



REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE
BANGKOK, THAILAND

Session 1: Roundtable on Institutional arrangements and management of South-South and triangular cooperation

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

INTRODUCTION

South-South cooperation is one of the important drivers of regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and has resulted in increased volumes of South-South trade, foreign direct investment flows and technology transfer. Over the decades, countries of the South have accumulated considerable expertise, experience, lessons learnt and capabilities in their own development processes, which have been shared with other developing countries in the form of technical assistance. Middle-income developing countries, as new development partners and technical cooperation providers, have significantly influenced the landscape of South-South cooperation in this region and beyond.

With the backdrop of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA) of 1978 reaching its 40th Anniversary, the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the ongoing repositioning of the United Nations Development System (UNDS), the main focus for the roundtable of Session 1 will be how to shape the future of South-South and Triangular cooperation in the present global context. To reach its full potential, South-South Cooperation needs to be further aligned, enhanced and structured to correspond with the evolving needs and priorities of developing countries as well as the paradigm shift within the international development system towards delivering the 2030 Agenda.

OBJECTIVE

The opening and overview presentations will define the main issues of South-South Cooperation that need to be resolved at global and regional level. **Session 1 entitled “Roundtable on Institutional arrangements and management of South-South and triangular cooperation”, organized by UNOSSC** is therefore the first opportunity to get perspectives from the panelists and the discussants on how to shape the future of South-South and triangular cooperation. Much has changed since the Buenos Aires Plan of 1978.

More than any other regions, Asia-Pacific has seen the emergence of countries that have graduated to developed country status and the growth of strong emerging economies. The region has been instrumental in the new global order driving growth not only in Asia but other Regions as well. The panel is designed to be forward-looking in its review of South-South and triangular cooperation institutionalisation that includes; the definition of South-South cooperation, the principles of South-South Cooperation, legal frameworks for South-South Cooperation, Roles for stakeholders in South-South Cooperation, institutions supporting South-South Cooperation, tools for management of South-South Cooperation including its measurement, monitoring and evaluation, and financing for South-South Cooperation.

The main objective of Session 1 is to have a summary of main issues that the South-South think tanks are working on and to enlist views of experts on some of these issues based on a set of questions compiled by workshop Secretariat and probing from the moderator.

In this respect, the following questions are expected to be addressed by panelists:

- What are the issues in institutionalisation of South-South and triangular cooperation?
- Is definition of South-South Cooperation an issue?
- What is the comparative advantage of South-South and triangular cooperation?
- Are the principles of South-South cooperation still relevant?
- Is South-South Cooperation being implemented in consistency with the Principles?
- What are the main tools that have been developed for management and implementation of South-South and triangular cooperation?
- Are the institutions for South-South cooperation adequate and poised to lead the next phase of South-South Cooperation.
- Does the separation of South-South from North-South (with complementarities) serve the Global South well or should there be greater rapprochement?
- What is the role of Science and technology in strengthening South-South cooperation?
- Has South-South and Triangular cooperation focused enough on gender issues? What more can be done?
- Reflect and explore on the merits of approaches to enhance effective and practical ways of applying and scaling up South-South and triangular cooperation in the region.
- What are the most relevant ways to create an enabling environment for a supporting institutional framework at regional and national levels for South-South and triangular cooperation?
- Is funding for South-South and triangular cooperation adequate?
- Have Inter-governmental institutions created to scale up South-South Cooperation been effective?
- What are the issues for South-South Cooperation at Regional and National Level, e.g. ASEAN Region.

FORMAT AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The panelists will be drawn from the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), Southern think-tanks involved in research for empirical evidence to build a case for positions taken on the above, intergovernmental organisations based in the region created specifically to spearhead South-South and triangular cooperation and Academia.

The Session will open with moderator's presentation focusing on issues that think tanks have been working or plan to work on. After that the moderator will ask panelists questions from the above list, among others, and then lead an interactive debate on the issues. The questions will be directed to each panelist in line with their area of expertise. Each panelist should take up to two minutes to answer a question, and the moderator will open the discussion to the floor giving priority to member states.
