A Note on Methodology

Survey data was collected using Google Form between February 1 and March 28, 2025. We de-duplicated and anonymized survey responses, and produced aggregated statistics. The survey was distributed via public channels, coalition listservs, and private outreach to TGI's partner networks. We requested organizations to self-identify as Global Majority or Minority, indicate their country of registration, and countries of operation, and only entered organizations that have either registration or significant operations in a Global Majority jurisdiction. All questions were optional and respondents had full control over what they chose to share.

In addition to surveys, we conducted interviews and focus group discussions with civil society organizations that are either registered or have significant operations in a Global Majority jurisdiction. These interviews and discussions were conducted both in-person and online, and some were conducted under broader coalition discussions on digital rights and related issues.

To protect confidentiality, manage security of people on the ground and minimize data being shared, we are not disclosing specific information at country-level and survey statistics.

In this policy brief, the term "Global South" refers to countries that share certain socio-economic and political characteristics, particularly those related to historical development, economic challenges, and the broader context of global inequality. Below is the list of countries identified as part of the Global South. These countries are categorized based on their socio-economic and political traits, which align them with the characteristics typically associated with the Global South. For the purposes of this brief, the listed countries are classified as part of the Global South, while all remaining countries are grouped under the Global North.

> *Global South countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic), Congo (Republic), Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sudan (former), Suriname, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.*

The list of the Global South countries is derived primarily from the G77,[1] a group of developing countries that aim to coordinate their positions in international negotiations, and UNESCO OSWD's classifications,[2] with some adjustments based on the unique geopolitical and economic characteristics of certain countries.

Countries classified in the Global South were colonized by European powers, and the resulting colonial legacies have contributed to their continued marginalization within the global economic system. Many of these countries continue to face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development, with high levels of poverty, inequality, and limited access to essential services like healthcare and education. As a result, they have limited influence in international institutions compared to the Global North.

The list also includes Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Turkey, which fall outside the G77 but are included in the OSWD list. These countries share socio-economic and political characteristics that are aligned with those typically found in Global South as they all grapple with challenges such as economic transition, political instability, and underdevelopment, placing them within a similar context to other Global South countries.

Conversely, certain countries within the G77 that are also listed in the OSWD are excluded from this classification due to their distinct economic and geopolitical positions. For example, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates have leveraged their vast oil and gas resources to develop strong, diversified economies, positioning them among the wealthiest nations globally in terms of per capita income. These countries have integrated into the global economy in ways that align them more closely with the Global North, both economically and politically. Unlike typical Global South nations, they do not face the same challenges, such as widespread poverty, political instability, or dependence on foreign aid.

Similarly, China, Singapore and South Korea are excluded from the Global South classification. Despite being members of the G77, both countries have significantly diverged from the typical Global South trajectory. China's rapid economic growth, technological advancements, and rising political influence distinguish it from other developing nations. Singapore's transformation into a highly developed global financial hub and its strategic positioning within the global economy have granted it considerable political and economic influence, placing it outside the traditional boundaries of the Global South. Likewise, South Korea has emerged from a development aid recipient to major economic and technological power with high standards of living and strong global influence.

---

[1] https://www.g77.org/doc/members.html
[2] https://owsd.net/sites/default/files/OWSD%20138%20Countries%20-%20Global%20South.pdf