



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

**Statement by Pakistan
at the
Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Council of Representatives of the South Centre
(18 April 2024)
Geneva, Switzerland**

**Hon'ble Chairperson,
Executive Director,
Convener of the Council of Representatives,
Distinguished Colleagues,**

Allow me to begin by thanking President Thabo Mbeki for his leadership and congratulate him on his re-election. I also wish to recognize Executive Director, Dr. Carlos Correa, under whose guidance the South Centre continues to promote the common interests of developing countries.

The South Centre provides a valuable platform for us to exchange ideas, coordinate our positions, and advocate for policies that support our development objectives. Through its technical and policy advice, research, and analysis, the South Centre has helped us to deepen our understanding of the complex issues that we face and to develop effective strategies to address them.

We commend the South Centre for its commitment to promoting multilateralism and for its efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation including the ongoing technical support to developing countries.

We wish to specifically appreciate South Centre's work on discussions at the WTO. We believe that the South Centre has a critical role to play in advancing the development agenda.

Mr. Convener,

We also note with appreciation Dr Correa's presentation and report on the activities undertaken by the South Centre in the past year including on South-South Cooperation & finance for development, Global Health, Intellectual Property and Biodiversity, Sustainable Development and Climate Change, Trade and Development as well as Tax Cooperation.

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.

As representatives of the South Centre, we have a unique responsibility to champion the interests of developing countries and to ensure that our voices are heard on the global stage.

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

First, enhanced awareness raising and advocacy towards reform of International Economic and Financial Architecture.

Second, South Centre has been doing an excellent job advocating for tax reforms that promote social justice and sustainable development in developing countries. The Centre should continue to provide developing countries policy proposals, guidance and expert opinion in the on-going reforms of the international tax system.

Third, continue to provide policy, legal and technical advice across the range of WTO issues including development issues, services, e-commerce, fisheries agriculture and WTO reform.

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

Mr. Convener,

We encourage the South Centre to continue its vital work in supporting the development aspirations of its member states and in advancing a more equitable and sustainable global order. We reaffirm our commitment to working in partnership with the South Centre and with each other to address the common challenges facing our countries and our peoples.

Thank you.
