

Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific: Towards the Buenos Aires Plan of Action 40th Anniversary

27-29 June, 2018, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

South-South cooperation is one of the important drivers of the regional cooperation in Asia and the Pacific and has resulted in increased volumes of South-South trade, foreign direct investment flows and technology transfer. Over the decades, countries of the South have accumulated considerable expertise, experience, lessons and capabilities in their own development processes, which have been shared with other developing countries in the form of technical assistance. Middle-income developing countries, as emerging development partners and technical cooperation providers, have significantly influenced the landscape of the South-South cooperation in this region and beyond. South-South and triangular cooperation have been identified as key modalities for delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To reach their full potential they need to be aligned,

enhanced and structured to correspond with the needs and priorities of developing countries. These issues are to receive prominence in the forthcoming session in 2019 to commemorate Buenos Aires Plan of Action 40th Anniversary (BAPA+40).

In line with the above mandates and given the prominence of the South-South and triangular cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and the Government of Thailand jointly organized the Regional Consultation on South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific: Towards the Buenos Aires Plan of Action 40th Anniversary, from 27 to 29 June 2018, at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok.



The Regional Consultation reviewed the South-South cooperation trends, challenges and opportunities in the region in support of the SDG implementation. It provided countries with a platform to share their experiences as providers or users of South-South and triangular cooperation, their institutional arrangements, policies and lessons learned. The Regional Consultation also discussed and suggested how to leverage the partnerships with the various stakeholders, including the civil society, think tanks and the private sector.

Themes and issues discussed at the Regional Consultation

The themes and issues discussed at the Regional Consultation are as follows:

- Trends and diversity of the South-South cooperation landscape in Asia-Pacific – turning challenges into opportunities
- Institutional arrangements and management of South-South and triangular cooperation – experience and good practice
- Modalities to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation through South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development
- Roles of the United Nations Development System and other stakeholders including the civil society organizations and the private sector
- Alternative approaches to sustainable development.

Separate sessions for civil society organizations and the private sector were also organized to allow inputs into the regional outcomes.

Within the conference there was a session specifically on the institutional arrangement of South-South and triangular

cooperation. More than any other regions, Asia-Pacific has seen the emergence of countries that have graduated to developed country status and the growth of strong emerging economies. The region has been instrumental in the new global order driving growth not only in Asia but other Regions as well. The panel is designed to be forward-looking in its review of South-South and triangular cooperation institutionalisation that includes: the definition of South-South cooperation, the principles of South-South Cooperation, legal frameworks for South-South Cooperation, Roles for stakeholders in South-South Cooperation, institutions supporting South-South Cooperation, tools for management of South-South Cooperation including its measurement, monitoring and evaluation, and financing for South-South Cooperation.

The points of discussion in this important session were as follows:

- What are the issues in institutionalisation of South-South and triangular cooperation?
- Is definition of South-South Cooperation an issue?
- What is the comparative advantage of South-South and triangular cooperation?
- Are the principles of South-South cooperation still relevant?
- Is South-South Cooperation being implemented in consistency with the Principles?
- What are the main tools that have been developed for management and implementation of South-South and triangular cooperation?
- Are the institutions for South-South cooperation adequate and poised to

lead the next phase of South-South Cooperation.

- Does the separation of South-South from North-South (with complementarities) serve the Global South well or should there be greater rapprochement?
- What is the role of Science and technology in strengthening South-South cooperation?
- Has South-South and Triangular cooperation focused enough on gender issues? What more can be done?
- Reflect and explore on the merits of approaches to enhance effective and practical ways of applying and scaling up South-South and triangular cooperation in the region.
- What are the most relevant ways to create an enabling environment for a supporting institutional framework at regional and national levels for South-South and triangular cooperation?
- Is funding for South-South and triangular cooperation adequate?
- Have Inter-governmental institutions created to scale up South-South Cooperation been effective?
- What are the issues for South-South Cooperation at Regional and National Level, e.g. ASEAN Region.

Morocco, Nigeria vow to create model of South-South Cooperation

Moroccan King Mohammed VI and Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari reaffirmed their willingness to create a model of South-South Cooperation. In a joint statement following Buhari's visit to Morocco, the two leaders commended the positive bilateral relations between Morocco and Nigeria since the the king's visit to Abuja in December 2016. In this regard, they welcomed the significant progress made in various areas of cooperation, such as agriculture, fertilizer production, energy infrastructure and mining

Source: Morocco, Nigeria vow to create model of South-South Cooperation, Xinhua, 16 June, 2018

Korea Hands over \$15m Model School to Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) over the weekend handed over an ultra model school valued at \$15 million to the Federal Capital Territory Administration as part of efforts to deepen ties between Nigeria and Republic of Korea.

The Korea model school located along the International Airport road is touted as the first purpose built secondary school in Nigeria to impart Korean culture in addition to Nigerian curricula.

For further details see: <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2018/07/01/korea-hands-over-15m-model-school-to-fct/>