

India hosts "Voice of Global South Summit": Yemen's Education Minister participates in the Education Ministers' Session

In a new and unique initiative, India hosted a special virtual Summit on 12-13 January 2023. The "Voice of Global South Summit" under the theme "Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose" brought together countries of the Global South to share their perspectives and priorities on a common platform. The Summit was held in virtual format, with 10 thematic sessions in total. It saw participation of Leaders and Ministers from 125 countries of the Global South. Yemen's Minister of Education H.E. Mr. Tariq Salem Al-Akbari participated in the Education Ministers' Session of the Summit.

Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi presided over the Inaugural Leaders' session on 12 January. The Summit wrapped up on 13 January with a Concluding Leaders' Session also hosted by Prime Minister Modi. The participating Leaders appreciated and congratulated the leadership of Prime Minister Modi in hosting the Summit at a crucial juncture. They expressed hope that the Summit would serve as a catalyst for building a prosperous and inclusive future for the world that takes into account the needs of the Global South. In his inaugural remarks, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the opportunity for uplifting societies and economies of the Global South through a shared vision and agenda for change. Prime Minister Modi offered to share India's experiences through simple, scalable and sustainable solutions. He highlighted India's achievements in vaccine development, biometric based identification, digital public goods, financial inclusion, satellite technology, digital governance, last mile connectivity, etc. He also spoke about the need for the developing world to have access to technology, knowledge and critical resources. His call for a new human centric development paradigm received widespread support from participating Leaders.

In the Education Ministers' session, ideas to transform developing countries into knowledge based societies that can create future ready workforces were shared. Ministers spoke about the need to share best practices in vocational training, capacity building and use of technology to provide equity and quality in education. India shared its National Education Policy built on the foundational pillars of access, equity, quality, affordability and accountability. In his intervention, Yemen's Education Minister H.E. Mr. Tariq Salem Al-Akbari highlighted the problems that his country is faced with due to difficult and complex circumstances in Yemen. Minister Al-Akbari noted that the war in Yemen has brought on an educational crisis that is the worst in the contemporary history of Yemen. He added that the biggest fear that Yemenis have is the complete collapse of the educational process. Education Minister Al-Akbari said that the war has directly affected about 80,000 school education management staff members, while the living conditions of about 200,000 staff members from educational departments and teachers have deteriorated resulting in a lack of expertise in the management of the educational institutions. Education Minister Al-Akbari averred that his Ministry had made efforts to overcome obstacles and challenges and continue to run and develop the educational sector despite difficult circumstances, by improving the quality of education, strengthening and building educational capacities at different levels. With the digital transformation, Yemen's Education Minister said, they seek to establish distance learning platforms and adopt an integrated vision for the implementation of e-learning at all levels.

During the Concluding Leaders' session, Prime Minister Modi announced a number of new initiatives by India in connection with the Voice of Global South Summit. These include: (a) Aarogya Maitri (Friendship for Health); (b) Global South Centre of Excellence; (c) Global South Science and Technology Initiative; (d) Global South Young Diplomats Forum and (e) Global South Scholarships.

