



## Changing Dynamics of Global South

**For Prelims:** [Global South](#), [Group of 77 \(G-77\)](#), Global North, Green Energy Fund, [G20 summit](#), UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), [European Union \(EU\)](#), [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\)](#), [Quad](#), [Indo-Pacific Economic Forum](#), [BRICS summit](#), [G7 summit](#), Brandt Line.

**For Mains:** History of the Global South, Scenario of Global South's Increasing Influence, Influence of the Global South in Global Politics

[Source: TH](#)

### Why in News?

Earlier in 2023, the **Prime Minister of India organised a virtual summit on the "[Voice of the Global South](#)"**, involving approximately 125 countries. The objective of this summit was to **solicit the opinions and input of countries from the [Global South](#) in order to determine the priorities for the region.**

### What is the History of the Global South?

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- **Historical Context:** The term "Global South" is often used to highlight the historical legacy of colonialism and the **economic disparities between the formerly colonised nations and the developed Western nations.**
  - It underscores the **challenges faced by these countries in achieving economic growth and development.**

- **Formation of the G-77:** In 1964, the [Group of 77 \(G-77\)](#) countries came into existence when they signed a Joint Declaration **during the first session of the [UN Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#)** in Geneva.
  - The G-77 **became the largest intergovernmental organisation** of developing countries at the time.
- **Purpose of G-77:** It was created to promote the economic interests of developing countries and improve their ability to negotiate on international economic issues within the UN system.
  - It now **includes 134 countries** across Asia, Africa, South America, the Caribbean and Oceania. **China is not technically part of the group**, hence, the grouping is **often referred to as "G-77+China" in multilateral forums.**
- **UNOSSC:** The UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) was established in 1974. Its **role is to coordinate cooperation between countries in the Global South and with developed countries** or multilateral agencies, in collaboration with the G-77.

## What led to the Revival of Global South?

- In the early decades of the 21st century, there was **a noticeable decline in interest and attention towards the Global South.**
  - This trend was **particularly evident in countries like India and Indonesia**, which were perceived as **moving away from their 'Third World' origins** and seeking a more prominent role on the global stage as they reformed and expanded their economies.
- However, in recent times, the **Global South has regained its importance and relevance**, signifying a growing recognition of the region's significance in shaping the emerging global order. **Several key factors are cited as contributing to this resurgence:**
  - **Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic:** The [Covid-19 pandemic](#) had a severe impact on many countries in the Global South, both in terms of public health and economic challenges. This **crisis refocused attention on the vulnerabilities and needs of these nations.**
  - **Economic Downturn:** The economic downturn resulting from the pandemic disproportionately affected countries in the Global South, **highlighting the need for international cooperation and support.**
  - **Repercussions of Russia-Ukraine Conflict:** The [Russia-Ukraine conflict](#) had a global economic impact. This **had ripple effects on the developing world**, further underscoring the interconnectedness of global affairs and the importance of the Global South in international diplomacy.

## Why is the Term Global South Criticised?

- **Inaccuracy of the Term:** The term "Global South" is **criticised for its inaccuracy in representing the countries** it was intended to describe.
  - It is pointed out that **some countries typically considered part of the Global South, like India, are actually located in the Northern Hemisphere**, while others, such as Australia, are in the **Southern Hemisphere but often categorised as part of the Global North.**
- **Need for a More Precise Classification:** In the 1980s, **the recognition of this inaccuracy led to the development of the "Brandt Line"** - a curve that more accurately **divided the world into the economic North and South based on factors like economic development and wealth distribution**, rather than simply by geographical location.



## What are the Demands of the Global South?

- **Proportionate Voice at Global Level:** The Global South, comprising countries with significant populations, recognises that they have the most at stake in shaping the future of the world.
  - With three-fourths of the global population residing in these countries, they argue that **they should have a proportionate and meaningful voice in global decision-making processes.**
- **Equitable Representation:** Global South demands an equitable representation in global governance. The **current model of global governance may not adequately reflect the demographic and economic realities of the world**, and there is a call for change to ensure that the voices of the Global South are heard and considered.

## What Signifies the Influence of the Global South in Global Politics?

- **Prioritising Global South:** India's Presidency of the G20 was driven by the priorities of the Global South. This suggests a **growing awareness of the need to address issues and concerns** that are particularly relevant to developing countries in the Global South.
- **Global South Leadership:** The fact that developing countries like Indonesia, India, Brazil, and South Africa are consecutively hosting the [G20 summit](#) indicates a **desire for greater leadership and influence from the Global South** in global decision-making processes.
  - These countries represent a significant portion of the world's population and economies.
- **Inclusivity:** The "Voice of the Global South" summit demonstrates a commitment to inclusivity and consultation with a wide range of nations from the Global South.
  - This indicates **a shift away from traditional power structures dominated by Western countries.**
- **Multilateralism:** The emphasis on the Global South's priorities and the involvement of these countries in hosting and shaping the G20 agenda **reflects a commitment to multilateralism, where decisions are made collectively** by a diverse group of nations.
- **Rising Influence of Developing World:** This is evident through the participation of various organisations such as G20, BRICS, [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\)](#), [Quad](#), the [Indo-Pacific Economic Forum](#), and other global players who are **actively seeking involvement from countries in the Global South in decision-making processes.**

## What is the Evidence of the Global South's Increasing Influence?

- **Establishment of the 'Loss and Damage Fund':** At the [COP27 Climate Change conference](#) in Egypt, the establishment of the 'Loss and Damage fund' was celebrated as a significant win for

the Global South.

- It **signifies a recognition of the disproportionate burden borne by countries in the Global South.**
- **Global South in COP28:** In the upcoming [UNFCCC COP 28](#) in the UAE, it is anticipated that **countries from the Global South will take a leading role in driving discussions on mitigating climate change.**
- **G7 Inclusivity:** Japan, as the host of the [G7 summit](#), made a notable effort to involve developing countries such as India, Brazil, Vietnam, Indonesia, Comoros, and the Cook Islands in the discussions.
  - This was seen as **an outreach to the Global South, indicating a desire for a more inclusive dialogue among the world's wealthiest nations.**
- **BRICS Summit Expansion:** The [BRICS summit](#), held in South Africa, expanded its membership from five to 11 members. This **expansion was attributed to a concerted effort to engage with and incorporate more countries from the Global South** into the BRICS grouping, underscoring its growing importance.
- **G-77 Summit in Cuba:** The G-77 summit held recently in Havana, Cuba **showcased the significance of the Global South on the global stage**, as it **brought together a substantial number of developing countries to discuss key issues.**
- **African Union's Inclusion into G20:** The inclusion of the **55-nation African Union** into the G20 is seen as a significant outcome of the conference indicating **a growing recognition of the African nations** in global affairs and **the need to include their perspectives and contributions in shaping the emerging global order.**

## Conclusion

As the world navigates through complex challenges and opportunities, the Global South's influence continues to evolve, and its demands for equitable representation and a meaningful voice in global governance remain at the forefront. The global community is witnessing a rebalancing of power dynamics, with the Global South playing an increasingly vital role in shaping the future of international politics and cooperation.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

**Q. In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20? (2020)**

- (a) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
- (b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- (c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
- (d) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea

**Ans: (a)**

### Mains

**Q. 'The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order.' Elaborate. (2019)**