

Summary of Global South Research Collaborative (GSRC) Launch & Pandemic Accord

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EXPERTS/ PARTICIPANTS:

Agenda	Experts/ Participants
Context and setting the agenda	Prof. Amit Kapoor, Honorary Chairman at the Institute for Competitiveness
A short presentation on the Pandemic Accord	Dr Ankur Mutreja, Director of Strategy, Partnerships, and Communications, PATH
Reflections on the Pandemic Accord: Voice of Africa	Dr. Edward Kariithi, Director of Country Programs, PATH
Commentary on the Pandemic Accord discussions	-Dr. Neren Rau, Director of Policy, CEPI
Q&A moderation	Dr. Thida Lin, Programs Director - Myanmar, PATH.

GLOBAL SOUTH RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE (GSRC) – A PERSPECTIVE

On 14th November 2024, **PATH**, in collaboration with the **Institute of Competitiveness** unveiled the Global South Research Collaborative (GSRC). GSRC aims to foster research, promote cross-learning, and enhance collaboration among stakeholders in the Global South.¹ By sharing knowledge, expertise, and best practices, the GSRC seeks to create a robust knowledge ecosystem that amplifies solutions and ideas originating from the Global South,² while also curating significant milestones in knowledge and policy (Figure 1).

INTRODUCTION TO GSRC

The Global South Research Collaborative (GSRC) is designed as an inclusive platform that welcomes like-minded

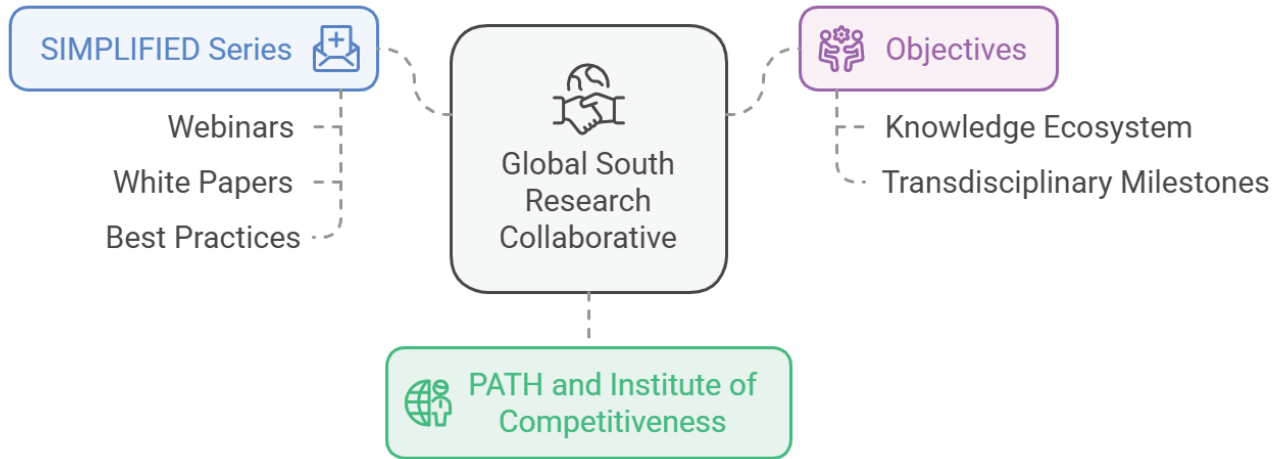


Figure 1: The GSRC knowledge pool framework

co-hosts. The primary aim is to catalyze research initiatives and facilitate collaboration among various stakeholders, including researchers, policymakers, and practitioners. The GSRC is committed to addressing the unique challenges faced by the Global South by leveraging local knowledge and expertise (Figure 2).³

Objectives of GSRC

The GSRC has several key objectives:

- 1. **Knowledge Sharing:** To create a repository of knowledge that includes research findings, best practices, and innovative solutions tailored to the Global South.
- 2. **Cross-Learning:** To promote collaboration and learning among different stakeholders, fostering an environment where ideas can be exchanged freely.

- 3. **Empowerment:** To empower voices from the Global South in the global public health discourse, ensuring that their perspectives and needs are adequately represented.
- 4. **Policy Development:** To contribute to the development of effective policies that address the specific health challenges faced by countries in the Global South.

The SIMPLIFIED Series

A key initiative under the GSRC is the SIMPLIFIED series, which focuses on demystifying complex global health issues. This series aims to provide context-specific information, insights, and analyses in accessible formats such as:

- **Webinars:** Interactive sessions that allow for real-time engagement and discussion on pressing health topics.

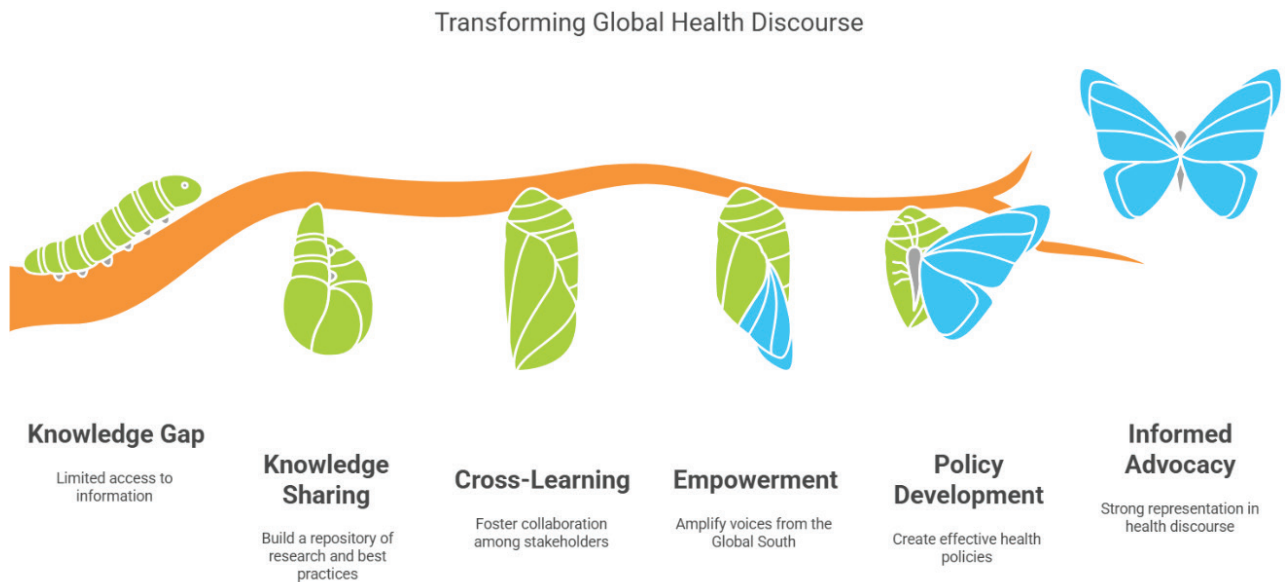


Figure 2: Transforming the Global Health discourse.

- **White Papers:** Comprehensive documents that delve into specific issues, providing evidence-based recommendations.
- **Best Practices:** Case studies and examples of successful interventions that can be replicated in similar contexts.

The SIMPLIFIED series is designed to enhance understanding of intricate policy matters, thereby empowering stakeholders from the Global South to actively participate in the global health agenda.

Understanding the Pandemic Accord: A Collaborative Approach to Future Health Crises

This document provides an overview of the inaugural event co-hosted by PATH and the Institute for Competitiveness, focusing on the Pandemic Accord. The accord represents a significant international effort aimed at enhancing global collaboration, coordination, and transparency in addressing future pandemics. This document delves into the theory of change, the negotiation process of the World Health Organization’s Intergovernmental Negotiation Body (WHO-INB), and the complexities surrounding the discussions among member states and stakeholders (Figure 3).

The Pandemic Accord: An Overview

The Pandemic Accord having 37 articles mentioned in 3 chapters is an international instrument developed in response to the pressing need for a new framework to manage global health crises. It aims to foster deeper collaboration among nations, ensuring that the lessons learned from past pandemics are effectively integrated into future preparedness and response strategies.⁴

The Theory of Change

At the heart of the Pandemic Accord is a theory of change that emphasizes the importance of collective action and shared responsibility. The accord seeks to create a structured approach that allows countries to work together, share resources, and coordinate efforts in a manner that is equitable and just, particularly for the Global South.

The Negotiation Process

The negotiation process is facilitated by the WHO’s Intergovernmental Negotiation Body (WHO-INB), which is tasked with guiding discussions among the 194 member states of the WHO. This process is complex, involving multiple

Building Global Solidarity Through the Pandemic Accord



Figure 3: Building Global solidarity through the pandemic accord

WHO Pandemic Accord Negotiation Process

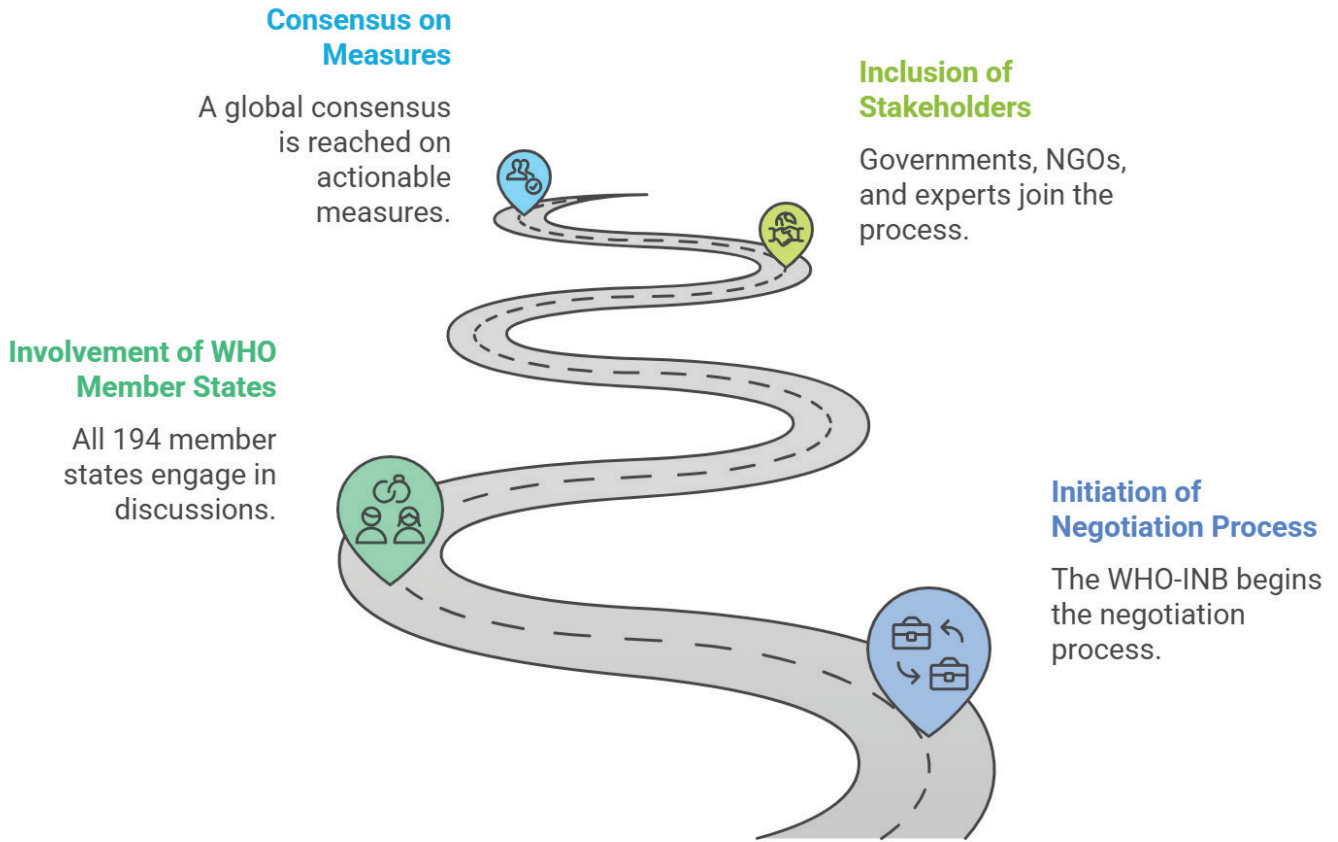


Figure 4: The Pandemic Accord negotiation process by World Health Organization

Challenges in Pandemic Accord Negotiations

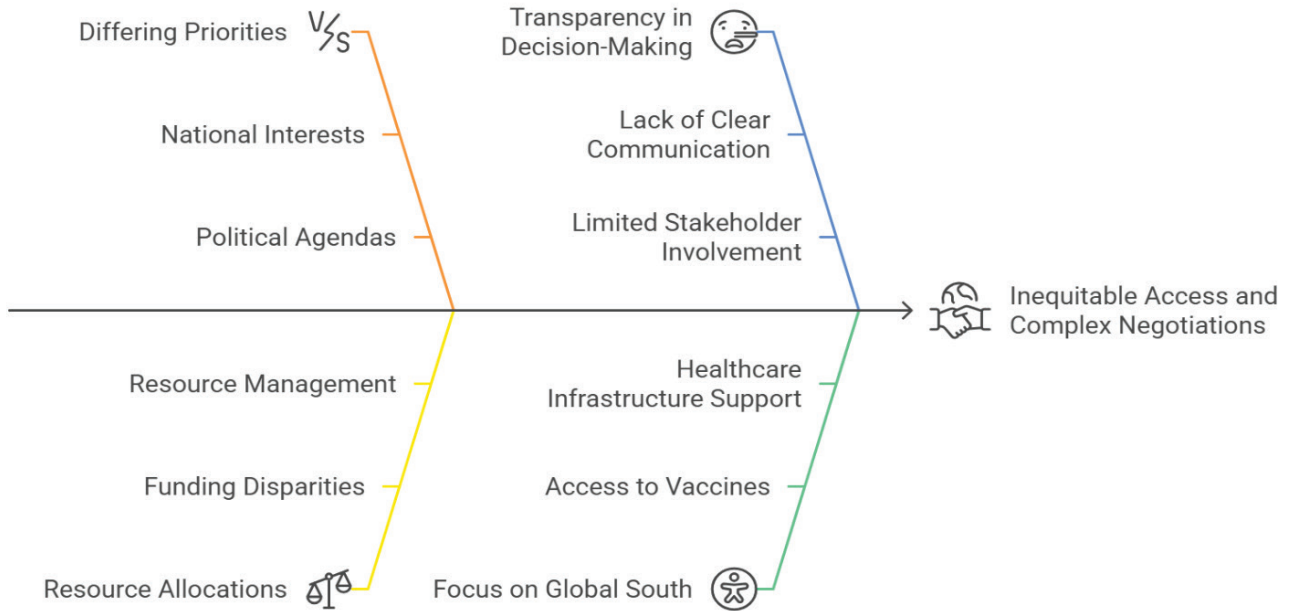


Figure 5: Challenges in Pandemic Accord negotiation – a FMEA approach

stakeholders, including governments, non-governmental organizations, and public health experts. The goal is to reach a consensus on actionable measures that can be implemented globally (Figure 4).

Current Discussions and Challenges

As negotiations progress, various challenges have emerged. Member states are grappling with differing priorities, resource allocations, and the need for transparency in decision-making. The discussions aim to address these complexities while ensuring that the resulting agreement serves the needs of all countries, with a particular focus on equitable access for the Global South (Figure 5).

CONCLUSION

The launch of the Global South Research Collaborative (GSRC) marks a significant step towards building a collaborative framework that prioritizes the needs and voices of the Global South. Through initiatives like the SIMPLIFIED series, the GSRC aims to foster a culture of knowledge sharing and collaboration, ultimately contributing to the design and delivery of effective public health solutions that resonate with the unique challenges of the region. The Pandemic Accord represents a pivotal step towards enhancing global health security. By fostering collaboration and transparency, it aims to create a more resilient international health system capable of effectively responding to future pandemics. The ongoing negotiations will be crucial in shaping an agreement

that is fair and beneficial for all nations, particularly those in the Global South.

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