



17 June 2025, AGDA, Abu Dhabi

The Global South Economic Forum (GSEF) aims to address the evolving role of the Global South in the rapidly changing global geoeconomic and geostrategic landscape. By bringing together experts and key stakeholders and focusing on strategic cooperation, the forum seeks to create more equitable and effective global economic frameworks that reflect the aspirations and potential of the nations in the Global South.

The forum is co-hosted by the Centre of Geoeconomics for the Global South (UAE/India) and Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy, with the support of the Academy of Contemporary China and World Studies (ACCWS) and the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR).

The forum seeks to:

- facilitate multilateral dialogue on geoeconomic challenges and opportunities;
- share best practices in regional integration, technology and policy frameworks;
- enhance understanding of the collective potential and collaborative frameworks of the Global South in reshaping global economic governance.

AGENDA

9:00–10:15 – INAUGURAL SESSION (*AGDA auditorium, open to public*):

Welcome:

- **H.E. Nickolay Mladenov**
Director-General, AGDA, Abu Dhabi
- **Mr Mohammed Saqib**
Director and Convener, COGGS
- **Dr Yu Yunquan** (*video message*)
Vice-President, China International Communications Group

Keynote Address:

- **H.E. Ahmed Al Sayegh**
*Minister of State, Economic and Trade Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
United Arab Emirates*

Plenary:

South-South Cooperation in a Multipolar World

- **H.E. Jawad Al Anani**
Former Deputy Prime Minister, Jordan
- **H.E. Christian Cardona**
Former Trade Minister, Malta, and Advisor, COGGS
- **H.E. Seyed Sajjadpour**
Former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iran
- **Dr Rajiv Kumar**
Chairman, Pahle India Foundation
- **Prof. Zhao Yuezhi**
Chair of Humanities, Tsinghua University, China

Moderator:

- **H.E. Anil Sooklal**
High Commissioner of South Africa in India

Special Address:

- **H.E. Zhang Yiming**
Ambassador of China in the UAE

ACCWS Report Release:

An Evaluation of Governance in the Global South

- **Mr Zhang Jiuan**

Director Department of Scientific Research, Management and International Cooperation, ACCWS

- **Dr Mohammed Al Dhaheri**

Deputy Director-General, AGDA, and Director, Strategy and Future Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UAE

10:15 – 10:45 – Coffee Break (and transfer to closed sessions, room 103)

CLOSED SESSIONS

10:45–11:45 – Session 1

Navigating Multipolarity: Global South's Strategic Role

Explore the evolving global power dynamics and their specific impact on the nations of the Global South. Panelists will analyze how the rise of multiple centres of influence presents new avenues for strategic autonomy, diversified partnerships, and collective bargaining power, while also discussing potential challenges such as increased geopolitical competition, economic fragmentation, and the need to reform global governance structures to better reflect the realities of a multipolar world.

- **H.E. Anil Trigunayat**

India's Former Ambassador in Jordan, Libya and Malta

- **Prof. Huang Yunsong**

Sichuan University, China

- **Dr Bassem Kamar**

Former Chief Economist of the UAE Central Bank

- **Mr Amar Gunathilake**

Chairman, Marga Institute, Sri Lanka

- **Prof. Srikant Kondapalli**

Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Moderator:

- **H.E. Husain Haqqani**

Diplomat-in-Residence, AGDA, and Pakistan's Former Ambassador to the United States

11:45–12:45 – Session 2

New Technologies: Leveraging Innovation for Cooperative Development

Discuss the potential of emerging technologies—including financial technologies, artificial intelligence, blockchain, digital platforms, and renewable energy innovations—to drive sustainable development and cooperation across the Global South. The Panel will discuss opportunities for technology transfer, joint research and development, building digital infrastructure, and addressing challenges related to digital divides, data governance, and the ethical adoption of technology.

- **Mr Shaurya Doval**
Director, India Foundation and Tech Entrepreneur
- **Prof. Liu Junmei**
University of Fudan, China
- **Dr Hoda Alkhzaimi**
Associate Vice-Provost of Research Translation and Innovation, New York University Abu Dhabi
- **Mr Sanjay Salil**
Tech Entrepreneur, Co-Founder, IndiqAI and Dailoqa

Moderator:

- **Mr Shishir Priyadarshi**
President, Chintan Research Foundation, India

13:00- 14:00 – Lunch Break (*cafeteria, ground floor*)

14:00–15:00 – Session 3

Decolonising Media Narratives: Empowering Voices and Perspectives

Focus on the importance of media and communication in improving understanding and cooperation in the Global South. Panelists will discuss key challenges such as fighting disinformation, supporting independent media, closing digital gaps, and promoting diverse stories. They will also explore ways to strengthen regional communication networks, improve media literacy, and use technology to share information and collaborate across borders.

- **Mr Saifur Rehman**
Media Strategist, Bangladesh
 - **Ms Sofia Koslov**
Head of Communication, Center for Social and Conservative Politics, Russia
 - **Prof. Xiong Chengyu**
Communication University of China
 - **Mr Atul Aneja**
Former Strategic Affairs Editor, The Hindu, India
 - **Mr Salim Essaid**
Business Editor, The National, UAE
- Moderator:**
- **Dr Jodie Wen**
Director of International Communication, China Forum, Tsinghua University

15:00–15:15 – Coffee break

15:15–16:15 – Session 4

Integrating Markets through Trade, Investment and Connectivity

Explore options to deepen economic ties and regional integration among Global South nations. The potential of regional trade agreements, infrastructure development, supply chain diversification, and financial cooperation to boost intra-South trade, attract investment, create jobs, and build collective economic resilience.

- **H.E. Magdy Amer**
Former Assistant Foreign Minister, Egypt
- **Mr Atul Kaushik**
India's Former Negotiator on International Trade and Climate Change at WTO
- **Dr Abdeta Beyene**
Executive Director, Centre for Dialogue, Research and Cooperation, Ethiopia
- **Dr Alex Benkenstein**
Programme Head, South African Institute of International Affairs
- **Prof. Nisha Taneja**
Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
- **Dr Xie Chao**
Associate Professor, Fudan University, China

Moderator:

- **Dr Damyana Bakardzhieva**
Senior Research Fellow, AGDA

16:15–17:15 – Session 5

The UAE as a Catalyst for North-South and South-South Connectivity

Discuss the UAE's role as a bridge between the Global North and South, and a leader in South-South cooperation, through investments, logistics, and innovation.

- **H.E. Ali Sharafi**
Acting Assistant Undersecretary for International Financial Relations, Ministry of Finance, UAE
- **Mr Mohammed Baharoon**
Director General, B'huth (Dubai Public Policy Research Centre)
- **Dr Ahmed El Safty**
Economic Advisor, ECSSR, UAE
- **Ms Niamh McBurney**
Associate Director, MENA, Control Risks, Dubai
- **Mr Sultan Al Rubaei**
Head, Trends International Training Institute, UAE
- **Dr Hou Xiaochen**
Programme Manager, Centre for BRICS Studies, Fudan University, China

Moderator:

- **Mr Salman Soz**
Adjunct Professor, AGDA, and World Bank Consultant, UAE

19:00 – Dinner – Salar (*Iranian restaurant, five-minute walk from Aloft Hotel*)

For further information or clarification, please contact:

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