

T20 Africa Standing Group Annual Meeting

Addis Ababa, April 14-15, 2018

T20 Africa Standing Group, a think tank of Africa and G20, held its Annual Meeting in Addis Ababa on April 14-15, 2018 ahead of the G20 Summit to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The primary aim of the Meeting was to identify the key priority areas of cooperation between G20 and Africa for possible inclusion in the upcoming G20 Summit Agenda. The Standing Group comprising of representatives of think tanks from Asia, Africa and Europe help intensive close-door debate on four different clusters of themes such as (1) inclusive and sustainable growth, (2) political and social environment, (3) governance of G20-Africa cooperation, and (4) monitoring and evaluation of G20 Africa initiatives. Experts from the participating think tanks presented 12

policy briefs on a range of topics defined as per the above mentioned clusters. The major recommendations of the Group were basically to formulate the modalities of engagement among G20 countries and Africa in line with the developmental aspirations of African countries envisaged in Agenda 2063. Besides highlighting the existing cooperation mechanisms of G20 for Africa, the deliberations focused on the ensuing structural transformation that African economies are witnessing now and the emerging challenges with respect to trade, investment, industrialization, digitization, taxation and illicit financial flows, labor, women participation, agriculture and food security, education, health, social inequality, among others. Further, experts devoted attention to the issue of monitoring and evaluation of G20 Africa initiatives. Lastly, the Group worked on the formats of dissemination of the T20 recommendations in different regional and global platforms for effective assimilation of those ideas in the G20 process.



Delegates at T20 Africa Standing Group Annual Meeting

Global South-South Expo

Antalya, Turkey

27-30 November 2017

Network of Southern Think Tank's (NeST) Global Secretariat had participated in Global South-South Expo 2017 in the last week of November 2017 in Antalya, Turkey. It was a meeting of relevant stakeholders along with NeST, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in the Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for SSC in 2017. Other southern-led think-tank networks present were

- Global Research Consortium on Economic Structural Transformation (GReCEST),
- Silk Road Think Tank Networks (SiLKS),
- Latin American Initiative on Politics and Public Affairs Studies

(ILAIPP),

- Southern Voice and Middle East and North Africa Public Administration Research (MENAPAR) network.
- Private sector entities supporting this initiative are Yingke Law Firm and the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation.
- NeST participated in the 1st Steering Committee Meeting of the Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for SSC (GCTTN).

The mandate for UNDP and UNOSSC to establish GCTTN is to –

- Build partnership with major think tank networks to deepen the understanding of SSC and TrC, including its concepts, methodologies, policy issues and solutions for sustainable development



Mr. Jorge Chediek, Director of United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation addressing the delegates.

- Establish a global online platform that connects and enable various networks of Think Tanks and centres of excellence, to exchange knowledge, pool multidisciplinary expertise, and collaboratively conduct research and policy dialogues on scaling up SSC and TrC for sustainable development
- Support capacity development of think tank networks to provide data informed analysis and advisory services to inform policy making and practice in SSC and TrC to accelerate progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SSC and TrC
- The ten priority research areas identified to represent the key knowledge gap areas are as follows-
 - SSC concepts, trends, evaluation frameworks, and impact assessment (target 17.18)
 - Policy coordination and legal environment for SSC (target 17.13 and 17.4)
 - SSC inn economic structural transformation (target 17.5)
 - SSC in science, technology and innovation (target 17.6)
- South-South Trade, Investment and Financing (Target 17.3 and 17.11)
- SSC delivering results for the SDGs (SDG 1-16)
- SSC in basic infrastructure and connectivity (targets 9.1 and 17.5)
- SSC risk management in fragile context and disaster risk management (SDG 13, 16 and others)
- Regional/ sub-regional mechanisms and neighbourhood SSC initiatives
- Multi-stakeholder engagement in SSC
- The GCTTN aims to bring forward voices and knowledge from the network of over 100 think tanks around the world to inform the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) +40 process and global agenda setting in the two key intergovernmental processes: the 2018 High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum and the Second UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40).

* Compiled by RIS Team

MozAMbiquE -MALAWi ENergy coopErA tioN

The African continent and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) intend to promote regional integration and require an effective transport system; Malawi and Mozambique had long-standing relationships in this chapter with mutual benefits. In this regard Malawi is expected to spend USD 300,000 to set up a substation in the region for electricity distribution. The issue of transport and communications infrastructures with a view to relaunching the Sena railway line in the Beira Corridor was also discussed.

Source: Mozambique and Malawi strengthen energy cooperation, Dev Discourse, 7 April, 2018