

Press Release

India increased budget for SSC – said Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary



Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary of India speaking at Conference on South-South Cooperation. Also seen in picture from (left to right) are Prof. Li Xiaoyun, Chair, China International Development Research Network (CIDRN), Beijing; Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST); Mr. Branislav Gosovic, Eminent expert on SSC, Geneva; Ambassador Jayant Prasad, Director-General, IDSA, New Delhi; Amb. V.S. Sheshadri, Vice Chairman, RIS, New Delhi; Mr. Yuri Afanasiev, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in India, New Delhi; Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS.

Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary of India delivering valedictory address at RIS conference on South South Cooperation highlighted the vital role that India is playing in reshaping the global agenda on South-South Cooperation. He mentioned that India is always willing to share its limited resources with other developing countries and take it as a responsibility to assist developing countries in building their capacity. For this, India in its present union budget has increased the range of its development assistance be it in capacity building, lines of credit, grants or aids. India has been proponent of the South-South Cooperation since ancient times which is clearly reflected in its neighbourhood policies. Under the neighbourhood's first approach policy India is by far the largest provider of development assistance to its neighbours, Dr. Jaishankar added. He also pointed out that North South Cooperation is about giving whereas South South Cooperation is about sharing.

Dr. Jaishankar congratulated RIS for holding such a high-level conference at a very opportune time when the Sustainable Development Goals have been agreed upon and there is need for global partnership. He also mentioned that SSC must be as a parallel process to North-South Cooperation and SDGs can be

met by joint efforts of both. He said, this conference, provided the much needed platform to discuss how southern countries could adopt SDGs within their plans and work collectively to achieve these.

He stressed on the need to proactively own and contribute on South-South cooperation. It is a partnership beyond strategic cooperation and is built on solidarity, shared past and ancient relations.

Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, addressing the valedictory session informed that the recently formed Network of Think-Tanks (NeST) will serve as a knowledge and information bridge for southern countries and will also provide information about literature on SSC so far.

The valedictory session of the conference was also addressed by Ambassador Jayant Prasad, Director General, IDSA, New Delhi; Amb. V.S. Sheshadri, Vice Chairman, RIS, New Delhi; and Mr. Branislav Gosovic from Geneva.