

## ***Concept Note***

### **Regional technical meeting in preparation for BAPA+40: Perspectives and experiences in measuring South-South cooperation**

**Date:** 12 and 13 February 2019

**Venue:** Meeting Room H, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

**Co-organizers & Partners:** UNDP and ESCAP in collaboration with: UNOSSC, Southern Voice, Network of Southern Think Tanks and Reality of Aid Network.

#### **Background:**

In the past two decades, South-South cooperation (SSC) has grown dramatically in both volume and geographic reach, manifesting itself through a variety of approaches, modalities and instruments used by developing countries and development partners. SSC is now widely acknowledged as an important contributor to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals globally and regionally.

The Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), adopted at the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation between Developing Country (TCDC) in 1978 in Buenos Aires, has become an important blue print for the promotion of SSC, particularly with regards to capacity development, knowledge exchange and technology transfer between developing countries.

In parallel, the portion of economic cooperation between developing countries has also intensified in recent decades, particularly in the areas of trade, investment and development finance, expanding SSC to include blended finance and partnerships between public and private actors. These have all been important features of some of the Asian models and approaches to SSC.

One of the challenges is accounting these vast flows of human, financial, knowledge and technological transfer between developing countries, and reporting on their impact for the achievement of sustainable development. Southern partners do not subscribe to a common definition and reporting parameters for SSC. Measurement efforts are further challenged by the lack of common conceptual framework, shared standards and consistent recording.

To ensure effective implementation of Agenda 2030, a “data revolution” is now required, including the improvement of information on SSC and its contribution to national, regional and global development. Representatives of the G77 (December 2015) have called upon Southern think-tanks and the United Nations to work together to improve statistics on SSC. Among the areas that the UN Development Cooperation Forum (UNDCF, 2017) has identified for further work in the lead-up to BAPA+40 is “systematization of data and information on SSC”.

While Latin America has made significant advances in measuring and reporting technical cooperation (SEGIB 2017<sup>1</sup>, CEPAL, 2017<sup>2</sup>, ABC 2016<sup>3</sup>, AMEXCID, 2016<sup>4</sup>), major gaps still exist in the quantification of economic cooperation between developing countries in other regions.

Asia-Pacific is a diverse region with varying degree and mode of engagement in development cooperation. Several low-income countries have recently graduated to middle-income countries and have joined other emerging economies as providers of South-South and triangular cooperation, while at the same time they continue to be the recipients of development cooperation from other countries. Assessing the impact of trade facilitation, private investment and lines of credit, and separating the commercial/export element from the developmental function, is a specific challenge particularly for South-South and triangular cooperation partners in Asia and the Pacific.

By improving their data systems around SSC, developing countries can better showcase the contributions of the SSC to other developing countries, in order to complement their ongoing national reporting endeavours around the SDGs. Nonetheless, as Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, organized by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UN Office for South-South Cooperation and the Government of Thailand in June 2018, also highlighted, issues such as definition and measurement of South-South cooperation are subjects of further discussion and research agenda.

### **Objective:**

As preparations for BAPA+40 Conference are underway, including Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific<sup>5</sup> and the launch of the Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum for South-South and Triangular cooperation<sup>6</sup>, the meeting will complement the discussion at these forums. Specifically, the workshop will provide for SSC partners in the Asia-Pacific region an opportunity to exchange approaches and experiences towards defining, quantifying and reporting SSC. The outcome of the workshop will provide concrete proposals to the BAPA+40 Conference on how SSC statistics can be improved to better capture SSC's important contribution to the SDGs and to national development efforts.

### **Participants:**

Technical experts and representatives from governments, civil society, think tanks, academia, private foundations, multilateral institutions engaged in the promotion of South-South cooperation.

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<sup>1</sup> Ibero-American General Secretariat (2017) Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America 2017

<sup>2</sup> Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (2016), Grupo de tareas cuantificación de la cooperación Sur-Sur (CSS)

<sup>3</sup> Brazilian Agency of Cooperation (2017) Paths for Developing South-South Cooperation Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

<sup>4</sup> Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (2016). REGISTRO NACIONAL DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL PARA EL DESARROLLO (RENCID).

<sup>5</sup> co-organized by ESCAP, UN Office for South-South Cooperation and the Government of Thailand from 27-29 June 2018, Bangkok, Thailand.

<sup>6</sup> Special session was held on 27 November 2018 in New York on the side of Global South-South Development Expo 2018

## Programme

### DAY 1: Tuesday, 12 February 2019

08:00 – 09:00	<b>Arrival and registration</b>	
09:00 – 10:15	<p><b>Welcome by co-hosts</b></p> <p><b>Introductions and objectives of the meeting</b></p> <p><b>Methodology and approach to the workshop</b></p> <p><b>Setting the scene: political context and preparations for BAPA+40</b></p>	<p>Mr. Adnan Aliani, <b>ESCAP Strategy and Programme Management Division</b></p> <p>Mr. Artemy Izmetiev, <b>UNDP Seoul Policy Centre</b></p> <p>Prof. Neissan Besharati, <b>SSC Consultant</b></p> <p>Mr. Patricio Kingsland, Deputy Head of Mission of <b>Argentina</b> to Thailand</p> <p>Mr. Denis Nkala, <b>UNOSSC</b></p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
10:15 -10:30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
10:30 – 12:00	<p><b>Improving statistics on South-South cooperation in the context of SDG reporting: experiences from other regions</b></p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Ms. Maria Misovicova, <b>ESCAP Strategy and Programme Management Division</b></p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <hr/> <p>Ms. Silvia Lopez Cabana, <b>SEGIB</b></p> <p>Prof. Karin Vasquez, <b>CALACS</b></p> <p>Ms. Gemma Van Halderen, <b>ESCAP Statistics Division</b></p> <p><b>Discussion &amp; country experiences</b></p>
12:00 – 13:15	<b>Lunch break</b>	
13:15 – 15:00	<p><b>Conceptual frameworks for economic and technical cooperation: Chinese, Indian and other Asian models</b></p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> Mr. Priyanto Rohmattullah, <b>BAPENNAS, Indonesia</b></p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <hr/> <p>Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, <b>RIS, India</b></p> <p>Prof. Li Xiaoyun, <b>CISSCA, China</b></p> <p>Dr. Mia Mikic, <b>ESCAP Trade, Investment and Innovation Division</b></p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>

15:00 – 15:20	<b>Coffee break</b>	
15:20 – 16:50	<b>South-South development finance: measuring concessionality in credit lines and other lending instruments</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Mr. Artemy Izmestiev, <b>UNDP</b> <b>Panellists</b> <hr/> Dr. Debapriya Bhattarchaya, <b>Southern Voice Network and Centre for Policy Dialogue</b> Prof. Zhang Chuanhong, <b>CISSCA, China</b>  <b>Discussion</b>
16:50 – 17:00	<b>Wrap up of the day, announcements and preparations for next day.</b>	Co-hosts and workshop facilitator

### **DAY 2: Wednesday, 13 February 2019**

08:00 – 09:00	<b>Arrivals &amp; Welcome Coffee</b>	
09:00 – 10:30	<b>Capturing investments by private sector and non-state actors in South-South cooperation</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Mr. Denis Nkala, <b>UNOSSC</b> <b>Panellists</b> <hr/> Ms. Lyn Pano, <b>Reality of Aid, Philippines</b> Ms. Anthea Mulakala, <b>Asia Foundation</b> (by Skype) Ms. Emily Davis, <b>UNDP Regional Centre</b>  <b>Discussion</b>
10:30 -10:50	<b>Coffee break</b>	
10:50-12:20	<b>Harmonization with statistics of North-South cooperation and Trilateral cooperation</b>	<b>Chair:</b> Ms. Nobuko Kajiura, <b>ESCAP East Asia Office</b>  <b>Panellists</b> <hr/> Dr. Naohiro Kitano (by Skype), <b>Waseda University</b>  <b>Discussion &amp; country experiences</b>
12:20 – 13:00	<b>Way forward for BAPA+40: Technical proposals for defining, quantifying and reporting SSC in the SDG Era</b>  <b>Closure by co-hosts and partners</b>	Facilitator: Prof. Neissan Besharati, <b>SSC Consultant</b>  <b>Discussion</b>  Mr. Denis Nkala, <b>UNOSSC</b> Mr. Artemy Izmestiev, <b>UNDP SPC</b> Mr. Adnan Aliani, <b>ESCAP</b>
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch &amp; Departures</b>	