

Draft Concept Note:

South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing in the context of Development Effectiveness

Preparation of a Joint Session for the High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation

Introduction:

The global development and international cooperation landscape is changing rapidly. Countries from the Global South have become key actors in global and regional development efforts over the past decades. South-South and triangular Cooperation have increased in terms of strategic importance and volume to the point that by some calculations it could reach an amount equal to 20% of Official Development Cooperation (ODA) by 2015. Knowledge sharing among developing countries, which has become an important modality of South-south cooperation, contributes to the enhancement of national and local capacities for sustainable human development.

Over the past few years, following the rebalancing of the existing architecture for international cooperation, Governments of developing countries have been taking a new and enhanced role and increased responsibilities in ensuring the economic, social and environmental sustainability of global welfare and growth.

The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), will hold its 1st High Level Meeting (HLM) in April 2014 in Mexico City. South-South Cooperation, Triangular Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing will be the topic of one of the main sessions of the meeting.

During the preparatory process it has been underlined that although Knowledge Sharing is a very useful modality of South-south cooperation, there are other important mechanisms such as grants concessional loans as well as in kind contributions of both goods and services. On the other hand, Knowledge Sharing goes beyond SSC and can involve traditional donors and institutions, which can also share their expertise and technology in areas particularly important for developing countries. However, taking into account the increasing role of SSC, as well as the importance of sharing Southern solutions to southern development challenges, it is important to explore mechanisms to scale-up this useful development tool.

Hence, Steering Committee decided that South-South Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing will be dealt with in one session at the HLM, with two separate segments.

The two segments of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and Knowledge Sharing are being presented in the following part of this concept note. They will be followed by a brief reflection on possible conclusions and next steps for how the two segments can be linked strategically within one session during the HLM in Mexico.

Segment I: South-South and Triangular Cooperation:

Core group: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Mexico

Background.

International development cooperation dynamics have been drastically transformed in the last 50 years. The rising relevance of new actors, notably emerging providers from the South, has challenged the preconceived notion of traditional cooperation schemes.

In the context of the UN, there is a consensus on some common characteristics or principles of SSC¹: solidarity, respect for national sovereignty, national ownership, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference and mutual benefit.

It is also widely recognized that while SSC has a central role to play in the international development architecture and has specific advantages for the partners participating in it, it is not a substitute for traditional NSC. Therefore, the increase of SSC is no reason for traditional donors to diminish their contributions or to avoid honoring their commitments. The 4^o High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (Busan, 2011) contributed to the construction of comprehensive development cooperation architecture, by joining together a wide variety of State and non-State actors.. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation agreed in Busan acknowledges the specificities of SSC and recognizes that Southern providers participate in the international development architecture the principle of shared but differentiated responsibilities, in accordance with each actor's respective capabilities, comparative advantages and available resources.

Another important recent trend is the increasing importance of Triangular Cooperation Schemes, through which traditional donors and institutional partners, such as International Organizations, engage side to side with Southern providers in benefit of a third country. Triangular projects are an innovative tool of collaboration among traditions of cooperation in order to tackle challenges in which Southern partners might already have experience and proven solutions.

It is worth noting that civil society organisations are also active in South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, sometimes providing relief in response to humanitarian crises, other times engaging in peer learning and capacity development in relation to social, economic and democratic development programming. CSOs play roles that complement but is distinct from the role of government or the private sector.

The Partnership's First Ministerial-Level Meeting, taking into account its broad multistakeholder and results based approach, provides an ideal setting to advance on this frameworks, helping identifying key elements for all development actors to be more effective in their endeavors, in order to improve our collective capacity to face the development challenges beyond 2015.

Concrete objectives

Though SSC and TC have been increasing their relevance in the Development Cooperation architecture, there is still room to increase and consolidate their potential benefit. Newer actors in South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation can learn from the

¹Outcome of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, Nairobi in December, 2009.

experience of actors who have been active in South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation for longer.

To support this endeavor, in Mexico we will take stock of good practices in SS effective cooperation and on the obstacles we can face to move forward. Some Southern partners might want to take some individual voluntary commitments on the basis of the framework for SS cooperation agreed in Busan.

This session will also look at Triangular Cooperation and its contribution to the effectiveness agenda. While the dialogue between the S-S and the N-S traditions has evolved slowly and not without understandable difficulties, in practice these traditions have been actively collaborating on the ground, bringing together the comparative advantages of Southern and Northern cooperation providers in the benefit of poorer countries and the global provision of public goods..

Finally, the session will also explore the role of CSOs in SSC and TrC.

Possible concrete deliverables

1. How south-south co-operation has evolved as part of the international architecture of development co-operation (from an “inclusive development” perspective).
2. Showcase examples of successful south-south co-operation and of triangular co-operation including a reflection on challenges encountered; examples of policy and institutional arrangements contributing to success; examples of multi-stakeholder SSC and TrC, wherein the partnerships involve or are led by CSOs and other stakeholders;
3. Launch or showcase voluntary actions by south-south partners to advance Busan goals and principles (to include, for example, approaches that have been successful in promoting inclusive development; or addressing the needs of countries with particular development challenges, including fragile and conflict-affected states).
4. Identify a number of thematic issues in the post-2015 development framework in which SSC and TC can have a particular value added.
5. Review the need for re-establishing and if necessary, the mandate and Membership of the Task Team on South-South Cooperation under the GPEDC

A list of analytical work available to date that can serve as an input for the session;

- **Background Paper on SSC & TC prepared by the “Core Team”**

External documentation:

- *Policy Dialogue on Triangular Cooperation, Lisbon, 16-17 May 2013,* This dialogue defined some elements for a good TrC: political support, mutual agreement and mutual trust, harmonization capacity, the employment of comparative advantages in every case, and responsibilities according to each partner strength.
- Oliver Stuenkel (May 2013), Institutionalizing South-South Cooperation: Towards a New Paradigm?, Submitted to the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- UN Office for South-South Cooperation, JICA (2013)Enhancing Management practices in South-South and Triangular cooperation, Study on country-led practices.

- Inter-American Development Bank, Regional Public Goods: An innovative Approach to South-South Cooperation.
- International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, UNDP, Poverty in Focus, South-South Cooperation, The Same Old Game of a New Paradigm ?
- JICA (2012), Scaling Up South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
- Iberoamerican Secretariat (2013), Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America.
- Report of the UN Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (2013)
- Main reporting by the UN Office on South-South Cooperation
- *Boosting South South Cooperation in the context of aid effectiveness*. Telling the story of partners involved in more than 110 cases of South South and Triangular Cooperation (input to the discussions at the High Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development in Bogotá, 2010)
- Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness – 10 case studies on South South Cooperation (2011)
- Human Development Report 2013: The Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World, UNDP
- 37th Ministerial Declaration G77, UN, 26 september 2013
- Triangular Co-operation and Ad Effectiveness, Can Triangular co-operation make aid more effective?, OECD, 2009

Plan for producing additional analytical work to fill evidence gaps:

- *Roadmap of Regional and other consultations towards the Ministerial.*

Proposed format for the session, including

- *The session would be moderated by a High profile Journalist, either a Mexican or an international figure, who would ensure a lively and interesting discussion.*
- *High ranking representatives from Countries who have lead on particular process, such as China, India, Germany –TC- and Mexico could be invited to Chair their experiences.*
- *High ranking representatives from countries benefiting from assistance by Southern Providers*
- *The format would be a Ted talk-Davos kind of dynamic.*
- *Potential participants with strong and interesting views to share:*

Countries

1. Brazil
2. China
3. India
4. Kenya
5. Singapore
6. Thailand
7. Peru
8. Colombia
9. Germany
10. Japan
11. Bangladesh
12. Arab Donors

Stakeholders of the GPEDC

TBC

Segment II: Knowledge sharing

II.1. Background:

Global development cooperation has embraced the shifting paradigm from aid to development effectiveness. One of the important mechanisms to support development effectiveness is Knowledge Sharing among Developing Countries. The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and the Core Team members, due to its number and because the diversity of stakeholders represented, have several comparative advantages that can enable Knowledge Sharing initiatives to be scaled up, and to support the implementation of Knowledge sharing initiatives at the country level, including stronger institutional and operational capacities of knowledge hubs.

The Knowledge Sharing segment of the Session was developed in cooperation with Indonesia, UNDP, World Bank, Bangladesh, Peru, Samoa, and South Korea, as well as with the involvement of other stakeholders, including Parliaments and LenCD, and in Coordination with existing Communities of Practice (such as knowledgehubs.org or southsouth.info).

II.2. Concrete objectives:

The main objectives for the Knowledge Sharing part of the joint South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Knowledge Sharing Session during the High Level Meeting include:

- Improved understanding at the political level of the importance of Knowledge Sharing as a crucial pillar of development cooperation (together with technical and financial cooperation) and how it can contribute to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
- Based on the significant volume of available case studies, showcase relevant country examples of Knowledge Sharing in SSC, TrC and in selected topical areas of the Post-2015 Agenda; including presentations from emerging economies (China, Brazil, India) of the knowledge they provided to other countries and a discussion of successes and challenges;
- Foster an understanding of the necessary political and institutional requirements for successful Knowledge Sharing at country level;
- Announce the scaling up of knowledge sharing in 3-5 selected topical areas of the post-2015 agenda.
- Scale up the contribution of private sector and philanthropy organizations to support development through knowledge sharing.

II.3. Possible concrete deliverables

Knowledge Sharing is expected to promote and strengthen the result of sustainable development through sharing expertise of validated development experiences and concrete lessons learned in practice. Three focus areas are proposed as deliverables for the Knowledge Sharing part of the Knowledge Sharing and South-South Cooperation Session of the HLM:

- a. **Identify how Knowledge Sharing can be scaled up in thematic areas of the post-2015 development agenda:** Scaling up Knowledge Sharing in thematic areas of the post-2015 Agenda for which country specific demand exists.
- b. **Discussing the role and showcasing successful examples of Knowledge Sharing policies and institutional coordination frameworks:** National policy development and the importance to scale up the country led knowledge hub, within the South-South Cooperation (SSC), Triangular Cooperation (TrC) and Knowledge Sharing (KS) continues to be an important agenda item for many countries, especially for middle income countries (MICs), in areas such as social protection, climate change, tropical agriculture or public health.
- c. **Identifying and showcasing innovative practices in Knowledge Sharing.** The GPEDC is uniquely positioned to trigger innovative practices of Knowledge Sharing, including how we can learn from the private sector or philanthropy organizations.

II.4. A summary of analytical work on the session topic and implications for the communique and proposed initiatives;

• **Background Paper on Knowledge Sharing Among Developing Countries prepared by the “Core Team”**

- Bali HLM on Country Led Knowledge Hub Communiqué, 2011
- Shoba Kumar and Aaron Leonard, The Art of Knowledge Exchange World Bank Institute: A Result focus planning for Development Practitioners, 2012
- Shoba Kumar and Aaron Leonard, The Art of Knowledge Exchange World Bank Institute: A Result focus planning for Policy Maker, 2012

II.6. Plan for producing additional analytical work to fill evidence gaps:

Following the proposed deliverables and outputs, the planned timeframe and work needed in preparation for the 1HLM in April 2014 includes:

- Identifying thematic areas (partner countries demand related to Post 2015 Development Agenda) and identifying results-focused experiences to showcase Knowledge Sharing in areas of the Post-2015 Agenda, SSC and TrC, including drawing on existing documentation of case studies² by mapping the existing work of Knowledge Sharing, the proposed thematic areas of the Post 2015 Development agenda discussions and country demand for thematic areas of scaled-up Knowledge Sharing and identify criteria for selecting priority areas for Knowledge Sharing. This includes the outreach activities and collaboration with existing Communities of Practice and knowledge networks to identify result-focused case studies and experiences to be showcased.

²Existing south-south case study documentation includes ‘Boosting South-South Cooperation in the Context of Aid Effectiveness, Telling the Stories of Partners involved in more than 110 Cases of South-South and Triangular Cooperation’, World Bank Institute

- Preparation of working papers on Knowledge Sharing policies and institutional arrangements at national/coordination and sector levels, including on how to scale up country led knowledge hub initiatives.
- Identification of case studies and principles for innovations in Knowledge Sharing, including the role of philanthropy organizations and private role in Knowledge Sharing for development.

II.7. Proposed format for the session

The proposed format for the HLM includes an interactive panel discussion between ministers, high level and senior representatives from countries (including sector agencies and knowledge hubs from countries such as Brazil, China, South Korea, Indonesia, Colombia, and Bangladesh), international organizations, private sector, philanthropy organizations, CSO and academia, with the moderator being an international journalist.

The panel discussion can be enriched by 1-2 short films on successful Knowledge Sharing examples, especially those involving Knowledge-Sharing activities.

It will be divided into four segments, each with proposed speakers as below:

- Opening remarks by the Armida S. Alisjahbana - Minister for National Development Planning/Bappenas, Indonesia.
- Showcasing knowledge sharing in specific thematic areas of post 2015 development agenda. Propose speakers: Liu Jian, Counsellor of the State Council, PR China – Chairman of IPRCC; or A.K.Khandker – Minister of Planning, Bangladesh;
- Policy and Institutional Coordination Framework including scaling up Country Led Knowledge Hub: Hyun Oh-seok - Minister for Strategy and Finance, Korea;
- Showcasing Innovative Partnership of Knowledge Sharing (philanthropy organizations or private sector): Paul Polman (CEO Unilever/Post 2015 Panel) or Eric Braverman (CEO Clinton Foundation), or Jeff Raikes (CEO Gates Foundation), or Christopher Elias (President Global Development, Gates Foundation), or Judith Rodin (President – Rockefeller Foundation).

Questions for discussion for panellists can include:

- Which effective policy, institutional and operational models exist already that countries can learn from to scale up Knowledge Sharing?
- What are the resource and capacity ‘ceilings’ for large-scale Knowledge Sharing of the public sector, and how could these be addressed in the future?
- What is the mechanism for effective Knowledge Sharing including, linking in country and international institutional frameworks of Knowledge Sharing?
- How can countries more effectively make use of the substantive experiences available in thematic agencies and knowledge hubs, as well as strengthen their capacities to use Knowledge Sharing substantively?
- How can the public sector more effectively link to the private sector to capture and share Knowledge/Experiences?

Conclusions and Possible Way Forward

Emerging themes in both segments which would merit from further consolidation and cross-content coordination include:

- a. Showcasing examples of thematic work on knowledge sharing activities contributing to the Post-2015 Agenda;
- b. Knowledge Sharing policies and institutional coordination frameworks;
- c. Scaling up innovative practices of Knowledge Sharing, including how the public sector can learn from the private sector.