

CONCEPT NOTE: SESSION 8

Creating Opportunities to Deliver Effective South-South and Triangular Cooperation at Country Level

Wednesday, 14 December 2022, 11:30 – 13:00 CET

Background

In a new era of intertwined development challenges, it is more important than ever to work together in effective partnerships for sustainable development. In a context of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, a deepening climate emergency, geopolitical tensions and socioeconomic shocks, we need to work better together, reaffirming the vision of co-operation modalities such as South-South, North-South and Triangular co-operation, to support knowledge sharing and developing innovative solutions based on common objectives.

South-South co-operation has a long and successful history, born out of shared experiences and sympathies and based on common objectives and solidarity. In the past few decades, South-South cooperation has expanded its scope, facilitated regional, subregional and interregional integration, provided innovative approaches for collective actions and strengthened its contribution to sustainable development. At the same time, triangular co-operation has demonstrated itself as a flexible and impactful tool for today's main challenges, helping with COVID-19 recovery, supporting countries to tackle climate change and scaling up innovations to provide global public goods. Triangular co-operation fosters strategic and inclusive partnerships, leveraging additional resources, supporting local ownership and delivering high-impact results.

Countries and non-State organizations acknowledged the importance of effectiveness for South-South and Triangular Co-operation at the 2nd UN High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation in 2019 (BAPA+40). The conference also recognized the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on Effective Triangular Cooperation as initiatives to support the strengthening of South-South and triangular co-operation.

Responding to the global call from BAPA+40 to enhance the effectiveness of South-South and Triangular Co-operation, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) is convening development actors to analyze how to increase country ownership, focus on results, foster inclusive partnerships and ensure transparency and mutual accountability in South-South and triangular co-operation. Evidence has shown that partnerships based on the effectiveness principles are critical to helping countries build back better together as the world reaches the second half of the 2030 Agenda.

Purpose of the Session

This plenary session aims to convene a high-level and multi-stakeholder dialogue about how South-South and Triangular Co-operation, with their rich history of joint, demand-driven, and context-aware development solutions, can support strategies to address today's global development in sync with the effectiveness principles. Speakers will discuss challenges related to ownership and coordination at the country level, involvement of local actors, and the importance of these modalities in building trust among development co-operation stakeholders.

The panel discussion will also promote effective South-South and Triangular Co-operation as inclusive and horizontal multi-stakeholder partnerships based on trust and equality, allowing co-

creation of solutions to current development challenges. It will build on the discussion of the spotlight session on South-South and Triangular Co-operation and the tools presented by countries to enhance the effectiveness of their co-operation.

Finally, speakers will envision how the GPEDC, with its focus on country-led action, assessment frameworks and knowledge-exchange dynamics, can support partners' capacities to meet current and upcoming challenges in a cost-effective, inclusive and sustainable manner.

Objectives

- To discuss the unique and complementary contributions of South-South and Triangular Co-operation to tackling the intertwined development challenges of today, including climate change and recover from the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, based on the effectiveness principles.
- To envision how the GPEDC's tools (the monitoring exercise, peer-learning spaces, self-assessment modules and voluntary guidelines) can help leverage South-South and triangular co-operation to address current and emerging challenges for implementing the 2030 Agenda and its related frameworks.
- To commit to strengthening coordination capacities between cooperation agencies and local partners, promoting a forward-looking approach towards integrating South-South and triangular co-operation in policies and processes at the local level.

Guiding Questions

- Achieving the objectives set by the 2030 Agenda seems increasingly difficult coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic while facing acute socioeconomic shocks, and the worsening effects of climate change. What lessons can South-South and triangular co-operation provide to strengthen capacities for addressing complex, interconnected challenges at the country level?
- What are the main challenges to enhance the effectiveness of this co-operation modality? How can partners ensure inclusiveness, ownership and smooth coordination at the country level?
- In a world context of democratic regression and shrinking civic space, what's the role of South-South and triangular co-operation for translating local knowledge into local power?
- We are entering the second half of the 2030 Agenda in a changing development co-operation landscape with increasing geopolitical tensions. Is there a role for South-South and triangular co-operation to help reduce tensions in the future?

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