



**Assessment of the outcome of the Regional Consultation on  
South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific  
"Towards the Buenos Aires Plan of Action 40th Anniversary" \***

Bangkok  
27-29 June 2018

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\* Prepared by the Strategy and Programme Management Division based on written feedback to a survey questionnaire provided to delegates attended the Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific

## I. Introduction

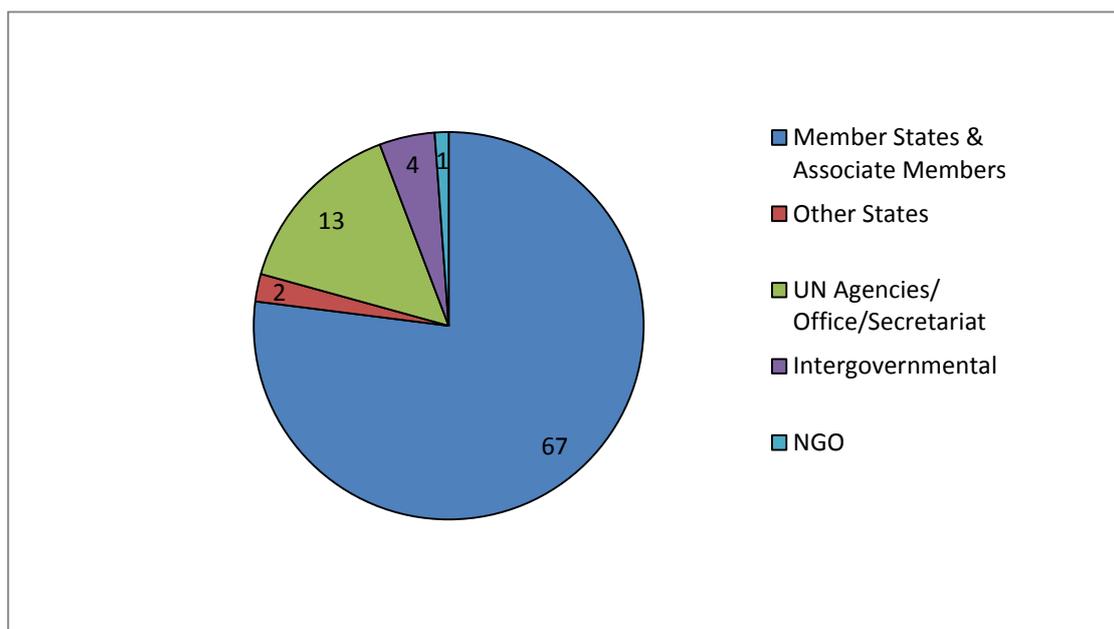
The Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific "Towards the Buenos Aires Plan of Action 40th Anniversary" was held in Bangkok from 27 to 29 June 2018 in accordance with the United Nations General Assembly resolutions 71/318 and 71/244.

A questionnaire assessing the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the regional consultation was distributed to delegates attending the Regional Consultation. The total number of returned individual questionnaires was 27. The responding delegates came from 22 of the 30 ESCAP member states and associate members in attendance at the session. The present assessment was prepared based on these questionnaire responses<sup>1</sup>.

The main purpose of this assessment is to support the secretariat's ongoing efforts to improve its servicing of regional consultations.

## II. Attendance

The Regional Consultation was attended by ESCAP members and associate members, other States, United Nations bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations. In total there were 87 individual participants and 25 special guests, moderators and speakers. 42 per cent of the attendees were female.



**Figure 1:** Number of individual participants at the Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific

<sup>1</sup> Responses are ranked as follow:

81-100: Very high; 61-80: High; 41-60: Medium; 21-40: Low; 1-20: Very low

### III. Overall relevance

The Regional Consultation was rated as highly relevant with an average index score of 90 for both evaluated statements. Participants strongly agree that the Regional Consultation was relevant to their work and that the information and knowledge shared will be informative for their work.

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific was relevant to my work.	90
The information and knowledge shared in the meeting will inform my work.	90

### IV. Overall effectiveness

Overall effectiveness of the Regional Consultation was rated highly as well, where respondents generally agreeing with the evaluated statements.

Participants strongly agree that the meeting provided them with good insights on the main South-South and triangular cooperation issues in the Asia Pacific region.

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The meeting has improved my understanding on the regional perspective of South-South and triangular cooperation in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.	88
The meeting made me better understand the interlinkages between the global, regional and national South-South and triangular cooperation.	88
The meeting provided insights on the main South-South and triangular cooperation issues in the Asia-Pacific region, including trends, modalities, good practices, institutional mechanisms.	90

### V. Overall efficiency

The evaluated efficiency statements vary in their ratings, with an average index score of 81 for the overall efficiency. This is relatively lower than the other criteria of relevance and effectiveness.

Logistical arrangement was most positively rated, with an index score of 91, whereas best practices and lessons learnt and the structure of the Regional Consultation was rated less favorably, with an index score of 77. Improvements can be made on the duration of the Regional Consultation as it was scored at an index lower than 80 as well.

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
Quality of the presentations and documents.	86
Interaction with presenters.	81
Sharing of best practices and lessons learnt.	77
Structure of the Regional Consultation.	77
Duration of the Regional Consultation.	79
Logistical arrangements for the Regional Consultation.	91

## VI. Side events

During the Regional Consultation, a field visit was conducted to Khlong Hok Sustainable Community Learning Center. Participants found the field visit highly agreeable and agreed that it helped generate new knowledge.

The exhibition on “Good practices for the South-South cooperation” was rated positively as well. Participants agreed that the exhibition enriched the meeting experience and generated new knowledge.

EVALUATED STATEMENT	INDEX (0-100)
The field visit enriched my experience at the meeting.	90
The field visit generated new knowledge.	87
The exhibition enriched my experience at the meeting.	84
The exhibition generated new knowledge.	85

## VII. Overall satisfaction

The overall satisfaction of participants for the Regional Consultation was high, with an index score of 86.

Session 4: Approaches to sustainable development – alternative development models through South-South and triangular cooperation was chosen by most respondents as the most useful session. The questionnaire also provided space for respondents to comment on the most important learning that they gained. Please refer to Annex I for more details.

EVALUATED STATEMENT	NO. OF RESPONDENTS
Which of the Session was the MOST useful to you?	
a. Opening session	2
b. Overview presentation	5
c. Session 1: Roundtable on Institutional arrangements and management of South-South and triangular cooperation	1
d. Session 2: Modalities to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation through South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development	4
e. Session 3: Multi-stakeholder partnerships to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation	5
f. Session 4: Approaches to sustainable development - alternative development models through South-South and triangular cooperation	8
g. Closing session	0

### VIII. Conclusion and additional comments

This assessment reaffirmed the strong relevance of the Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and demonstrated that it has successfully attracted high and wide representation. Participants were generally satisfied, while improvements can be made in terms of efficiency to provide participants with a better experience.

In conclusion, the Regional Consultation was able to serve as an effective platform for participants to discuss and learn about issues related to the South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific.

## Annex I

### Questionnaire Comments

*[Verbatim from the completed questionnaires]*

#### **What was your most important learning/benefit from the Regional Consultation?**

- Opportunities, challenges, institutional framework and best practices of each country by exercises.
- The last session. Learnt so much on the challenges, opportunities and way forward. Sharing of information and best practices from delegations and also from presenter/ panel members.
- The opportunities, challenges, institutional frameworks and best practices are important learning outcome from the SSC. The inequality report deliberations, and side events on disaster information system, LDCs and aging were inherently useful.
- Better understanding, expand networking, expose new possibilities for partnership/ collaboration.
- I am very new to this kind of meetings, actually my second time since last year. I'm still learning the environment and UN procedures.
- Understanding of need to better coordination at the national level. Importance of information sharing and coordination organization. Policy issues, drafting of resolutions
- I appreciate the efforts of Thailand and UNESCAP and UNOSSC in creating this opportunity to have action oriented follow-up in South-South Cooperation.
- Multi-stakeholder partnership is needed toward South-South Cooperation for sustainable development.
- The concepts, the platforms and discussions were really valuable in further enlightening me to further make efforts towards more in-depth collaboration with UNOSSC.
- It was an excellent workshop and showed that South-South cooperation can evolve into something bigger than its current status.
- Understanding of real issues from different dimensions.
- Trends in SSC and sharing of experiences.
- To be able to present our organisation as a South-South cooperation platform to be used as a convener and facilitator for pacific islands.
- Panelist presentation and discussion Field trip - very practical/ real facts of what actual happen Sharing of information/ resources both in the meeting and displayed desks. More of all -> interaction/ dialogue/very engaging
- Being able to see SSC in practice.
- Learning about country and sub-regional perspectives -The challenges, opportunities and solutions regarding the SSC - Learning more about the BIPA +40 and the ongoing and planned preparations

- Updated my knowledge - Opportunities for knowing opportunities and challenges of SSC in Asia Pacific region

**Any suggestions (topics, themes, formats, etc.) or comments for the organizers?**

- Regional level cooperation mechanism.
- Maybe touch on marine environment examples since Kiribati and most pacific islands depend on marine resources for development.
- Well done!
- Unfortunately I could not make it to participate. I hope for a future opportunity. I hope all the presentations and documents be uploaded to the ESCAP website by tomorrow.
- Only to continue to keep up the very good work.
- How effective can SSC be in terms of bringing assistance to needed fields and countries?
- COMSATS is in a strategic position to contribute for South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Leave time in agenda for participants to visiting the exhibition stands
- Thank you all (SSC, UNESCAP, TICA, and many others who involved) for a very organised meeting, excellent venue setting, warm welcoming and hospitality, very delicious foods and drinks, being so helpful, happy smiling faces, provisions of transports and your patience.... very commendable. Thank you for a well done and excellent job. Keep smiling.
- Maybe have at most 3 speakers per panel (government, private sector, and NGO).
- Our next meetings should be more focused targeting only few themes/topics in line with the country/sub-regional priorities.
- There should be an opportunity for country presentation on SSC initiatives and best practices in the consultation meetings.

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