

DCF Argentina High-level Symposium

South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda Building Innovative and Inclusive Partnerships

San Martín Palace, Buenos Aires, Thursday 7 September 2017

Concept Note for Session I [10:00 AM – 11:30 AM, Libertador Room]

The role of South-South and triangular cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement: regional and national perspectives

The Sustainable Development Goals and Addis Agenda highlight the need for a revitalized global partnership, engaging all stakeholders in a spirit of global solidarity to mobilize the wide array of concrete actions and policies required to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, focusing on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable countries and people. This requires fulfilment of commitments that go well beyond financial flows, including capacity-building; technology development and transfer; coherence in domestic policies and coordinated efforts for creating an enabling environment to address global systemic issues; and knowledge sharing and mutual learning for sustainable development results.

South-South cooperation has proved a valuable complement to the traditional North-South cooperation in these areas as well as others. South-South and triangular cooperation can also serve to leverage leading practices by developing countries in the climate agenda. By involving partners who face comparable challenges and by fostering capacity development, taking local specificities into account, South-South cooperation has a distinctive value in supporting the establishment of national frameworks crucial in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and a catalytic role in the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions related to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

There is no formal or common definition of “South-South cooperation”. The term is often used to entail political, cultural and economic exchanges between Southern countries, enterprises and civil society organizations, including on capacity support, trade, investment and technology. South-South cooperation is largely built on broad-based partnerships, solidarity and mutual interest. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda acknowledges the longstanding principles and distinctive attributes of South-South cooperation. Along with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it welcomes the increased contribution of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development. It underscores the potential of South-South cooperation in strengthening, among others: capacity building; knowledge sharing; resource mobilization and development effectiveness; international tax cooperation; sustainable production and consumption patterns; and science, research, technology and innovation.

Triangular cooperation likewise lacks a formal definition, but it is generally understood as partnerships between two or more developing countries, supported by a developed country or multilateral organization. It involves various approaches, perspectives and institutional arrangements that reflect

the richness of initiatives in this field, where the basic tripartite structure accommodates a growing diversity of actors in international development cooperation. The 2030 Agenda and Addis Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, among other international agreements, incorporate triangular cooperation as one of the means of implementation.

The Development Cooperation Forum places special focus on the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in the SDG era, including their evolution and main actors, and highlighting opportunities, challenges and adjustments needed to boost their growth, quantity, quality and contribution to sustainable development. In the run-up to both the 2018 High-level Meeting of the DCF and the Second United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in 2019, the DCF Argentina High-level Symposium will explore “South-South and triangular cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda. Building innovative and inclusive partnerships”.

Session I of the Symposium will provide regional and national perspectives on ways and means through which South-South and triangular cooperation are fostering the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Focus Questions

- What are some of the comparative strengths and modalities inherent in South-South and triangular cooperation, and how can they be leveraged in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?
- How is South-South cooperation tackling vulnerabilities, structural impediments, fostering productivity and economic diversification?
- How can regional and city-to-city South-South cooperation arrangements help localize the 2030 Agenda and boost complementary initiatives between neighbouring countries?
- What are some of the key challenges that actors in South-South and triangular cooperation face, and what adjustments are needed to boost the contribution of their cooperation to sustainable development?

Format

90 minute-moderated interactive discussion, featuring brief presentations by speakers.