

**Last Call for Participation!**

December 7th, 2021  
8h Bogotá / 14h Madrid  
/ 18h30 New Delhi

Community of Practice on Measurement and Quantification of South-South Cooperation and Action Dialogue about effectiveness

Knowledge Management Hub on SSC



## **Community of Practice on Measurement and Quantification of South-South Cooperation 2021 Opening Event and Action Dialogue December 07th, 2021**

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, APC-Colombia convened the opening meeting of the Community of Practice on Measurement and Quantification of South-South Cooperation (CoP), an event that also served as the first Action Dialogue organized by APC-Colombia within the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).

The group was invited to reflect on the question of ***‘What does it mean to promote ‘a more effective South-South Cooperation’ for different kinds of actors within the context of development in transition?’***

To inform the research and discussion agenda of the CoP, a panel with 4 participants was organized, followed by a Q&A and ideation session.

### ***Agenda:***

1. Opening remarks
  - a. Thomas Gass, Co-Chair, Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
  - b. Viviana Manrique, Director General, APC-Colombia
2. Presentations by panelists
  - a. Catalina Quintero, Director of South-South Cooperation, APC-Colombia
  - b. Paulo Esteves, Researcher, BRICS Policy Center
  - c. Emmanuel Letouzé, Director and Co-Founder, Datapop Alliance
  - d. John Hardy, Director of Competitiveness, Palmira Chamber of Commerce
3. Q&A and ideation session
4. Wrap-up

### ***Opening remarks:***

#### ***Mr. Thomas Gass, Ambassador of Switzerland and GPEDC Co-Chair:***

Mr. Gass greeted the group and celebrated the event as the third GPEDC Action Dialogue in the Latin America region. He thanked Colombia for its constant engagement in building forward better and for its leadership in addressing how the principles of effective development cooperation can be applied to South-South Cooperation.

Mr. Gass recognized the importance of working with SEGIB and PIFCSS in promoting data and statistics for effective cooperation, as statistical capacity is fundamental for the implementation of the four effectiveness principles (country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, transparency and accountability). He finished his intervention congratulating Colombia for hosting the World Data Forum in 2023, and inviting all attendants to join Switzerland in December 2022 for the High Level Meeting of the GPEDC, to be held in a hybrid format in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Last Call for Participation!**

December 7th, 2021  
8h Bogotá / 14h Madrid  
/ 18h30 New Delhi

Community of Practice on Measurement and Quantification of South-South Cooperation and Action Dialogue about effectiveness

Knowledge Management Hub on SSC



***Viviana Manrique, Director General, APC-Colombia:***

Mrs. Manrique greeted all participants and highlighted that Colombia is a middle-income country that receives Official Development Assistance and provides South-South Cooperation, and thus needs to be more effective in its cooperation. She mentioned that the Agency's thoughts about effectiveness have been informed by the work in the GPEDC Action Area on South-South Cooperation, where Colombia joins Bangladesh, Cape Verde, El Salvador, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico and Rwanda.

She indicated that the Knowledge Management Hub of South-South Cooperation, the framework program in which this Community of Practice is nested, is the Agency's strategic bet for strengthening capacities with its partners by making available public policies and best practices developed in Colombia through a virtual campus, a collaborative space and communities of practice such as this one.

She finished her intervention inviting participants to reflect about their perspective regarding the importance of metrics for improving performance. Our aspiration is that this community can build concepts and tools to expand the frontier of knowledge about technical cooperation.

***Panelists presentations:***

***Catalina Quintero, Director of South-South Cooperation, APC-Colombia***

Mrs. Quintero shared some key statistics about the South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) work of APC-Colombia, which in 2021 represented around 200 activities within 82 projects and 38 specific actions with over 40 Global South countries, financed partially by the Agency's Cooperation and International Assistance Fund (FOCAI).

She mentioned that Colombia's dual role as a recipient of ODA and provider of SSTC allows the country to participate in different cooperation mechanisms but also imposes a dual load of reporting according to different approaches to measurement. She highlighted that the Effectiveness agenda provides a common qualitative framework between both modalities of international cooperation, which can be exploited to provide valuable insights to participants of both spaces.

Mrs. Quintero recalled the participation of APC-Colombia in measurement initiatives of the General Secretariat for Ibero-America (SEGIB), which monitors the SSTC that each country participates in, and on the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) initiative, which seeks to encompass all official resources in support of the 2030 Agenda including Official Development Assistance, private resources mobilised through official channels, contributions to international public goods and South-South Cooperation.

She stressed that traditional international cooperation monitoring efforts focus on ODA, overlooking SSTC as an important dynamic for Global South countries that demands important financial and human resources from these countries, and which represents a legitimate contribution to international development with its own voice and vision.

Mrs. Quintero mentioned that Ibero-American discussion about measurement of SSTC have reached a minimum consensus around measuring projects in dimensions such as partners, roles,

## Last Call for Participation!

December 7th, 2021  
8h Bogotá / 14h Madrid  
/ 18h30 New Delhi

Community of Practice on Measurement and Quantification of South-South Cooperation and Action Dialogue about effectiveness

Knowledge Management Hub on SSC



topics and budgets, yet some countries unilaterally account for other activities not included in this consensus such as peacekeeping missions, loans, infrastructure projects and contributions to multilateral organizations.

She mentioned that APC-Colombia's strategic bet for measuring the added value of SSTC has been the SSTC Toolkit, implemented since 2018. The toolkit includes examples of 13 different modalities of activities for promoting technical cooperation and includes a Quantification and Value Aggregation Model, which attempts to quantify added value in five new dimensions:

1. knowledge generated,
2. professional networks developed,
3. visibility of the project,
4. special attention paid to vulnerable groups, and
5. Alignment to the SDGs

Mrs. Quintero finished her intervention indicating that although implementation of the SSTC toolkit has gained traction, there is still room for trying out new ideas to move the conversation forward, which is where this multi-stakeholder, multi-hemispheric **Community of Practice on Measurement and Quantification of South-South Cooperation** comes in.

The community will be comprised of public, private, social and academic parties from around the world, with the objective of exchanging knowledge about metrics for technical cooperation that recognize the valuable work already developed by national and international partners, and that can produce a results-oriented, practical document with insights about how technical cooperation is measured around the world.

### ***John Hardy, Director of Competitiveness, Chamber of Commerce of Palmira Colombia***

Mr. Hardy mentioned that the Valle del Cauca region is located at the west of Colombia, and its Chamber of Commerce has the responsibility of coordinating the entrepreneurship network. Its business composition leans heavily on trade, manufacturing, accommodation & food services, transportation and other services.

He mentioned that the ecosystem is composed of public, financial, education and private sector members with a mission to improve quality of life in the area, yet some questions remain unanswered such as:

- How many entrepreneurs are in the region?
- What stage are they in?
- What are their needs?
- How many jobs have they generated?
- How much have they sold over time?
- What support have they received from the ecosystem?

The Chamber received support from the MISE (*Modelo Integral de Servicios Empresariales*, or Integral Model for Business Services) program developed by the Chamber of Commerce of Bogota, which helped create a roadmap for servicing entrepreneurs. They start by applying a test to the entrepreneur and enrolling her into the program. Afterwards another test is applied to evaluate how the gaps were closed.

## Last Call for Participation!

December 7th, 2021  
8h Bogotá / 14h Madrid  
/ 18h30 New Delhi

Community of Practice on Measurement and Quantification of South-South Cooperation and Action Dialogue about effectiveness

Knowledge Management Hub on SSC



The MISE model for entrepreneurial services involves five services:

1. Information
2. Skills building
3. Advisership
4. Consultancy
5. Networking

Mr. Hardy commented that an incubator model was developed in coordination with the MISE Program through different phases, from the idea lab (1 month into the process) up to the post-incubation (24 months after the process) period. Participants must share the vision, in order to achieve the mission of the program. The Chamber designed a Strategic Business Plan to design a business incubation program that includes services, trainers and facilities.

He finished his intervention highlighting the goal of incubating at least 16 startups annually to generate jobs, and that Key Performance Indicators have been determined at the short, medium and long terms, to create conditions for entrepreneurship and improve quality of life in the region.

***Paulo Esteves, Researcher, BRICS Policy Center***

Mr. Esteves focused on two key points regarding the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) Initiative, indicating that it has become the main way to measure development flows for implementing the 2030 agenda and the SDGs, but there are still many questions about how countries must report their official support, especially in what is called the 2<sup>nd</sup> pillar: Global and regional expenditures for international public goods.

**Regarding the definition of TOSSD Eligible countries:** Mr. Esteves underscored that TOSSD uses the same list of recipient countries as the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), thus transporting to its broader environment the very concept of recipient countries from the DAC, which is based on per capita GDP. He recalled that this narrow definition of ODA is being contested by many Latin American and Caribbean countries, in turn affecting the narrow definition of TOSSD eligible countries. He mentioned that there is a second procedure for opting into TOSSD which is not yet completely clear.

Latin American and Caribbean countries have a consistent, deep and strong debate around the problem of graduation and of the development gaps of recently graduated countries, such as Chile or Uruguay. This debate is systematized in the concept of Development in Transition (DiT), which brings to the fore the challenges faced by upper middle-income countries when they graduate. He proposed that the concept of DiT should be considered for regulating the second, 'opt-in' procedure into TOSSD, owing to the multidimensionality of the DiT concept.

**Regarding the relationship between SSC and global public goods:** He mentioned that there is a debate about the relationship between ODA and climate finance, as ODA is required to have the economic and welfare development of countries as an objective. For a project to be considered a climate mitigation project, it has to count 100% on climate and specific markers that define what should be considered a component of a project on climate change or mitigation.

Mr. Esteves stressed that developing countries have seen in-country expenses for taking care of refugees being counted as ODA, although they occur in developed countries. This is compatible



with the DAC concept. Additionally, TOSSD Pillar 2 qualifies certain projects with in-country expenditures because they mitigate climate change, so these types of expenditures are technically accepted by TOSSD.

He indicated that SSC practitioners and recipient countries should discuss if this kind of accounting represents a diversion of ODA to climate activities instead of development activities. Within the debate about climate mitigation, many developing countries argue that investment in climate mitigation projects will have a global effect, and thus should be counted at a minimum in TOSSD.

He finished his intervention proposing a debate about the relationship between SSTC and Global Public Goods: A mitigation project financed by Brazil in the Amazon region, would it be correct to classify it as a South-South contribution for the provision of global public goods? Which kinds of activities should qualify as SSC? Is there any in-country expenditure that could be considered a contribution to GPG and thus developing cooperation?

***Emanuel Letouzé, Director, Data-Pop Alliance***

Mr. Letouzé started his intervention recalling that the Data-Pop Alliance is an international NGO working at the interception of data and international development. Having worked on development for over 20 years across different sectors in all regions of the world, he expressed having seen the debate on the rise of the Global South and criticisms against the old way of ODA implementation after decolonization and the turn of the century, which have been the years of the data revolution and the expectations of measuring as a learning tool.

He indicated that measuring follows a natural impulse, but in his experience, the discussion of quantification in the current context should emphasize the importance of meaning over measurement. He presented three interrelated points:

1. **What is meant by South-South Cooperation?** The very definition of South is fluid and changes over time. Some countries are at the border and in a few years the amount of people living in Northern countries will be a small fraction of the total. We should think in complex terms about the South as not all SSTC is automatically good (e.g. autocratic countries supporting each other might not be necessarily good), just as not all GDP growth is good.
2. **What do we mean to achieve through South-South Cooperation?** Global South countries share hard challenges with some Northern countries in aspects such as inequality, poverty, corruption, elite capture, gender-based violence and crackdowns on journalists. Those are deeply ingrained, sociopolitical phenomena. The ambition of SSC should not just be to exchange knowledge between Southern countries, but also to attack these politically uncomfortable problems in pursuit of the goals of human development, democracy, participation etc.
3. **Through which means do we achieve that?** Mr. Letouzé presented a few pointers:
  - a. Being very concrete, working on concrete problems through concrete projects, developing programs between universities, and exchanges between companies.
  - b. Expanding the value and strength of partnerships and networks. He recalled the concept of Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPPs), where 'people' means civil society and academia working through networks.

## Last Call for Participation!

December 7th, 2021  
8h Bogotá / 14h Madrid  
/ 18h30 New Delhi

Community of Practice on Measurement and  
Quantification of South-South Cooperation and  
Action Dialogue about effectiveness

Knowledge Management Hub on SSC



- c. Exploiting the transformative power of regional networks, since it is easier to find common ground at the regional level as countries usually share languages, borders and common problems and challenges.
- d. Working in an incremental and inclusive way. Incrementally means supporting what is being done, regional networks, existing projects, changing the culture of stakeholders involved in cooperation projects. Inclusively means engaging civil society.
- e. Improving management by improving **data**. Measuring and quantifying the world is a valuable task. Much can be done to improve effectiveness in different stages: in identification we can do natural language or sentiment analysis, use technology to crowdsource through surveys, put in place monitoring systems to track expenditures so that you can lessen corruption along the value chain of the project. During evaluations, you can set up A/B testing or RCTs.
- f. Finally, focus on cultural issues. This is very cultural: the culture of cooperation, of learning, accountability and transparency, are all objectives that SSC should promote.

### ***Ideation Session:***

For the Q&A and ideation session, participants were asked to reflect on the following question: **What aspects of South-South cooperation must be measured to make it more effective, even if some may consider it controversial?**

The following ideas were presented:

1. Senior and junior people need to act as one family. We have different conditions and different statistics, but we need to follow the principle of 'a friend in need is a friend indeed'.
2. The idea of mutual benefits might be the most challenging aspect.
3. Meaning can be different for each country, but whatever is meaningful to measure is important to measure. Some countries might feel empowered to measure loans received from Southern partners. Some countries feel that measuring contributions to GPG helps them in negotiation processes on climate.
4. Much of SSTC is developed by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), but it is neither valued nor considered. CSO networks test, implement and innovate on the knowledge exchanged, which is a valuable contribution. Measurements should explore how well those principles work for generating an enabling environment, carrying out action without harm and promoting CSOs as development actors in their own right.
5. Quick note. Right now the COBRAGE report is being presented in YouTube. They are talking about adopting TOSSD methodology for the Brazilian report, without much debate. Since we lack a political space for dialogue, maybe this group could produce some input to foster dialogue.

### ***Literature and networks***

To use the latest knowledge to propel the work of the CoP and avoid retreading ground, participants were invited to identify key readings to review and networks to connect with. The results are explained next.

***The following literature was identified as mandatory for the CoP:***

1. BAPA+40 outcome document: [link](#)

## Last Call for Participation!

December 7th, 2021  
8h Bogotá / 14h Madrid  
/ 18h30 New Delhi

Community of Practice on Measurement and  
Quantification of South-South Cooperation and  
Action Dialogue about effectiveness

Knowledge Management Hub on SSC



2. Besharati, N. (2019). Measuring the effectiveness of South-South Cooperation. [Link](#)
3. CCONG (2021) Infografía sobre ESAL en Colombia 2021: [Link](#)
4. Chaturvedi, S. (2016). The Development Compact: A theoretical construct for South-South Cooperation. [Link](#)
5. Letouzeé et al (2019). Harnessing innovative data and technology to measure development effectiveness. [Link](#)
6. Martins, D. & Trajber, L. (2017). Guia para o monitoramento e mensuracao da cooperacao sul-sul brasileira. [Link](#)
7. Nairobi outcome document of the first UN High-Level Conference on SSC: [Link](#)
8. The documents from RIS about development compact: [Link](#)
9. PNUD (2020). Metodología de Evaluación Modular para la Cooperación Sur-Sur. [Link](#)
10. SEGIB reports of quantification: [Link](#)
11. World Bank (2015) The art of knowledge exchange. [Link](#)
12. All official documents by major SSC providers (all COBRADI editions in Brazil) and regional initiatives (SEGIB, UNDP survey on Africa, Islamic development bank)
13. Academic articles from southern researchers
14. Bilateral and multilateral agreements; joint research publications

### ***The CoP will reach out to the following initiatives/networks:***

1. Cooperation partnerships including CSOs
2. Data-Pop Alliance
3. Global partnership Initiative on effective triangular cooperation
4. Global Public Investment
5. GPSDD
6. NeST, NeST LATAM
7. PIFCSS
8. SEGIB
9. Southern CSO Alliance
10. Southern Voice
11. UN DG Forum
12. UNCTAD statistics
13. UNOSSC, South-South Galaxy