

IN MEMORIAM
Martin Khor
Former Executive Director and Distinguished Fellow of the South Centre

The Chairman, Former President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, the Members and former Members of the Board of the South Centre, joined by the Chairman Emeritus, Former President Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania, as well as the Convenor and Vice Convenor of the Council of Representatives and the former Convenor, extend their deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Martin Khor of Malaysia, former Executive Director of the South Centre, who passed away peacefully at his home in Penang, Malaysia, on 1 April 2020.

All of us recognize the exemplary service and leadership provided by Martin during his tenure as the Executive Director of the South Centre from March 2009 to June 2018. During his tenure, the South Centre's work, reach and impact in support of developing countries and their collective interests in the multilateral arena expanded and consolidated the South Centre as the leading intergovernmental policy research and technical support institution of the Global South. Martin enjoyed the confidence and respect of the Member States of the South Centre and those of other developing countries for his consistent, steadfast, principles-based promotion, defense, articulation and advocacy of the views and perspectives of developing countries and their peoples from the standpoint of social, economic, and environmental justice.

Martin's life's work has been marked by a commitment to creating a more just and equitable world for all, particularly for the poor and the marginalized, as part of the broader social movements at the national and international level pushing for systemic changes that address historical and current inequalities. He believed in the power of ideas turned into reality through the catalyst of united and collective action, particularly by those who have been marginalized. In this context, throughout his tenure as the Centre's Executive Director, Martin made the Centre into a model institution for evidence-based and principles-oriented policy research and analysis linked to direct technical support to developing countries to help them to act in unity and to be more assertive in defense and promotion of their rights and interests. His work and his leadership of the South Centre Secretariat enabled the Centre to provide far-sighted policy research into global macroeconomic and finance issues, to strengthen and support developing countries in the area of international trade, climate change and sustainable development negotiations, to help articulate the views of the developing countries in relation to intellectual property and health, and promote the cause of South-South solidarity and unity in the face of multiple global crises.

At the end of Martin's tenure as the Executive Director of the South Centre, the Board and the Council of Representatives of the South Centre conferred on him the honorary title of Distinguished Fellow of the South Centre in recognition of his exemplary and meritorious service.

Martin Khor exemplified the best of the Global South, and in so doing, his work and his deeds have helped developing countries in many ways.

May he rest in eternal peace.

Chairman of the Board, Former President Thabo Mbeki
Chairman Emeritus of the Board, Former President Benjamin Mkapa
Members and former Members of the Board, Omar E. El-Arini, Yaga Venugopal Reddy, Rubens Ricupero, Ransford Smith, Chukwuma Charles Soludo, Evelyne Tall, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Carina Vance, Hailong Wu
The Convenor and Vice-Convenor of the Council, Ambassadors Ajit Kumar and Esmaeil Baghaei
Former Convenor of the Council, Ambassador Abdul Samad Minty