

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS: TURNING IDEAS INTO COORDINATED ACTIONS

1. Expand decentralized film distribution and visibility

Curate film packages and **promote alternative circulation routes** through collaborations with festivals, libraries, and educational or cultural spaces — diversifying audiences and reducing dependency on Northern circuits.

2. Establish a Global South Time Bank / Skills Exchange

Create a solidarity-based system where time and skills serve as currency for exchanging services such as translation, mentoring, or technical support. Establish a small-scale pilot exchange to test its viability and future steps.

3. Design and implement cross-regional impact campaigns

Create collaborative impact campaigns and shared digital platforms that amplify social and cultural advocacy across regions, connecting organizations and audiences around common causes.

4. Map and mobilise regional funding ecosystems

Identify existing funding sources (public, private, other) and share successful models of local fundraising, partnerships, and cross-border collaborations to reduce dependence on Global North financing.

5. Develop flexible, equitable, and policy-supported co-production frameworks

Develop co-production models adapted to Global South characteristics and values while maintaining editorial autonomy. Engage with local governments and institutions to expand co-production treaties, ensuring they support equitable collaboration across the production process.

6. Create a digital platform for knowledge exchange and learning

Establish/expand/maintain an online hub connecting filmmakers, practitioners, curators, experts, and organisations across the Global South to share training resources, research, and methodologies.

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REIMAGINING SOUTH-SOUTH COLLABORATIONS IN CINEMA

THINK TANK DURBAN FILMMART EDITION



BACKGROUND

During the 2025 Durban FilmMart, a closed think-tank titled Collaborations in the Global South gathered filmmakers, producers, and cultural practitioners from across **Africa, Latin America, the MENA region and Europe**, to discuss how inter-regional collaboration can be strengthened beyond traditional North-South dynamics. The session aimed to **recognize existing collaborations and identify opportunities to build upon them**. We hope you find this material inspiring and invite you to continue the conversation. Let's grow this fertile ground together—welcoming new allies from across the world into a shared commitment to equitable partnerships.

This think tank was hosted by **DFMI** (South Africa), organized and facilitated by **Nodo Sur** (Colombia), co-facilitated by **Taturana** (Brazil), illustrated by **Soufeina Hamed** and supported by **DW Akademie**.

RETHINKING SOUTH-SOUTH COLLABORATION

While the film industry in the Global South faces continuous challenges related to funding, representation, visibility, access to international platforms, it also holds powerful potential for transformation. **This transformation can be achieved by collaboration**, building on historical links, collective reflections, deep cultural roots, a spirit of cooperation that resists extractive models.

South-South collaboration is both a cultural and a political action. It's a way to reclaim or create new spaces, to build new creative sustainable ecosystems, and shifting centres of power. Through collaborations, networks can generate new creative economies and financial models, circulate stories across languages and regions, and promote the exchange of skills, ideas, and cultural practices. Collaboration goes beyond co-production and funding; it is about shared creation, imagination, and ownership of narratives that reflect Global South realities.

KEY INSIGHTS

Film Exchange and Circulation

Need for alternative distribution routes between Africa, Latin America, and the MENA region. Non-traditional platforms and community-based spaces **can play a vital role in increasing access for diverse audiences**.

Impact and Cultural Advocacy

Joint impact campaigns, shared distribution networks, and **cross-continental collaborations** can amplify voices and issues often marginalized by mainstream.

Co-Productions and Equity

Advocacy for **flexible co-production models** aligned with local realities and possibilities. These should be based on respect, transparency, and equity.

Collaboration and Knowledge Sharing

Mapping existing initiatives is key. A **shared database of initiatives** could help cross-regional consultation.

Training and Mentorship

Call to reimagine training opportunities. A **digital platform** could connect learners and mentors across regions, fostering exchange and mutual learning.

