



Declaration of Panama

August 9, 2024

PREAMBLE

The countries of the Global South continue to face multifaceted development challenges, such as poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and the marginalization of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities. The current development paradigms have not effectively addressed these issues. There is an urgent need for a new approach to development and international cooperation that prioritizes human dignity, inclusion, sustainability, cultural heritage, and the traditional knowledge of peoples.

The Organization of Southern Cooperation (OSC) was created with the "objective of serving the eternal aspirations of humanity" under the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Balanced and Inclusive Education.

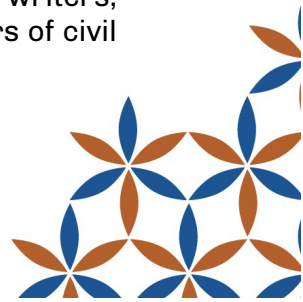
The Global South faces a variety of problems that require specific solutions at the local level. The particular issues faced by the Global South cannot be effectively addressed by traditional development models that ascribe to a one-size-fits-all approach.

Therefore, a Third Way of Development is needed to support inclusive growth, solidarity-based multilateralism, participatory decision-making, governance, knowledge democratization, environmental sustainability, innovative financing, and the improvement of quality of life.

Members from different regions, areas of expertise, and development sectors across the Global South are gathered in a series of regional consultations that culminate in a Global South Summit, to collectively define a Third Way of Development, develop a common action plan for its realization, and contribute to a new and inclusive future for humanity.

The regional consultations have been convened in line with the aspirations of the Universal Declaration of Balanced and Inclusive Education (UDBIE), which proclaims in Article XV that the "Global South is uniquely positioned to collectively build and adopt an alternative and inclusive third way of development...founded on the spirit of multilateralism, solidarity, and self-determination." In the context of a constantly changing world, the OSC is designed to provide a collective platform for the Global South to address the most important questions and challenges facing humanity.

The Regional Consultation of Latin America and the Caribbean took place on August 8-9, 2024, in Panama City, within the framework of ConGreS (Congress of the Global South), in collaboration with the University of Panama and the Union of Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUALC). Academics, scientists, artists, writers, representatives of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, and members of civil society participated in this consultation.





The objectives of the consultation were as follows:

- Reimagine and redefine the role of the Global South on the international stage by highlighting the importance of an inclusive and equitable multilateral system.
- Analyse and present the systemic changes required to address the persistent challenges of poverty, inequality, external debt crisis, food insecurity, environmental degradation, conflicts, among others, in the Global South.
- Challenge the existing multilateral system, characterized by inequities, power imbalances, and insufficient representation of the Global South.
- Promote higher education and transdisciplinary research dialogues, creative thinking, and innovative approaches to address the urgent challenges facing the countries of the Global South.
- Foster the democratization of knowledge to build new epistemologies.
- Seek to establish consensus around regional and sustainable endogenous development models, based on national collaborations and cross-border practices such as international trade and high-value industrialization.
- Promote a culture of interdependence and self-sufficiency by redefining alliances based on solidarity to establish multilateral structures and superstructures.
- Build the foundations of a Third Way of Development based on the intellectual and cultural traditions of the Global South and promoting inclusion, sustainability, and dignity for all humanity.
- Propose solutions to these problems from Latin America and the Caribbean.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION

The LAC consultation drives transformative change with the goal of:

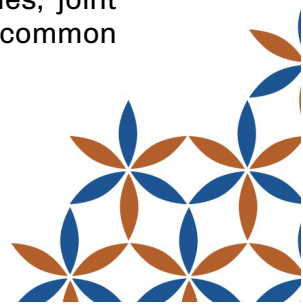
- Generating bold ideas and innovative approaches that challenge the prevailing narratives and orthodoxies of development.
- Achieving consensus on the pathways to a third way of development based on diverse and inclusive models.
- Promoting a renewed sense of hope, ambition, and global solidarity in shaping a better future for all.

The consultation analysed four specific themes:

I. KNOWLEDGE:

It is recommended that governments allocate at least 9% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to education and 1.5% to science, technology, and innovation to achieve the levels of sustainable development necessary to ensure inclusion, interculturality and diversity, traditional knowledge of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, and gender equality.

It is recommended that education, science, and technology policies be ensured, as well as adequate cooperation for the inclusive dissemination and free access to knowledge developed by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the Global South in general, through networks, media, academic and cultural events, repositories, joint activities between institutions, to provide solutions to territorial problems and common challenges.





II. ECONOMY:

We recommend that governments urgently renegotiate external debt in countries where it exceeds 100% of GDP, to establish a financial framework that promotes long-term development in line with the principles of sustainability and equity. Additionally, we propose the implementation of fiscal and tax policies that consider the need to mitigate and compensate for the environmental impacts of the extractive industry and luxury consumption taxes. These resources should be allocated to finance social and environmental projects. We believe that decentralization of budget planning and binding community participation are essential to ensure that public spending reflects true local priorities and directly benefits all communities to promote their fair and equitable development.

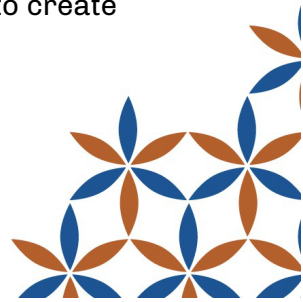
We also call for strategic investment in science, technology, and innovation, prioritizing critical infrastructures that strengthen productivity in key sectors, always under the guidance of the principles of sustainability and equity. We reaffirm the importance of establishing strict mechanisms for transparency and accountability in public investment, and of promoting a hybrid investment model that combines public and private resources. These actions must ensure that multinational operations contribute to national development, strengthening local professional capacities and ensuring that benefits are equitably distributed, in line with our commitment to sustainable development for all nations of the Global South.

III. TECHNOLOGY:

The ability to assimilate, incorporate, adapt, create, and transfer science and technology is crucial for the political, food, and cultural sovereignty of nations. To achieve this, we understand that it is necessary to address a set of emerging technologies so as not to be disconnected from their development and application, which are currently happening at an increasing speed. We recommend that governments proceed and take action. Otherwise, we will remain on the side lines and continue our role as consumers of foreign technologies, without participating in most of their benefits and without the capacity to manage their risks.

Education and the dissemination of science at all levels and in all its forms are crucial so that our youth, citizens, teachers, professionals, and researchers can be leading participants in technological development. Therefore, we recommend that governments take decisive action, investing the necessary and sufficient material and human resources so that science is incorporated into the culture. Furthermore, it must be combined with our own knowledge, ensuring the competencies of the entire population in an inclusive manner, and integrating social-emotional learning (SEL) transversally.

The science and technology created must be transferred to society through various means, including the insertion of research and development into our existing organizations and companies, as well as the promotion of technological spin-offs and start-ups capable of adding value to our generous natural resources. Those who generate scientific knowledge must engage in dialogue with social knowledge to create a virtuous dynamic of co-production of knowledge.





IV. SOCIO-CULTURAL DIMENSIONS:

We call for the official acknowledgment that the socio-cultural dimensions of the Global South are part of the foundation of intergenerational prosperity and the improvement of the quality of life, which will have multiple intersectional benefits.

We, therefore, recommend that sufficient funding and resources be allocated by governments to research and development that will be used to gather crucial data from local communities. The analysis of this data will be used to shape and establish public policies that are transdisciplinary, and which can holistically address health issues using local, community-based, and indigenous knowledge systems.

We call on Member States of the Greater South to ethically utilize the cultural data that is gathered to contribute to the establishment of decolonized archives that are living repositories of indigenous knowledge. This data will be gathered in a way that is based on indigenous research methodologies and epistemologies and be led by local members of the community.

We recommend that education reflects the economic, social, and cultural realities of the Global South and showcases participatory development of curricula that address local challenges such as sustainable agriculture, climate adaptation, among other things. Teaching and learning will move away from rote memorization and instead exemplify a collaborative approach. This will also be reflected at the macro level, through inter- and intra-regional joint research, and shared best practices.

Finally, we call on governments to embrace education and cultural aspects of affirming the collective identity of the inhabitants of the Global South, while simultaneously providing a strong sense of self. Additionally, art, theatre, and music must be elevated to being regarded as weaving an indispensable aspect of the social fabric. To achieve this, we recommend that those who embody the creative and green economy must be provided expedited access to funding streams, training, and capacity building.

