
Mexico's Integration in Combating Climate Change through South-South Cooperation Principle



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Mexico is a “megadiverse” country due to its vast quantity, diversity and uniqueness of plant and animal forms. It has seacoasts in the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans, and has a mountainous landscape also. Its landscape diversity provides varied environment, soil and weather.

Geographic characteristics of the country make it highly vulnerable to climate change. Its location between two oceans, latitude and geographical relief, expose it to different hydro-meteorological phenomena. Besides, diverse socio-ecological and socio-economic tendencies, industrialization, urbanization, and indiscriminate use of natural resources accentuate climate-change effects.

The scientific evidence points out that in the forthcoming decades, Mexico would experience a generalized temperature increase of 6 per cent, which would be higher than the global increase. Consequently, there would be increased risk of climate events, such as heat waves or decreasing agricultural yields (even in locations where historically no yield losses were recorded), droughts

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and floods. The Mexican government has developed a legal framework as a solution to these pressing problems, which would help the country abate effects of climate change. This comprises enactment of the General Law on Climate Change in 2012 - the second of its kind in the world - as well as a National Climate Change Strategy in 2013, and a Special Programme on Climate Change for 2014-2018 (Diario Oficial de la Federación, 2013). Along with the supra legal framework, Mexico has a law on the International Development Cooperation since 2011. Hence, this legal infrastructure as a whole reduces effects of climate change in Mexico as well as in the continent.

Since many years, Mexico has been forming cooperative bonds across the region. The main reason for this approach has been the Mexican Law for International Development Cooperation, which states that Mexico's main target region for the International Cooperation is Central America. Countries in Latin America and the Caribbean are very vulnerable to climate change. As an upper-middle income country and one with strong political and economic ties with the developed countries, Mexico has the capacity and is predisposed to receive and offer international cooperation. Mexico acts as a recipient of financial assistance from the North and a provider of technical assistance to the South. The reasons behind this practice are wide and distinctive, but exist mainly because of the financial constraints that the Federal Public Administration is experiencing since the past decade.

Green South-South Cooperation

Climate change negotiations are dynamic, are for a noble purpose, and have a

solid knowledge foundation derived from scientific inputs from all around the world. Still, these negotiations face one of the greatest challenges in the 21st century diplomacy. However, due to global efforts, climate diplomacy is experiencing a momentum derived from the latest accomplishments within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); for example, the fast tracked entry into the Paris Agreement.

Although this accomplishment took place within an archetypal institution from the North - which undoubtedly propelled some cooperation projects in the developing countries - the efforts of the global South have influenced it. All negotiation groups from the South enriched the agenda with issues promoting equality and accessibility to means of implementation such as finance, technology transference and capacity building along with ambitious goals. In doing so, Mexico took the lead and pushed forward, for example, inclusion of increase in the level of ambition, gender and human rights.

It is also important to note that Mexico's political agenda acknowledges that climate change actions need to be included in the developing world, the South. This implies that significant changes would take place in countries like Costa Rica. And this would have huge impact on the international cooperation agenda of the global South. This situation warrants some type of cooperation, though specifically in climate change negotiations; without compromising on transformational projects from the North and the South, as it would be impossible to abate climate change effects.

Regarding climate change, Mexico is the leader in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Many countries approach the Mexican authorities for cooperation projects -- specially the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change. As a provider of assistance, acceptance rate of the Mexican government for these intended cooperations is very high, especially in terms of technical assistance and capacity- building. These cooperation projects promote partnership among countries.

In this regard, one of the highlights of cooperating with Mexico, and in general terms with the global South, is that recipient countries engage in cooperation projects knowing that their needs and priorities would be taken into account. In consequence, countries have an opportunity to progress of their own, while following their national plans.

Perspectives from Mexican Experience

The climate change cooperation has the following schemes: bilateral, multilateral, regional and triangular. The predominant cooperation schemes among Mexico and LAC are bilateral, regional and triangular in nature.

Based on the experiences from the above- mentioned cooperation schemes regarding climate change, there are many lessons learnt from the SSC in the region among Mexico and other countries. The following are the most relevant ones:

- The SSC brings in a fresh perspective to foreign policy and is a viable option to promote development – whether environmental, economical and/or social – in terms of a partnership.

- Based on the principles of non-intervention and self-determination, Mexico does not interfere in the domestic policy of the recipient country.
- Mutual respect is promoted.
- Mexico continuously supports growth of its partners; however, it is important to include a tangible benefit to Mexico. Therefore, it is crucial that parties agree beforehand for a set of mutual benefits, which can be outlined later on cooperation agreements.
- The success rate of the finalised projects is very high, although institutions from the donor country and the recipient country should evaluate results and the impact of a project; at least at a basic level.
- Project evaluation is encouraged as it would provide tools for the improvement of future projects and would allow better planning.
- Considering that in most cases, cooperation schemes are among public sector entities, including international cooperation agencies and intergovernmental organizations, private actors should also be invited to be the part of the triangular cooperation projects.

Conclusion

The SSC provides a different perspective to cooperation among countries from the global South. Through its different modalities – trade and investment, technology, capacity-building, lines of credits and grants – development can be achieved. For Mexico and its institutions dedicated to climate change, triangular cooperation is a very viable option as it favours development of donor and

recipient countries. Accordingly, through SSC healthy environment would be ensured in the region, and Mexico would be able to acquire leadership again among Latin America and the Caribbean.

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ISRAEL'S MASHAV EXTENDS PROJECTS IN GHANA

As part of activities to strengthen development cooperation between Israel and Ghana, the State of Israel's Embassy, will host a MASHAV resource trainer in Accra.

MASHAVI is Israel's Agency for International Development and Cooperation. Dr Sela, who is the former Chief Director of Women's Lobby in Israel and currently an advocator and trainer for women sensitivity and entrepreneurship would lead a series of workshops and dialogue programmes to contribute to Ghana's efforts and processes to socially and economically empower women.

About 30 women from different career backgrounds, levels and belonging to different social groups would benefit from the initiative by Israel's Agency for International Development and Cooperation (MASHAV) in collaboration with the Network of Women in Growth (NEWIG), Amicus Onlus, Inner-City Development Foundation (IDF), Oaks and Wuuds and the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.

The workshops would focus on areas such as gender sensitivity, women as agents for change, women as business entrepreneurs, mentorship among others. At the end of the workshops, it is envisaged that, these women would be equipped with tools and skills that would help them become change agents in their respective communities in the spheres of entrepreneurship as well as overcome obstacles, specifically related to their professions.

For further details see: <http://www.ghananewsagency.org/social/israel-s-mashav-extends-projects-in-ghana-135086>