

FOCUS SESSION 4:

Locating South-South Cooperation within Emerging Development Cooperation Architecture

Tuesday 15 April, 2014

Chair/Speakers/Panelists:

1. *Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya*, Chair, Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals and Distinguished Fellow, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka
2. *Dr. Fahmida Khatun*, Research Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka
3. *H. E. Jaime Miranda*, Minister of Foreign Affairs, El Salvador
4. *Amb. Omar Abou Eich*, Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt
5. *Profssor Mustafizur Rahman*, Executive Director, Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka
6. *Dr. Shekhar Shah*, Director-General, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi
7. *Ms. Tomoko Nishimoto*, Director for South-South Cooperation, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Conclusions and Key Messages:

The panel discussion had the objectives of bringing conceptual clarity to the concept of South-South Cooperation (SSC), exploring how it is implemented and discussing what to expect of SSC in the future.

The panelists agreed that SSC is a key element of the emerging development architecture. By 2030, two-thirds of the savings will generate from the Southern countries. This means that the South will actually become the center of economic prosperity and trade. Nonetheless, sufficient knowledge is not available in terms of how development partners are working with SSC, the flows of resources that it entails, and its impacts.

In order to contain its relevance and impact, SSC must maintain the following principles:

- Horizontality – SSC must recognize countries as equals.
- Mutual benefit – SSC must bring mutual benefits to those involved; the concept of beneficiaries and providers might require reframing. In this context, the notions of solution seeker and provider were shared in the panel.
- Plurality – SSC has a wide diversity of modalities, including knowledge exchange. SSC has the opportunity of joining partners facing similar challenges.
- Respect – SSC must maintain respect among partners involved.
- Effectiveness – The impact of SSC must be a key principle also to make sure these efforts are worthwhile.

In this context, SSC can use some of the principles of Paris and Accra, for initial evaluation, but the particularities of SSC in relation to traditional official development assistance (ODA) must not be overlooked.

SSC can serve many purposes; some of them include:

- SSC involves political negotiations. In this sense, SSC can prevent conflict in the future.
- Global integration among Southern countries for trade and other economic activities must be a key objective of SSC.
- SSC can triangulate with traditional ODA. It should not replace, rather improve, the North-South relations.
- SSC must not overlook the challenge of graduation of least developed countries (LDCs), a major concern globally.

As the panel concludes, it is clear that SSC is a key aspect of the emerging development financing infrastructure. However, there is no agreement on whether SSC must be treated differently from, or equally to ODA. Further research and discussion is suggested to make sure SSC has a clear and useful role in the future of the development financing strategy.