governance in Africa over the past 20 years.

### C. ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is an intergovernmental organization that aims to promote economic growth and regional stability among its ten member states in East Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the



Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The organization was created with the aim of spreading prosperity and peace in Southeast Asia.

ASEAN's primary objectives, as outlined in its declaration, include accelerating economic growth, social progress, and cultural development in the region. The organization encourages collaboration in economic, social, cultural and technical fields, with the aim of raising living standards in the region. The organization also promotes research in those fields and cooperates with international organizations as a single member.

### Figure 6: Member states of ASEAN



Image: ASEAN

Source: ASEAN website

One of the key features of ASEAN is its intra-diplomacy known as the “ASEAN Way.” This consensus-driven approach prioritizes national sovereignty and self-interest. The respect for sovereignty of each country leads to stable relations between member states in the long term. The prioritization of self-interest allows countries to opt out of initiatives and avoids legally binding commitments that might penalize the country. Despite the lack of legally binding commitments most Asian countries follow up on their agreements

between 2012 and 2019 according to a policy document by the organization. It also promotes quiet diplomacy to solve conflicts between member states which prevents political escalations of conflicts. This unique diplomatic approach is both politically convenient and reflects the cultural norms of conflict resolution in the region.

While this diplomatic approach is politically convenient, it has impeded progress toward full economic integration. It is often perceived as inefficient, leading to prolonged decision-making processes leading to less effective outcomes. The preference for consensus and non-interference results in decisions that reflect the least controversial positions, leading to weak solutions, making it difficult to address critical regional challenges efficiently. Furthermore, the entry of observer non-member states such as the United States, China, and Australia has been criticized by some political figures in the Philippines and Indonesia as political interference.

#### 4. Conclusion

In conclusion, South-South diplomatic cooperation has emerged as a vital and dynamic approach to addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by developing countries. This cooperation fosters self-resilience, shared knowledge, and collective bargaining power, enabling the Global South to pursue sustainable development goals independently. Through various frameworks such as the G77, MERCOSUR, IBSA and ASEAN and the African Peer Review Mechanism, countries of the Global South have made significant strides in promoting economic integration, enhancing governance, and addressing global issues like climate change and intellectual property rights.

The G77 shows the power of collective diplomacy, amplifying the voice of developing nations in global governance, trade, and climate negotiations. While the group's achievements in fostering trade through the Global System of Trade Preferences and advocating for climate justice are noteworthy, challenges such as uneven benefits and implementation gaps remain. Similarly, MERCOSUR's success in increasing intra-regional trade and economic integration highlights the potential of regional cooperation, despite ongoing economic disparities and non-tariff barriers.

The African Peer Review Mechanism stands out as a unique and effective tool for promoting good governance and sustainable development within Africa. The APRM has helped countries like Kenya, Ghana, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda enhance their governance structures and socio-economic development through these peer reviews.



However, the mechanism's limited coverage and implementation challenges underscore the need for expanded participation and more robust follow-up.

Overall, South-South diplomatic cooperation is a crucial and often overlooked effort that significantly contributes to the development aspirations of the Global South. By building on the successes and addressing the challenges of these cooperative frameworks, the Global South can continue to make meaningful progress towards achieving sustainable development goals, thereby enhancing global stability and prosperity.



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