



## Third South Summit

**For Prelims:** [Group of 77 \(G77\)](#) and China, South-South cooperation, [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#), [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

**For Mains:** Third South Summit, Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

[Source: AN](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, the **3<sup>rd</sup> South Summit** was held in Kampala, Uganda, bringing **together the** members of the [Group of 77 \(G77\)](#) and **China**.

- The Third South Summit brought together the **134 members of the Group of 77 and China** to boost **South-South cooperation** on trade, investment, sustainable development, climate change, poverty eradication, and digital economy, among other areas. The **theme of the summit was "Leaving No One Behind."**

### What is Group of 77 (G77)?

- **Establishment:**
  - The **Group of 77 (G-77)** was established on **15<sup>th</sup> June 1964** by signatories of the **"Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries"** issued at the end of the first session of the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#) in Geneva.
    - The **G77 group has 134 members excluding China** because the **Chinese government does not consider itself a member, but rather a partner** that provides political and financial support to the group. **Although the group (G 77) mentions China as its member.**
- **Aims:**
  - The Group of 77 is the **largest intergovernmental organization** of developing countries in the United Nations.
  - It provides the means for the countries of the **South to articulate and promote their collective economic interests** and enhance their joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system.
- **Structure:**
  - A Chairman, who acts as its spokesman, coordinates the Group's action in each Chapter.
  - The Chairmanship, which is the highest political body within the organizational structure of the Group of 77, **rotates on a regional basis** (between Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean) and is **held for one year in all the Chapters**.
    - **Chapters** refer to the **regional divisions**, currently, Uganda is the chairman, acts as the spokesperson and coordinates the actions of the G-77 on behalf of the **member countries within the African Chapter**.

- **Chapters in G77 are the offices of the group in different** locations where they coordinate their activities and represent their interests in various UN agencies and international forums.
- The chapters of the G77 are in Geneva (UN), Rome (FAO), Vienna (UNIDO), Paris (UNESCO), Nairobi (UNEP) and the Group of 24 in Washington, D.C. (IMF and World Bank).
- For the year **2024, the Republic of Uganda** holds the Chairmanship of the G-77.
- **South Summit:**
  - The South Summit is the **supreme decision-making body of the Group of 77.**
  - The First and the Second South Summits were held in Havana, Cuba, in 2000 and in Doha, Qatar, in 2005, respectively.



## What are the Key Highlights of the Third South Summit Outcome Document?

- **Call for Peaceful Solution of Palestinian-Israeli conflict:**
  - Member countries emphasised that **“there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development”** and called for a **“just and peaceful solution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.”**
- **Universal Implementation of Agendas:**
  - The Outcome Document reaffirmed the commitment to implementing various global agendas, including the **[2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)**, the **[Addis Ababa Action Agenda \(AAAA\)](#)**, the **[Paris Agreement on climate change](#)**, the **[New Urban Agenda \(NUA\)](#)**, and the **[Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR\)](#)**.
- **Poverty Eradication:**
  - Member countries reaffirmed **poverty eradication as the greatest global challenge** and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.
  - Stressing the importance of adequate means of implementation, leaders called upon developed countries to commit to **a new phase of international cooperation through a strengthened and scaled-up global partnership for development.**
- **Strengthening Multilateral Institutions:**
  - The summit stressed the need to strengthen the role of the **[UN General Assembly \(UNGA\)](#)** and the **[Economic and Social Council \(ECOSOC\)](#)** in dealing with the reform of the international financial architecture.
  - It was highlighted that the **Global Financial System** failed to provide a global safety net for developing countries. Deep reforms were proposed, including an **SDG Stimulus of USD 500 billion annually**, adequate capitalization of MDBs, and **expansion of contingency financing** for countries in need.
  - Called for meaningful contributions to climate finance, including the delivery of **USD 100 billion per year** and the **doubling of adaptation finance by 2025**, encouraging an ambitious new finance goal at the **2024 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 29)**.
- **Financing Needs and Debt Solutions:**

- Member countries urged [Multilateral Development Banks \(MDBs\)](#) to meet the financing needs of all developing countries, including Low- and Middle-Income Countries, through concessional finance and grants.
- The leaders called for scaling up **debt swaps for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, including swaps for Climate and nature.
- **Urgent Reforms for Inclusion and Equity:**
  - Leaders at the summit called for **urgent reforms in multilateral organisations** to recognize and leverage the significance of the [Global South](#), emphasising the **need for an international financial system** rooted in inclusion and equity.

## What is Global South?

- **About:**
  - The Global South, often **misconceived as a purely geographical concept**, encompasses diverse countries, drawing upon geopolitical, historical, and developmental factors.
    - While it is not solely defined by location, it broadly represents nations facing developmental challenges.
    - Many countries included in the Global South are in the northern hemisphere, such as India, China and all of those in the northern half of Africa.
      - Whereas, Australia and New Zealand, both in the southern hemisphere, are not in the Global South.
- **Historical Context:**
  - **Brandt Line:** The line was proposed by former German Chancellor Willy Brandt in the 1980s as a visual depiction of the north-south divide based upon per-capita GDP.
    - This line symbolizes the global economic divide, zigzagging across continents, encompassing parts of **Africa, the Middle East, India, and China, excluding Australia and New Zealand.**



- **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 is a coalition of developing nations, **primarily from the global south**, formed to collectively address economic and development **issues at the United Nations.**
- **Resurgence of Global South:**
  - **Economic Dynamics:**
    - **Economic Imbalances Exposed by Covid-19:** The pandemic amplified existing economic disparities, disproportionately impacting Global South countries due to limited healthcare infrastructure, disrupted supply chains, and heavy reliance on sectors vulnerable to lockdowns.
    - **Shifts in Trade and Supply Chains:** Reevaluations of global supply chains post-

pandemic and in context of recent geopolitical conflicts like [Russia-Ukraine war](#), opened discussions on repositioning production centers, providing an opportunity for some Global South economies to restructure and enhance their roles.

- **Geopolitical Realities:**
  - The Global South's collective voice gained traction in international forums like [G20](#), altering power dynamics and prompting greater consideration of their perspectives and interests.
- **Environmental and Climate Impact:**
  - **Vulnerability to Climate Change:** The Global South is disproportionately affected by climate change, driving discussions on climate adaptation, resilience-building, and the need for equitable global climate action.
  - **Renewable Energy and Sustainable Development:** Emphasis on sustainable development goals, renewable energy investments, and environmental conservation initiatives within the Global South attracted global attention and support.

## 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)**