



# South-South Cooperation: Experiences and Challenges

A compilation of perspectives from the participants of  
Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme  
Learning South-South Cooperation 2018



12-23 November 2018  
New Delhi



**RIS**  
Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries  
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



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*This report is compilation of articles submitted by the participants of ITEC-Learning South-South Cooperation. Usual disclaimers apply.*

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## INTRODUCTION

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RIS has been conducting the program on Learning South -South cooperation (LSSC) under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) /Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme (SCAAP) program of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, since 2015.

The present program is the fourth in the series. So far approximately 115 participants from around 50 countries spread across the developing regions of Latin America, Africa and Asia have participated in this program.

The present report is a compilation of the submissions made by the participants if the fourth LSSC program held at RIS between 12th and 23rd November, 2018. The course was designed to have five modules, that provided an insight in SSC, theoretical framework of SSC, Global architecture for SSC, India's development cooperation and current global issues for SSC. The contributions from the participants are considered to be an effective learning outcome of this program. Needless to add the authors themselves are responsible for the views expressed in their write- ups.

All the contributions try to capture the space for SSC available under the rubric of International cooperation in the countries represented by the participants. They try to highlight some specific experiences of SSC in expanding the horizon of growth and development across the southern countries in a spirit of solidarity – the main driving force of cooperation among the southern countries. It is expected that this compilation will contribute constructively to the understanding of the nature and state of SSC and provide a window to a first hand analysis of different perspectives of development cooperation.





# Egypt's role in South-South Cooperation



Shereen Anwar Sheriff\*

## Introduction

**I**t is widely agreed nowadays that a restructure in the global regime has to take place. Developing countries, "called such by developed ones" ought to play a more active role in global arena. In this regard, I would like to start by quoting Nouriel Roubini & Stephen Mihm in "Crisis Economics<sup>1</sup> "A crash course in the future of finance:

*"In order to resolve global imbalances other players must sit at the table...the G-20 has started to supplant its more selective sibling bringing Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia and other countries into the field"*

The unique position of Egypt as an African country with a significant part in the Asian continent has always put on its shoulders the obligation to defend interests of developing countries both in Africa and Asia. This was much elaborated in the Egyptian chairmanship on the G-77 & China this year.

Egypt has always played a crucial role in defending Developing Countries' position in international forums especially on issues such as climate changes, technology transfer, capacity building and trade and development. Regarding the climate change issues, Egypt has explicitly called for the importance of developed countries having to meet their commitments in Paris Convention especially those that has to do with mobilization of resources for developing countries. Egypt's status was clear on that issue; no developing country shall bear additional financial burden whether in the nature of commercial loans or any other nature.

Egypt is concurrently, hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> UN Biodiversity Conference 13<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, as part of present efforts

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to implement the strategic development goals agenda. The aim is to find means of protecting ecosystems, support food and water security and protect the health of millions of people. It is worth mentioning that, Egypt is also hosting the African Ministerial Summit on Biodiversity, under the theme 'Land and ecosystem degradation and restoration: priorities for increased resilience in Africa as part of the above UN conference.<sup>2</sup>

On security issues, Egypt has made vast contributions in UN Security Council through representing African, Arab countries, non-alignment movement countries and OPEC countries positions. Egypt has made tremendous efforts to bring together the General Security Council and the Arab League and African Union to exchange views. On the domestic level, Egypt adopted the Strategic Development plan strengthening the importance to achieve the 3 pillars of Strategic development, namely; the economic, environmental and the social one.

Having been the chair of the G-77 in China this year, Egypt found a good opportunity to highlight the developing countries' vision. Egypt has made it clear that there is a need to reshape the global economic system pointing out that the absence of justice in distribution of income and resources on the international level is considered a main problem for developing countries.

Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs has called for setting up a comprehensive road map for a reform that guarantees the enhancement of developing countries' role in the international economic institutions and restructuring UN developmental efforts to make sure they respond to actual needs of developing countries according to their own priorities. A call has also been made to review the issue of voting quotas in UN institutions. In addition, the need to strengthen efforts to raise financial support was introduced many times in addition to the need to achieve a balance between technology transfer and IPR rules with a view to support development in developing countries.

Early in September this year, his Excellency president Abdel Fatah El Sisi , in his speech in G-77, pointed out the current global issues for

developing countries<sup>3</sup>; some of which were: the unemployment, the climate change, the need to eradicate poverty and combat terrorism. He pointed out the dire need to bridge the gap between North and South highlighting the importance of uniting efforts of south countries especially in sectors such as health, education, nutrition, water and sanitation. It was made clear that it is important to make sure that the use of modern technological application would not interfere with the employment market reducing the number of jobs available for our communities. His Excellency also called for the need to exchange experience through facilitating cooperation among South-South research centers.

Creating job opportunities in our communities can not be overlooked. *"It is generally believed that despite positive developments in many fields, the trends of globalization have resulted in the downgrading of living and working standards of workers especially in the informal sector, generating low quality jobs, and jeopardizing livelihoods"*<sup>4</sup>

On the capacity building front, Egypt has established an African Development Fund that undertakes multi-tasks including the provision of health experts and humanitarian aid to distressed areas, capacity building in various fields through the provision of training courses to African countries. Also the fund is used to provide free medicine and health services to many African countries and carry out joint projects such as "joint farms" and "power supply projects".

On the trade and development issues, Egypt has concluded a number of Free Trade Agreements with neighboring Arab and African countries establishing a duty free and quota free trade. Egypt has the COMESA FTA agreement with almost 22 Countries from south and east Africa. Egypt has the pan Arab FTA with 16 Arab countries from North Africa and Asia and there is also the Mercusor FTA that liberalizes trade with 7 Latin American countries. These agreements have had a positive impact on trade in the region.

Egypt also honored its commitments by ratifying the Pan Africa Continental Free Trade Area "CFTA". This agreement is supposed to link almost all African countries. A practical step

was already taken with the three southern and eastern trade blocs signing the-afore mentioned agreement, namely; the SADC, COMESA and EAC. In all these attempts Egypt is always keen on the sovereignty of other partner states.

## Current Global issues for South South Cooperation

### The Cairo- cape town highway; A Practical case of SSC

Many studies have shown that the cost of transportation in Africa is exorbitant. Transport cost in Africa, at the time being, constitutes a higher trade barrier than import tariffs or any other trade restrictions. In some instances, the transportation cost is higher than the value of goods being transported. Hence, as a way out, the Cairo Cape Town highway initiative was introduced. In other words it is an attempt to enhance the infrastructure in the African continent at large.

The Cape to Cairo Road or Pan-African Highway was primarily a British colonization proposal in 1890 to facilitate the transport of goods within the British Empire through the Cape to Cairo Red Line of British colonies. The proposal was similar to the Cape to Cairo Railway, another proposed infrastructure project through the same colonies. However, neither projects was completed before British colonial rule ended in the colonies.

After the 1980s the idea was introduced once more in 2015 Egypt revived the plan with some modifications as the Cairo-Cape Town Highway, known as Trans-African Highway. The Cairo-Cape Town Highway follows much of the Cape-to-Cairo Road's route and it passes through a number of countries between Egypt and South Africa, those are: Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Sudan. It has a length of 10,228 km. South Africa was not originally included in the route which was first planned in the Apartheid era, but it is now recognized that it would continue into that country.

According to Thabane Nhlelengethwa in his article "Role of Benevolent Political Ideologies in Enhancing Development Compact; Appraising South Africa's Credo in the Establishment of the North South Corridor"<sup>5</sup> it was mentioned that "*The value proposition of the infrastructure project, amongst many other benefits, includes the improved feasibility of the CFTA, increased intra-regional trade, potential GDP contribution to the tune of \$ 16.1 billion annually and in excess of 500 million jobs that could be created by 2035'.*

Egypt has shown support to the idea through helping in the infrastructure of such a huge project that is supposed to connect the north and south of the African continent in just four days drive. Egypt has succeeded recently to finalize the stretch of highway between Dongola and Wadi Halfa in Northern Sudan and the Egypt-Sudan border to become accessible by road through the Qastal-Ashkeet border post. The road section through Babati and Dodoma in central Tanzania has been completely paved, and passable throughout most of the year, and the alternative paved eastern route to Iringa via Moshi, Korogwe, Chalinze and Morogoro may also be considered to have a better claim to be part of the highway.

However, there are always a number of challenges for instance the Ethiopian section passes through mountainous terrain and parts of the road may be hazardous as a result. In addition, in northern Kenya the section has been hazardous due to the activities of armed bandits. In spite of this, an African journey form Cairo to Cape Town would soon come true enhancing trade between member states.

The Egyptian Minister of Transportation has announced that the Cairo-Cape Town Highway will commence trial operations. The road is being developed with the collaboration of the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank. According to him, Egypt has built new ports and new infrastructure costing nearly \$US 11 million to ensure that South-South cooperation would be enhanced, it is one of the attempts for potential development of Egypt and other African nations, adding that the Highway will allow African

countries easier access to European markets through Egyptian sea ports, which he described as a 'gate to Europe,' thus stimulating new trade and economic opportunities.

In addition to this, the Ministry of Transportation stated that Cairo's connection to Cape Town would allow Egypt to take advantage of South African sea ports, facilitating and increasing trade with Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC countries). In other words this road once used properly would ensure a wide range of South-South Cooperation.

To conclude, all southern countries have to coordinate their efforts and set common goals. Sustainable development, equality among and within developing countries is an objective that is worth fighting for. To sum up Egypt has always been in the lead when it comes to advocating development issues.

#### Endnotes

1. Nouriel Roubini with Stephen Mihm; "Crisis Economics" A crash course in the future of finance, ©Nouriel Roubini and Stephen Mihm, 2010
2. Mohammed El-Said (2018) African Ministerial Summit on Biodiversity kicks off in Sharm El-Sheikh ahead of COP14, Daily News, Egypt, <https://bit.ly/2Q9HUxH>
3. Address of President SiSi, at the Annual Meeting of the Group of 77 Foreign Minister, <https://bit.ly/2r0aRhu>
4. Nouriel Roubini with Stephen Mihm; "Crisis Economics" A crash course in the future of finance, ©Nouriel Roubini and Stephen Mihm, 2010
5. Development Cooperation Review, Vol.1/No.4/ July 2018; Role of Benevolent Political Ideologies in Enhancing Development Compact; Appraising South Africa's Credo in the Establishment of the North South Corridor.

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# Limitations of South-South Cooperation



Jacob Mator Aketch\*

## Introduction

Like any other ideology, South-South Cooperation grew out of frustration from injustice of political and economic dominance from global North. After having gone through degrading ordeal of colonization, global South countries find themselves in depth of neocolonialism. Their resources still face plundering from unscrupulous North; supposed political independence stands test of non-existence due to constant interference from former colonizers. To guard themselves from such external forces, and stand in solidarity when the geopolitics demands it, Global South countries merge together under umbrella of South-South Cooperation—idea that utilizes exchange of Technology, knowledge, goods and services and good practices of governance as basis of development. The collaboration has generated so much ripple of positive change.

The countries with deficit of human resource capacity, through scholarships and capacity-building courses, have been able to develop their capabilities. Development cooperation fosters faster economic growth especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. Currently, most of fastest growing economies lies on African continent and this is due to vast investments from larger economies within the global South, particularly India and China. Solidarity among the countries within South-South Cooperation provides them upper-hand in important international negotiation. One of the successes of this synergy is the Paris Climate negotiation where China, India, Indonesia, South Africa and Brazil stood their ground on behalf of developing countries not to bear equal responsibility of the economic implication of the accord. They succeeded in putting the developed economies on spot to take up larger responsibility

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since they contributed more to climate change, thus subsequent pledge of more climate fund from the global North. The benefits of South-South Cooperation are numerous. Naturally any benevolent international cooperation can have its limitation and so does South-South Cooperation and is worth looking into those limiting factors

## Dominance of relatively developed countries in the South

The cooperation set out to eliminate any form of oppressive domineering of economically and politically weaker countries, but the stronger countries in the South could not refrain from the temptation of taking advantage of the weaker partners. China has especially been consistent perpetrator.

In most African countries, China has been using project exploit as the major mean of trade. China gets into contract with an African country to implement major project and the terms of the agreement unusually unfairly favor China. For instance, Kenya awarded China Railway Corporation contract to build Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). The term of contract was that China would offer ninety percent of funding and after completion, Kenya will be gradually repaying with interest. Failure to pay in stipulated time will lead to a lease for ninety years. Kenya at the moment seems not to be able to pay the bill, therefore the only operational modern railway in Kenya may be in Chinese ownership. The same instance happened in Zambia with its Airport.

What's more, during implementation of the projects, China does not employ local people. All manpower is sourced from China. Currently, China Power Ltd is building electricity grid in South Sudan's capital, Juba. All the electricians, engineers and supporting staff are invariably Chinese. Same can be seen in road constructions in Kenya. This has tremendous impact. It denies local citizens right to jobs they duly deserve and need. Also, upon completing project China usually hands over the infrastructure to the respective government. The government subsequently struggles to maintain the project because there is

no local manpower to provide maintenance due to lack of capacity building by the contracted Chinese company. Most of the projects fall into disrepair afterward. A Chinese company could be re-contracted to do the repair and the cycle continues. Such unsustainable development has been exploitative to African nations.

Extraction of natural resources with disregard to environment and implication to public health has been an accustomed practice of many international oil companies. Majority of Chinese investment in Africa goes into oil sector. In South Sudan for instance, majority of its oil extraction and delivery to international market is done by China. In the oil fields, Chinese companies operate with blatant disregard to environmental implication of their operations. Toxic wastes are haphazardly dumped resulting into pollution of agricultural lands around the oil fields. This affects food production, hence food shortage. It also impacts health of inhabitants of oil-producing areas. Also, there has been clear observation of birth defect in Palouch and Bentiu, oil-producing areas of South Sudan. Although the birth defects have been inherently happening in these areas, the frequency in which they occur raises concerns.

Such hazardous practices have unfortunate support from the powerful elites of the country. This aspect is illustrated well by the case of a researcher from one of South Sudan's think tank, Sudd Institute, attempted to conduct a study on birth defects issue. He visited the oil field in Palouch with hope to get access to oil well and field to conduct his research. He was forthright denied access, and was sent to Ministry of Petroleum and Mining to obtain permission. Coming to the ministry, he was unfortunately told there is no research, whatsoever, allowed at oil fields in the country. That he should not make any attempt for what he was trying to do because it was at the scope of national security. A noble attempt to solve public health issue ended there; the researcher cancel research plan. And as of now, cases of birth defects are frequently reported. In such cases, bribery and malpractices have been in play. It is a common knowledge multinational oil companies bribes government officials to support them when necessary. In case of the research, this factor might have played vital role.

All the cases alluded to show how more powerful countries use South-South Cooperation as a tool to implement their self-interest, not mutual interest.

### Lack of conditionality

One of the profound pillars of South-South cooperation is non-conditionality. The principle represents a sense of partnership where assistance, tangible or intangible, is given without strings attached. Although it is positive outlook, there exists a loophole in it. Some countries misuse this principle by asking for financial assistance in pretext of implementing some socially impactful project, but appropriate it for devious projects.

Since 2013, China has been giving financial assistance to South Sudan for humanitarian assistance and help in health sector. The grants were appropriated in financing civil war. Due to lack of any necessary conditionality and monitoring modalities, China has no idea on how the grants were used and the impact it generates.

In South-South Cooperation, Monitoring and Evaluation is considered inappropriate since it begs a question of: monitoring by who and evaluation for what? Although M&E represents patronage, it prevents unnecessary use of assistance. That is, it hinders unscrupulous misappropriation of well-intended aid for commissioning a destructive project. In the case of the Chinese assistance to South Sudan, China inadvertently financed the war with the grants.

### Unwavering observant of principle of non-interference

Like other well-intended tenets of the South-South Cooperation, the principle of non-interference serves as a limitation. In an unwavering obedience to this principle, China and India has been conducting business in South Sudan during the ongoing civil war without using the economic leverage they have, like the global north countries, to pressure warring parties to stop war.

Much of oil production in South Sudan is done by China, India and Malaysia. Since South Sudan economy vastly relies on oil dollars, these countries have leverage to positively influence the situation. If the oil companies, driven by morality and humanity but not by profit go on sustained strike, the government which is currently using oil dollars to finance war will be on its knees, thus willing to agree to ceasefire, thus ending the war that will most likely be protracted. But they view this action as political interference.

Instead of actionable solution to the war, the best these countries do was sending peacekeepers to guard their respective oil facilities.

### Conclusion

South-South Cooperation, of course has promising impacts on global South countries in terms of accelerating sustainable development. Exchange of intangible and tangible resources results in exponential economic growth which benefits the countries under the cooperation. Working together on common cause will mutually benefit the partners

While collaboratively working for mutual prosperity, it is vital not to overlook the essence of common humanity. That is, if a member of the cooperation experiences a political or economic challenge the partners with capacity to provide a solution should help, even if the intervention might contravene terms of partnership. The principle of South-South cooperation should be fluid enough to accommodate well-intended intervention

Since the countries are economically interdependent, there is a need of fair trade. A relationship where partners occupy rather similar position thrives. South-South cooperation should as well practice its principle of equality to avoid an imbalance of power. If some members feel they are being exploited, they may choose to exit, consequently depriving SSC of its immense promises





# Suriname and India Economic Relations and Development Partnership



**Samайди Акима\***

## History

After the abolition of slavery in the Dutch colony of Suriname in 1863, the Dutch government signed a treaty with the United Kingdom on the recruitment of contract workers. Indians began migrating to Suriname in 1873 as indentured laborers, mostly from the modern-day Indian states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and the surrounding regions.

Per the 2012 Census of Suriname, 148,443 citizens in Suriname are of Indian origin. They are the largest ethnic group in Suriname, forming 27.4% of the total population. Citizens in Suriname of Indian origin made up 37.6% of the population in the 1972 Census. Just before and following the independence of Suriname on 25 November 1975, many citizens in Suriname of Indian origin emigrated to the Netherlands, resulting in a decline in the population of the Indian community in Suriname.

## Suriname- India Relations

Suriname and India established diplomatic relations in 1976. India opened its Embassy in Paramaribo-Suriname in 1977, against the background of the historical bond between both countries. Suriname opened its Diplomatic Mission at the highest level in New Delhi, in the year 2000. Since 1 March 2016, Indian citizens can avail visa on arrival when visiting Suriname.

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\* CARICOM Youth Ambassador, CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Program Suriname, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, Suriname

## Some Bilateral cooperation

Cooperation within the framework of a cultural agreement signed in September 1992.

Suriname President R.R. Venetiaan visited India from 16–20 March 2003. During the visit, Venetiaan met with Indian President A.P.J. Kalam and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and the two countries signed agreements on co-operation in agriculture, establishment of a Cultural Exchange Program (CEP) and the extension of \$10 million line of credit from India to Suriname.

Establishing of the Suriname-India Joint Commission for strengthening the bilateral cooperation between the public and private sector of both countries by signing of an agreement in September 1992. In this regard four (4) Joint Commission Meetings have been held so far of which the last one was held in Paramaribo on May 16, 2008.

Cooperation within the private sector: Chambers of Commerce of both sides signed a cooperation agreement in 2003 for the establishment of a "Joint Business Council" for production, in order to further strengthen the trade, economic and technical cooperation. In this regard, a Honorary Consul for the region West Bengal, dr. Sunil Kanti Kar, was appointed, who contributed also to the strengthening of the bilateral relations until his demise in July 2012.

Utilization of Programs within the framework of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC). India provides technical assistance and shares its experiences on technological and industrial fields on the basis of South-South Cooperation. The ITEC program is fully funded by India and hundreds of Surinamese citizens have participated in courses and trainings through the years.

## Multilateral Cooperation

Since 1998, Suriname has supported India's candidature for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council(UNSC).

Cooperation within UN, NAM, OIC, G-77, WTO.

## Economic relations

Bilateral trade between India and Suriname totaled US\$228.49 million in 2014-2015. The main commodities exported from India to Suriname are boilers, machinery, iron and steel, electrical machinery and equipment, sound recorders, pharmaceutical products, textiles, vehicles, coffee, tea and spices, rubber, paper, tobacco, organic chemicals, furniture, carpets, ceramic products, footwear and printed books. The main commodities exported from Suriname to India are wood, aluminum and electrical machinery.

## India's foreign aid

India has extended multiple lines of credit (LOC) to Suriname. In 1992, the first LOC provided ₹5 crore (equivalent to ₹27 crore or US\$3.8 million in 2017). A LOC extended worth US\$10 million extended in 2003 was utilized to renovate water pumping stations, establish a steel rolling mill and for supply of 14 heavy hydraulic excavators. A third LOC granted \$16 million to the Suriname Electricity Board to construct a 161 KV, 55 km-long power transmission line from Paranam to Paramaribo. India also supplied bulldozers, trucks, excavators, communication equipment and solar lanterns to Suriname. A fourth LOC worth \$10.4 million was granted to the Ministry of Public Works of Suriname to complete establish pumping stations. Other LOCs include a US\$4.3 million grant of fire tenders manufactured by BEML India, and coastal equipment network worth \$2.946 million from BEL.

In March 2015, India transferred 3 HAL Chetak helicopters worth \$13.5 million to the Surinamese military. A grant of \$311,567 was provided to upgrade the morgue of the Lands Hospital in Paramaribo, and sum \$169,400 was donated to the Institute for Natural Resources and Engineering Studies (NATIN) of Suriname under India's Grant-in-Aid to Latin American and Caribbean region program. India announced a \$50 million grant of aid to Suriname at 5th Joint Commission meeting between the two countries.

Citizens of Suriname are eligible for scholarships under the Indian Technical and

Economic Cooperation Program and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

## India to provide \$51 million development aid to Suriname

India extended a Line of Credit of USD 31 million and a concessional financing of USD 20 million to Suriname as the two countries agreed to strengthen their economic relations and development partnership after President Ram Nath Kovind held talks with his Surinamese counterpart Desire Delano Bouterse. India also agreed to assist Suriname to establish a Centre of Excellence in information technology.

India will extend a Line of Credit of USD 31 million and a concessional financing of USD 20 million to Suriname as the two countries agreed to strengthen their economic relations and development partnership after President Ram Nath Kovind held talks with his Surinamese counterpart Desire Delano Bouterse. President Kovind, who was on a three-day visit from June 19 to June 21, 2018 to the Latin American country, announced that India will extend concessional financing of USD 20 million for setting up a solar project to provide clean energy to a cluster of 49 villages in Suriname. India will also extend a Line of Credit of USD 27.5 million to support a power transmission project in Pikin Saron area and another Line of Credit of USD 3.5 million for maintenance of Chetak helicopters.

The president also received the Ratification Instrument of Suriname joining the International Solar Alliance from Bouterse. India also agreed to assist Suriname to establish a Centre of Excellence in information technology. An MoU to take forward this project was signed. Besides, the two sides also concluded four MoUs in the fields of elections, diplomatic academies partnership, employment for spouse of diplomats of the two countries and archives. Suriname invited Indian investment in areas such as agriculture, mining, energy and timber. During the talks, Suriname accepted India's invitation to attend the 11th World Hindi Conference to be held in Mauritius in August 2018 as well as the Business Conclave to

be held between India and CARICOM in Trinidad and Tobago soon.

Addressing the National Assembly of Suriname, Kovind, who arrived in Suriname on June 19 on the second leg of his three-nation tour to Greece, Suriname and Cuba, said development cooperation, under the rubric South-South cooperation, is an important pillar of India-Surinamese relations. Kovind was the first foreign Head of State to address the National Assembly of Suriname. In 1988, then Vice-President of India Shankar Dayal Sharma had addressed the House.

"Paramaribo and New Delhi are almost 14,000 km apart. Yet, despite this trans-oceanic gap, our countries have much in common. Both Suriname and India are multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-ethnic democracies," he said. Speaking on the climate change, he said, "This is an international concern, a foreign policy issue – and yet, for the people of Suriname it is a deeply-felt existential challenge. I must commend your country for its enlightened approach on climate change. You have shown a determination that even much larger and wealthier nations have shied away from."

India has extended financial grants for a craft market project and a digital literacy program. "We hope our assistance will help in promoting economic sustainability and capacity building of women and children in Suriname," Kovind said. He said India wants to strengthen their capacity building partnership with Suriname through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation program as well. "We have, therefore, offered to raise the annual scholarships to Suriname under the program from 40 to 50," he said.

Kovind said that President Bouterse has expressed Suriname's continued support for India's aspiration to be a permanent member of the UN Security Council. "We also expressed our deepest concern on the threat posed by terrorism and conveyed strong support to each other to fight the global menace," he said. India and Suriname also agreed to enhance cooperation to promote Ayurveda and other traditional medicinal systems of both countries. Suriname has been celebrating 145 years of arrival of Indian diaspora

to the country and Kovind's visit coincided with the celebration.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

India is one of the most important development partners for Suriname within the South South Cooperation. The essential principles of South South Cooperation must be part of the economic relations and development partnership between Suriname and India. These essential principles are demand driven, solidarity, diversity and heterogeneity, respect for national sovereignty, national ownership, independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference and mutual benefit. The modalities that can be used are capacity

building, in house training, technology transfer, financial assistance (grants), lines of credit and humanitarian assistance.

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# PICA South–South Cooperation Palestine’s Development Cooperation through Sharing



Dima AlArqan\*

## Introduction

On 29 November 2012, the United Nations voted for the upgrade of the status of Palestine through Resolution 67/19 (A/RES/67/19), recognizing Palestine as a non-member observer State to the United Nations. This was an important step in fulfilling the rights of the Palestinian people to freedom and self-determination. The decision to recognize Palestine as a state not only gives credence to the development aspirations of the Palestinian people amidst the protracted Israeli occupation, it also testifies the ongoing international support and development cooperation received throughout the years. Against this backdrop, the State of Palestine seized the moment to create a new tool for development cooperation in order to reciprocate international development support and, importantly, also serves as an expression of gratitude toward those countries that have supported Palestine throughout the years.

On January 2016, H.E President Mahmoud Abbas established the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) through a presidential decree; as a mechanism to share solidarity, show gratitude and promote contributions. Its creation marks a new era of Palestine’s development cooperation. It is a reflection of a deep faith in the national responsibility of the state of Palestine towards the development of the Global South and a demonstration of its commitment towards the international community.

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\*Palestinian International Cooperation Agency

Palestine decided to expand its cooperation, develop global partnership, profound its strength and sovereignty and its willingness to perform externally across borders. On the other hand, the state of Palestine determined to gain bargaining capacity and intended to create an instrument to express appreciation for the support given to the State of Palestine over the years.

## The Mandate

PICA is the main public diplomacy tool of the State of Palestine, adjunct to the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and focusing on developmental diplomacy and is the national coordinator for South-South Cooperation. It maximizes knowledge sharing, enriches development cooperation, develops international development process that exists in the South and enhances the positive role of Palestine on the international level as an agent of positive change in the world boosting the right to development. Palestine is honored to capitalize on its efforts to contribute to the international efforts in the field of development and humanitarian cooperation. In the last two years, the State of Palestine is proud to contribute to resilient development policy making through south south cooperation, reverse linage and sharing through development.

PICA is mandated to deploy Palestinian human capital to design and co-implement sustainable demand driven and adoptable development solutions through South-South cooperation that contributes to achieving 2030 agenda, in order to play an active role in co-creating a resilient world united by solidarity through development.

## The Logic

The logic of the Palestinian development cooperation program arises out of occupation's challenges Palestine is facing and the feeling of having a state while still being under occupation given that Palestinian people are not enjoying their full rights nor freedoms, that highlights more the importance of fulfilling all rights including the right to development and self-determination. Palestine used to receive aids for

the last decades and needed extreme support from the international community. As a recipient country who realizes how crucial is solidarity and cooperation aid; Palestine decided to play a role on the international level exposing national development agenda and priorities and mirroring the Palestine sovereignty and enjoying the gift of giving and sharing solidarity not only receiving it. Palestine though PICA envisions that sustainable development becomes a reality through fruitful cooperation and solidarity within a just and prosperous globe, leaving no one behind

Guided by solidarity through development, PICA is shaping a new humanitarian-development partnership between the State of Palestine and other developing countries in the south. PICA, for building resilience; values partnerships, initiates relationships within the global south, fosters collaboration, pools out resources for mutual interest, seeks to mobilize its relevant and adaptable experiences to share knowledge, along with providing technical cooperation and humanitarian assistance to support partner countries in responding to crises and tackling common development challenges with the aim of promoting South-South cooperation. It does not substitute but rather complements North South cooperation. PICA's south south independent cooperation is a demand driven and non-conditional process with mutual benefits and win-win situation enhancing equality.

PICA is fully committed to the global impact for the for human and national development agenda, in particular the promotion of South-South Cooperation. The development of PICA is in particular guided by the following sequence of key developments in the global development effectiveness agenda.

In the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals were established as clear targets around which international development should focus.

Finally, by adopting Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals as well as committing to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development, countries across the world entered a new paradigm in 2015 with

the most ambitious, comprehensive international development agenda the world has seen. With SDG 17 on the development of global partnerships PICA falls squarely within the SDG framework and is guided not only by the referenced milestones in effective development cooperation but also by the SDG framework.

At the organizational and staff level, PICA has the following guiding principles: partnerships, assistance, commitment, innovation, persistence, accomplishment, credibility and involvement. In addition to the guiding principles are reflected in the Code of Conduct and other elements that form part of the Accountability Framework.

### PICA's comparative advantage

PICA has several comparative advantages that jointly add up to a skill set and organization profile that is unique compared to existing development partners. The comparative strength of PICA is derived from several factors.

At the organizational level, the comparative advantage of PICA flows from its strong unequivocal mandate and political backing from the highest authority of the State of Palestine. PICA is set up as a novel initiative but drawing on the full range of existing capacities within a highly educated government workforce, including the diplomatic corps, of Palestine.

The core team of PICA is young, entrepreneurial and committed to delivering on the promise of Palestine to scale up efforts to deliver on the vision of solidarity through development. The agency and its team is mandated from the highest political authority of the State of Palestine through a Presidential Decree which is the foundational document that provides an ample license to operate and is broad enough to empower the PICA team to experiment with ways of delivering development solutions to partner countries. These solutions are shaped by the following eight comparative strengths:

### Applied know-how and human capital rooted in the lived Palestinian experience

Resilience and 'the displacement experience' – issues that are at the epicenter of the Nexus between HDP. Specific thematic/sectoral and geographic entry points can be combined to design a multi-disciplinary response to recovery and development challenges that lies squarely in the HDP nexus. Something that few, if any, traditional bilateral agencies – and their rosters – are equipped to do. This combination is currently in demand in several places. Language skills (Arabic + the diverse language sets of diaspora) and conflict sensitivity add layers to become a unique profile. PICA is better equipped to bridge cultural and language gaps than the traditional donors, especially in the Arab-speaking world. This combination is currently in demand in several places.

### Deployable capacity with speed, adaptability, risk willingness and familiarity operating in crisis-affected settings.

The resilience of Palestine, and Palestinian technical experts, is unparalleled. Irrespective of the thematic/sectoral profession – doctors, nurses, professors, engineers, business entrepreneurs, agricultural experts etc - the realities of the operating environment in Palestine leads to the ability to work 'anywhere'. PICA, as opposed to most development cooperation agencies, can draw from a national resource pool of people who are not only used to, but have turned the necessity of being able to deliver 'anywhere' into a science and an art that is refined not only during missions but also at home between missions. For the experts that PICA deploys, business as usual has never been an option so adaptability is an indispensable part of their skill set.

This makes PICA able to deliver results with unusually low transaction costs in difficult risk-filled environments.

### Delivering through partnerships

PICA's fundamental philosophy is anchored in the sharing of resources, even when those resources are scarce. This approach is fundamentally rooted in the principles of South-South Cooperation and

reflect the larger vision of solidarity and a global partnership. More details about PICA's evolving partnerships in Chapter III: Delivering through a Platform of Partnerships

### **Innovation in the DNA**

Agility and innovation is crucial in environments where there is not just one way of implementing and where change is non-linear. PICA is uniquely placed to operate in this type of environment as well as to transfer experiences, knowledge and – ultimately – the kind of resilience that is derived from being a State that is still being built and refined under the most difficult of circumstances where managing risk and unpredictability to co-create crisis response and development solutions is a daily challenge and occurrence. [do we have a quote that illustrates the Mauretania example of Gaza doctors used to operating with no lights – would work well here].

The entrepreneurial spirit of PICA is pervasive to all aspects of its operations – both in the core team based in Ramallah, in the mission teams dispatched across the world, and in projects that are themselves aimed at stimulating local innovation in partner countries.

### **Potential of the Palestinian diaspora**

With a view to the founding principle of solidarity through development, PICA's strategy factors in the potential of deployable capacities in the Palestinian diaspora, which is equal in numbers to the population in Palestine. The diaspora counts highly-skilled individuals, resource persons who speak a range of diverse languages, local cultural knowledge, and the potential for financial contributions from high net-worth individuals, companies and others. Programmes such as the TOKTEN (Transfer of Knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals) offer significant synergies for PICA.

In addition to this immediate potential, engaging the Palestinian diaspora is a gateway for PICA to open doors with communities, governments, private sector and more in the cooperation countries.

### **The Palestinian youth as positive agents for change**

Young Palestinian persons are not only a key part of PICA's constituency; they are also qualified as potential experts for dispatching. The young core team of PICA is only one example; other examples will be linked to the sectoral experts deployed on PICA missions.

In addition, PICA will engage the significant school age population in Palestine to help co-design a PICA initiative with a view to raising awareness of PICA's mission and the positive role Palestine can play in the world.

### **Administratively both solid and nimble.**

With the integration of PICA into existing government structure (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), the administrative foundation is already in place in spite of PICA's short lifespan. As such PICA, in spite of its status as an entrepreneurial outfit, operates with the backing and administrative structure of a highly established diligent institution.

### **A unique storyline.**

PICA translates the negative experience of 'occupation' on one side, and the positive experience of solidarity shown by countries on the other side, into a driver of positive change and reciprocity with partners who have supported Palestinian independency, including in UN fora.

Drawing on already existing goodwill of the Palestinian people in the world/region, the powerful story combining the narrative of the historical, occupied land, and a people whose modern-day struggle is known to the beneficiaries of PICA, leads to an unprecedented public diplomacy potential for breaking the stereotype – both of Palestine specifically and of what a '3rd world country' can do, in general. All this can be leveraged for stronger branding and provides PICA an opportunity to prove that development cooperation is not only the business of a few privileged donor countries.

This background and unique storyline enables PICA to carve out a niche for policy leadership in international fora like the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation

(GPEDC) and SDG-related fora like the annual High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York, PICA has an opportunity to contribute to global policy discussions by using its vantage point.

In sum, the comparative advantages are many and together they allow PICA to offer a unique combination of skills, experience and solutions that have proven to work in the most difficult of settings where the next crisis is never far away. This allows PICA to deliver solutions that are proving to be well-tested, of the highest quality and, on several occasions, delivered at higher speed than even some of the most well-established development agencies from the Global North.

### **Thematic Priorities:**

PICA focuses on four main thematic pillars in giving out solidarity and providing development cooperation:

- Relief and humanitarian Fast Responses: A National Palestinian Rescue and Relief Team is created to deliver humanitarian support and aid in situations of crises.
- Technical Cooperation and voluntary Programme:
- Transfer of knowledge and experience based solutions in different fields such : Agriculture, Health, Education, Volunteers, and Public Private sector.

### **Foster Investment opportunities:**

- To promote investment opportunities across foreign markets, also to develop innovative Public Private Partnerships (PPP). Also to advocate for Palestinian investors (incl diaspora) to invest in global PICA-supported projects. Emphasis on critical sectors (infrastructure, agriculture, energy, water, tourism, health and education).
- Policy Leadership: OIC roadmap formulation, Resilience& humanitarian development nexus, Development effectiveness

Rooted in these four thematic pillars of PICA capacity, support will be deployed based on demand from partner countries. In turn, lessons from initial PICA engagements at country level will guide and further shape the core offer of specialized expertise that has proven to work effectively in practice.

### **Conclusion**

Strongly believing in the strength of South South Cooperation spirit, I am trying to demonstrate in this article Palestine's south south cooperation and its resilient development practices undertaken for the purpose of solidarity and experience sharing. This article will contribute to the debate of Palestine's development cooperation program. PICA orientates towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals with other partners in the Global South, transforming challenges of the global south into solidarity and development opportunities.





# The SINO African Cooperation: A case of South-South Cooperation



Ousmane D. Mahamane Anouar\*

## Introduction

In the contemporary global context where the emergence of new powers exacerbates the global demand for natural resources and challenges the foundations of interactions, Africa finds an economic but also a political and strategic role. This development owes a lot to China, which has achieved a remarkable breakthrough on the continent. As an economic superpower, China provides foreign aid, foreign investment and trade opportunities for many developing countries. It has become a key partner for African countries, rivaling the former colonial powers and the United States. In fact, the relationship between the countries of the South does not date from today. The Chinese, Indian, African and Latin American peoples have lived a nearly identical history, that is to say colonization, a mechanism through which the Western States have been able to settle for a certain moment in order to be able to establish their position. domination. It is in this perspective that China and Africa have shown a kind of solidarity in misfortune and have had the will to fight against imperialism. This militant solidarity was formally expressed at the Bandung Conference from April 18 to 24, 1955 in Indonesia; it marks the first platform offered to China to restore relations with Africa. It was indeed the way dreamed by Beijing to support countries in struggle against colonial rule and at the same time to establish its nascent diplomacy.

Indeed, for an emerging power without a colonial past in Africa, it is about sealing the reunion around founding principles that derive their legitimacy from shared

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history. Since 1953, China has based its external relations on five principles principles of peaceful coexistence which are Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference in internal affairs, equality and reciprocity of benefits and peaceful coexistence Effectiveness of an all-out presence, low costs of its services and products, the total lack of conditionality draw a true Chinese model on the continent.

Therefore, the question arises: what are the areas, the legal-institutional framework and the criticisms of the Sino-African cooperation?

To this end, this paper will first study the areas of Sino-African cooperation, before highlighting in its a second part the legal-institutional framework and critical analysis of Sino-African cooperation

### **The areas of Sino-African cooperation**

After a period of relative decline between the beginning of the 1980s and the mid-1990s, we have been witnessing in recent years an intensification of Sino-African relations in the socio-economic fields, energy, science, military and cultural policy.

*Cooperation in the socio-economic, energy and scientific fields:* The phenomenal development of China and the recurring tensions in the Middle East, which push up the price of oil, have pushed Chinese leaders in search of new sources of supply. They turned to Africa and its resources largely untapped, lack of infrastructure.

*In the social field:* China cooperates a lot with Africa on the social level. Indeed in 2008 after an earthquake that hit the district of Weich Yuan, the African people through the African Union sympathized by donating 10 million dollars to the Chinese people. In 2015 Equatorial Guinea helped build a China-Equatorial Guinea Friendship Primary School in Jinping with a donation of 4.9 million Yuan. China is also sending emergency food aid to Africa. Since 2008, China has built 68 hospitals, 30 malaria prevention centers and trained 65,000 people in Africa.

*In the economic field:* The first conference for Sino-African economic exchanges was organized

in December 2003, in Addis Ababa, at the initiative of the China Council for the Promotion of Foreign Trade and the first Sino-African Chamber of Commerce was opened in Cameroon.

China now has trade delegations in 49 African countries. Sino-African trade is based on a traditional model that sees Africa export energy and raw materials (ores, precious stones, wood, cotton ...) and import consumer products, machine tools and textile products (capital goods, vehicles, food products, clothing ...).

Trade reached \$ 210 billion in 2013. In 2014, the volume of bilateral trade exceeded \$ 220 billion and that of Chinese investment in Africa exceeded \$ 100 billion. Strengthened mutual political trust has provided a good basis for deepening economic and trade cooperation between the two parties in all areas. On 29 July 2016, the meeting of coordinators for the implementation of the follow-up actions of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation was held in Beijing, leading to the signing of 63 cooperation agreements for an amount of \$ 18.3 billion. Statistics show that since the Johannesburg Summit, the two sides have signed at least 245 agreements worth \$ 50.8 billion.

*In the energy field:* The first item of Chinese imports into Africa (over 25 %) is occupied by oil. Since 2004, China has been the second largest importer of African oil after the United States. She is present in Sudan, Angola and Niger through the CNPC. In Nigeria, China has invested \$ 4 billion for the modernization of the Kaduna refinery. China has built 68 power plants. It has also built the largest wind farm in East Africa in Ethiopia. Beijing is also interested in uranium in Niger through CNNC (China National Nuclear Corporation).

*In the scientific field:* China and Africa are also cooperating in the field of science and technology. Indeed, more than 200 schools have been built and funded by China in Africa. Since 2000, the Chinese government has funded 55,000 African scholars. Currently, more than 40,000 Africans study in China. By the end of 2015 China has trained 135,000 Africans. In February 2015, the Center performance computers built in Zimbabwe

has made this country the possessor <sup>5th</sup> African countries to powerful computers. China has also built 3 communication satellites in Nigeria.

### **Cooperation in the political, military and cultural fields**

In the political field: China has always expressed its need for political support from the African continent to prevent Japanese ambitions from joining the United Nations Security Council. This is how it influences African countries to reject Japan's candidacy as a permanent member of the Security Council because it is its rival. So, she uses all her genius to maintain her national interest in order to confirm her position as Asian flagship. Note that until 1971 China was represented by Taiwan at the UN. It was in 1971 following a vote held October 5, 1971 as part of the 26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the UN Beijing reversed the trend and thanks to the vote of 26 African countries that supported Beijing in its fight. It is in this sense that President Mao Zedong said "It was our African brothers who took us to our rightful seat".

In the military field: China cooperates with African countries in the geostrategic field for the following issues : Terrorism, Information Exchange, Organized Crime, Drug Trafficking and Small Arms. Africa is also a new field of action for China's participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Today, 2,700 Chinese soldiers are deployed in Africa as part of UN peacekeeping operations in seven areas of Africa. The Chinese President announced at the 70<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations that China will send a peacekeeping force composed of 8,000 Chinese soldiers and give the African Union a grant of US \$ 100,000,000 for support the construction of the African Permanent Force and the AU Rapid Response Force.

In the cultural field: China and Africa, two continents geographically distant, but close in terms of cultural exchanges for more than half a century. Cultural exchanges and cooperation between New China and African countries began in the mid-1950s. In May 1955, the first Sino-African cultural agreement was signed in Beijing with Egypt. In the transition to the year

2000, China signed bilateral cultural cooperation agreements and annual plans with all African countries that already had diplomatic relations with China.

It should be noted that this Sino-African cooperation is materialized through a legal-institutional framework and is not exempt from criticism.

### **The legal-institutional framework and the critical analysis of the Sino-African cooperation**

#### **At the legal-institutional framework of the Sino-African cooperation**

With regard to the legal framework, it concerns all the legal instruments binding the two parties. As part of this cooperation, several agreements have been concluded in the framework of bilateral cooperation ; in several areas between China and African countries individually and having diplomatic relations with China and between the African Union and China in the context of multilateral cooperation.

As an example, two economic and technical cooperation agreements concerning a non-repayable aid of 13.5 billion FCFA and an interest-free loan of 9 billion FCFA signed in 2015 between China and Niger.

Regarding multilateral cooperation between China and the African Union, several agreements have emerged. This is the case of the memorandum of understanding signed between the African Union and China to cooperate on large infrastructure networks and the process of industrialization in Africa on the sidelines of the 24<sup>th</sup> African Union summit in Addis Ababa. As far as the institutional framework is concerned, it is made up of all the diplomatic missions that African countries and China exchange among themselves

Several fora of cooperation are established to maintain a lasting partnership with Africa, and to promote South-South cooperation, under the model of the Franco-African summits or regular meetings of the Commonwealth.

But it should be noted that notwithstanding the intensity of Sino-African relations, we have noted several criticisms of this cooperation.

### Critical analysis of the Chinese Sino cooperation

While Africa has experienced a long period of controversy in its colonization, many analysts see China-Africa cooperation as a danger of neocolonialism in the sense that in terms of cooperation, China's unconditional and preferential loans African countries may upset the situation by the fact that the hand that gives is above that which receives. So, the black continent must have an effective strategy to manage its relations with the emerging Asian economic giant, in this case China.

In addition to this concern is China's commercial competition with low-cost but short-lived manufactures in Africa, which has led to the bankruptcy of several local companies because of the cost of producing their products and the fact import of Chinese labor into all Chinese enterprises in Africa, this

Africa's relations with China are relations of cooperation and in cooperation, each of the parties aims at its interests. It is illusory to believe that China's main goal is to develop Africa. To reproach China for looting African resources does not make sense.

China's respect for the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of countries and their sovereignty is not a bad thing in itself. Must we, however, under the pretext of cooperation "win-win" And not alienating, leaving on the low side of trade (business), ethics, human rights and self-determination of African people ?

### Conclusion

At a time when the Western powers seem to be moving away from the African continent or maintaining only a minimal threshold of presence, China has demonstrated its ability to assume its new role as an emerging power. Showing an impressive dynamism, she has implemented a global strategy to find new frontiers for her people and her economy.

As a full-fledged actor of globalization, Beijing understood the benefits it could derive from Africa by using one of most formidable weapons of the post-cold war era : economic power. She does not hesitate to assiduously make her court, constantly recalling their common past of externally dominated entities and their historical solidarity in a militant third world characterized by mutual support in the struggles against oppression. Only, if they were both underdeveloped yesterday, today China has come a long way, making its economy one of the most dynamic of the hour.

Africa should put itself in order of battle to present an overall strategy to the Chinese partner. It is by the strength of its political, economic, social and security proposals that it will be able to gauge the usefulness the 'win-win' partnership proposed by China. According to Edem Kodjo, Togolese statesman, "we need, in the context of global economic policy, to convince us that our continent has assets and that we are the only ones able to create (with or without external help) our own wealth through a development designed according to our needs).

From a purely political point of view, the future of Sino-African relations depends in part on how Africa will manage these clashes of the great powers. Will it be able to meet this double challenge of internal change and adaptation to the new international order? ? The future will undoubtedly edify us on this point.

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# Trends and Perspectives in Improving South-South Cooperation in the Republic of Moldova



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## Introduction

The Republic of Moldova (hereinafter Moldova) is a lower middle-income country with a population of 3.55 million (estimated 2017)<sup>1</sup>. The population is distributed evenly between men (48.1%) and women (51.9%).

In 2017, the National Bureau of Statistics estimated that 42.7% of the population were urban inhabitants and 57.3% lived in the rural areas. Moldova ranks 112<sup>nd</sup> out of 188 countries on the Human Development Index (2017 HDI Report). Moldova remains the poorest country in Europe with a GDP per capita of USD 2,311 according to the latest census results<sup>2</sup> which is roughly half of average income per capita in the post-Soviet region of USD 5,079<sup>3</sup>. An ENPI-funded project on regional statistics concluded that in 2014 56.32% of GDP was generated in Chisinau – the capital of the country. At the same time, the private sector accounts for 56.6% of GDP.

Sustained economic growth and reforms to the social protection system have helped to reduce poverty, but in 2014<sup>4</sup>, around 11% of the population were estimated as living below the absolute poverty line. The average monthly wage in 2017 was estimated at EUR 228. Absolute and relative poverty is particularly high amongst the rural population, the elderly living alone and larger (5+) households in the urban areas and while there is little appreciable difference between men and women on the majority of indicators, there is a substantial difference in

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share of gross national income<sup>5</sup>. Moldova scored 1.010 on the Gender Development Index and 0.248 (rank 50<sup>th</sup>) on the Gender Inequality Index.

The economy is dominated by the service sector (63.2% of GDP end 2015) and the manufacturing sector (20.7% of GDP) but remittances are also central, amounting to around one quarter of GDP. Agriculture accounts for 16.1% of GDP and 27.5% of the active labour population continue to derive their living from primary agriculture. There is a significant trade imbalance (-2,387 million USD estimated end 2017). The fiscal deficit was 3.1% in 2017. Total external debt now stands at 86% of GDP and public and publicly-guaranteed external debt is currently 40.5% of GDP. Inflation remained steady in 2012-2014 (4.6%-4.7%), rose to 9.6% in 2015, but has subsequently fallen back to 6.5% estimated at the end of 2017.

Overall, the Moldovan economy has proved quite resilient and some effects of the 2014 crises were mitigated due to the robustness of budget and treasury management systems. However, the contraction of the economy and the decrease in external financing coupled with the impact of the international crisis highlighted the need of rethinking of the overall fiscal envelope.

Moreover, I would like to add that, since gaining its independence, Moldova has been developing its economic, political, social and cultural ties as a new member in the international platform. In this sense, the country signed the Association Agreement with the EU in 2014 and as a result, Moldova intensified its cooperation with European developed countries and also developing countries which are not EU members.

## South-South & Triangular Cooperation: Case of Moldova

As stated by the United Nations, South-South Cooperation is defined as "a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how and through collective actions including partnerships involving governments, civil society, academia and the private sector for their individual and/

or mutual benefit".

Additionally, the South-South cooperation initiatives are complemented by the Triangular Cooperation, which represents "a collaboration in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South initiatives through the provisions of funding, training, management and technological systems, as well as other form of support."

In the context of the above mentioned, at this moment it's fully important for Moldova to clarify the national priorities and strategic preferences vis-à-vis the potential mutual benefits that South-South cooperation could provide. Additionally, it is mandatory to identify the national needs in the light of sectoral priorities approved by the Government and the commitments made to the international community, in line with the Association Agenda and IMF requirements.

**So, Moldova was already set a list of objectives as follow:**

- Identify relevant South-South cooperation frameworks, conditions, patterns, successful practices and challenges at the level of national coordination authority, ministries, relevant CSO and private companies as well as UN representatives, funds and active programmes developed in Moldova;
- Analyse common and individual strengths and challenges of different actors vis-à-vis efficient promotion of SSC and find possible synergies.

Further, I would like to focus on the overview of the South-South and Triangular cooperation in Moldova and the role of stakeholders in.

So, according to the new Regulation on foreign assistance approved by the Moldovan Government on April 2018, the Ministry of Finance was designated as the National Aid Coordinator, is committed to perform in line with new responsibilities, nevertheless, its ability for performance much depends on:

- time availability of sufficient number of people;
- cooperation of key other players on aid

- coordination (EUD and donor community) and key other stakeholders (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, State Chancellery, line ministries and beneficiaries);
- well designed and timely technical assistance support;
  - last but not least, beneficiaries institutional capacity allowing for full participation in the system.

Further, the foreign assistance impact in Moldova primarily depends on decision within the donor community on what to support, with what tools, including the level of complementarity to national development efforts. Well-coordinated implementation structure at the national level can significantly add to effectiveness of financial assistance, but could not compensate in case of programming deficiencies and or weaknesses.

However, I am delighted to mention that Moldova is benefiting a lot from the development partners and their continuous support is prerequisite for further development of the country. In 2017 the Ministry of Finance's system has reported disbursements about 221,2 million EUR in the form of official development, representing per general a decrease of 56,8 % compared to 2016 (440,0 million EUR).

Since June 2018, the Ministry of Finance, in order to ensure the transparency principle, is maintaining an Aid Management Platform (AMP)<sup>6</sup>, an information portal for managing external development assistance in Moldova.

According to the current situation, an important number of EU Member States and donors are present in the country, as well as World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank and United Nations Development Programme.

## SDGs and Moldova

Over the last few years, Moldova has been improving the National Development Strategy, updated in 2017, as a result of a sustained policy dialogue and an effective foreign inputs generated by the donors community. Overall, the national policy agenda is only partially aligned to the

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and one third of SDGs targets are not included in any of the national policy papers. Most of aligned targets relate to the "environment" sector, while most of misaligned ones - to "governance and human rights" sector.

The main differences between national policy agenda and SDG targets are caused mainly by the national specifics, lack of vision in some important areas reflected by SDGs, different optics of public policies and the different degree of disaggregation of the beneficiaries targeted by public policies. The biggest gaps between national policy agenda and 2030 Agenda are not necessarily a deficiency, and the nationalization exercise does not intend to adjust mechanically the domestic policies for the sake of their alignment to SDGs.

The successful implementation of SDGs depends on how flexible is the strategic planning framework, which is now quite problematic in Moldova, in order that the country has too many policy papers, so Moldova definitely needs a reformed strategic planning framework.

## Moldova–India Relations

Further, I would like to underline that, Moldova is also a beneficiary of the technical assistance support provided by the Indian Government, through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme.

<sup>7</sup>In this context, I am honored to inform that, Moldova is ready to intensify the bilateral relations with India, in order to establish a new level of the countries partnership. I want to inform that, our Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Tudor Ulianovschi, was visiting India from 11-15 August 2018 and this represented a historic visit as it was the first time that a Foreign Minister of Moldova has visited India.

During the visit, Minister Ulianovschi had a meeting with External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj, in New Delhi on 14 August and held discussions on various aspects of bilateral ties as well as **important regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest**.

The discussions between the two Ministers focused on building of cooperation in the priority areas of interest such as trade & investment, pharmaceuticals, food-processing, information technology, ease of mobility, education and tourism.

Acknowledging good potential for growth, the two Ministers exchanged ideas for reinvigorating bilateral trade and investment ties. They expressed satisfaction that forward steps have been taken regarding facilitating import of selected agricultural produce from Moldova.

The Indian EAM welcomed the decision of the Government of Moldova to open their Embassy in New Delhi and expressed full support towards establishment of the Moldovan Embassy. Opening of the Moldovan Embassy in India would contribute to strengthening of bilateral relations by facilitating visas for tourists, businessmen and students as well as promoting international interactions.

## Findings

There is a vast potential for strengthening the country's engagement in South-South dialogue through international and regional cooperation platforms and mechanisms.

Moldova is open to share its good practices and approaches in youth and women empowerment and perinatal care with other Southern countries.

Moldova demands for good practices and among them are strengthening public administration management, anti-corruption and e-Governance with commitments to simplify and digitize all public services by 2020.

## Endnotes

1. All data are derived from the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova ([www.statistica.md](http://www.statistica.md)) unless otherwise stated. The figure is considered to be overestimated, the real population would be around 2.8 million.
2. World Bank, Economic update for Moldova, May, 2017 - <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/moldova/brief/moldova-economic-update>
3. IMF Country Report No 17/102 <https://www.imf.org/external/country/mda/index.htm?type=42>
4. This is the latest date for which reliable poverty data exists.
5. The number of women entrepreneurs in rural areas is significantly lower than in urban areas (14.9 % compared to 27.5%). Women in rural areas tend to have more children and due to the lack of sufficient social services have to resort to part-time work in the informal economy or unpaid care-work.
6. <http://amp.gov.md/portal/?language=en>
7. <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/30319/Visit+of+Minister+of+Foreign+Affairs+and+European+Integration+of+the+Republic+of+Moldova+to+India+August+1115+2018>



# Cooperation in Health Sector between Brazil and Haiti



**Joao Arthur Donadon\***

## Introduction

The strategy of technical cooperation provided by Brazil is centered on the institutional strengthening of our partners, a fundamental condition for the transfer and absorption of knowledge to take place. Non-profit and unrelated to commercial interests, technical cooperation aims to share successes and best practices in the areas demanded by partner countries.

The Federative Republic of Brazil, formed by the indissoluble union of States and Municipalities and the Federal District, is a Democratic State of Law and is based on its constitution:

- sovereignty;
- citizenship
- the dignity of the human person;
- the social values of work and free enterprise;
- political pluralism.

The Federative Republic of Brazil is governed in its international relations by the following principles:

- national independence;
- prevalence of human rights;
- self-determination of peoples;
- non-intervention;
- equality between States;
- defense of peace;

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- VII - peaceful settlement of conflicts;
- VIII - repudiation of terrorism and racism;
- IX - cooperation among peoples for the progress of humanity;
- X - granting of political asylum.

Federative Republic of Brazil seek the economic, political, social and cultural integration of the peoples of Latin America, aiming at the formation of a Latin American community of nations.

Brazil maintains technical cooperation relations with Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa, with specific actions in Asia (Timor-Leste, Afghanistan and Uzbekistan), the Middle East (Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories) and Oceania. Brazil's bilateral South-South technical cooperation is concentrated in the areas of agriculture (including agricultural production and food security), vocational training, education, justice, sport, health, environment, information technology, work accident prevention, urban development, biofuels, air transport and tourism.

The exchange of experiences and knowledge materializes a sense of solidarity and responsibility among peoples, benefiting all parties involved in cooperation. Technical cooperation projects are efficient promoters of social development, as well as represent the efforts of many professionals, demonstrating that with political will and willingness it is possible to carry out activities of significant socioeconomic value

### Case Study: Cooperation between Brazil–Haiti

A Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH, per its French acronym) led by Brazil has from the outset 13 years ago and has sent the largest contingent of service members. The mission ends on October 15th with more than 37,000 Brazilian personnel serving in the Caribbean nation.

According to its mandate from the UN Security Council, MINUSTAH is required to concentrate the use of its resources, including civilian police,

on increasing security and protection during the electoral period and to assist with the restoration and maintenance of the rule of law, public safety and public order in Haiti. MINUSTAH was established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1542 on 30 April 2004 because the Security Council deemed the situation in Haiti to be a threat to international peace and security in the region. In 2004, UN peacekeepers entered Cité Soleil in an attempt to gain control of the area and end the anarchy.

From the outset, the international operation was led by a Brazilian general and had the largest contingent of Brazilian troops. Chile, Nepal, Jordan, Uruguay, Paraguay, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru, Philippines and Ecuador also sent troops into the country.

A earthquake on January 12, 2010, left more than 200,000 dead. Before that disaster, the mission considered the situation to be under control, and it was going to begin a downsizing of the military force in order to leave the country.

Soon after the quake, an outbreak of cholera struck Haiti, killing more than 4,500 people and contaminating at least 181,000 people. Months later, a UN investigation into the epidemic pointed out that a Nepal troop camp, which is part of the country's peacekeepers, was the likely source of the outbreak.

Cooperation between Brazil and Haiti is supported by the Basic Agreement for Technical and Scientific Cooperation between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of Haiti, promulgated in November 2004. Since that date, some 15 cooperation projects have been implemented for the development of the Haitian people, in different areas such as agriculture, health, infrastructure, sports, nutrition and social development, as well as numerous other humanitarian and emergency actions.

Based on international solidarity, cooperation with Haiti intensified following the earthquake that affected Haiti in January 2010. The willingness of the Brazilian Government to support Haiti in

one of the most difficult times of its history , was evidenced by the increase in the number of cooperation projects, by the diversification of areas and by the expansion of the number of cooperating institutions on the Brazilian side, which resulted in new partners essential to the positive impacts of cooperation and in strengthening ties with traditional partners.

## Brazil-Haiti on Health

The health area, as one of the priority themes for the reconstruction and stabilization of Haiti, is currently one of the main axes of cooperation with Haiti. In this sense, numerous activities have been implemented, both within the framework of the "Haiti Health Authority Strengthening Program", implemented by the Ministry of Health of Brazil, and bilateral technical cooperation. Special mention should be made of training activities in the area of promoting care and defending the rights of persons with disabilities. In addition to health, cooperation for social development and for work and employment are important sectors of the Brazil-Haiti Cooperation Program.

With the earthquake of 2010, the number of amputees surpassed 7 thousand. Brazil will spend 5 million dollars to build the three services. Another \$ 2 million will be invested in medical equipment.

The governments of Brazil and Haiti have built the Hospital and Rehabilitation Institute located in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The ceremony will be attended by the President of Haiti, Michel Martelly, the Ministers of Health of Haiti, Brazil and Cuba and other governmental authorities and international organizations involved in cooperation

The initiative is part of the Brazil-Haiti cooperation for the reconstruction of the health sector in Haiti, established in 2010, following the earthquake that occurred in January of that year. The actions of the Brazilian Government, under the coordination and execution of the Brazilian Ministry of Health, with the support of ABC, include support for the recovery and construction of hospital units.

The acquisition of equipment, ambulances and health supplies, the provision of financial subsidies to train Haitian health professionals, support for the qualification of care management and epidemiological surveillance in Haiti, and the development of measures to strengthen the basic health care system were the most active topics.

Brazil supported the strengthening of rehabilitation and social inclusion services for people with disabilities, through the "Brazil-Haiti Institute for Rehabilitation" project. It financed, for a period of 30 months, the exercise and training of the entire professional body of this health structure, in addition to providing inputs to its operation and maintenance, for the same period mentioned. The Brazil-Haiti Rehabilitation Institute will be the first rehabilitation center in the country, and will seek to attend about 4 thousand people per month. The development of the technical training components of Haitian health professionals in rehabilitation was implemented by the Brazilian Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health, for example, has already donated 30 ambulances with basic health care equipment to the Haitians, as well as providing technical training to the Mobile Emergency Response Service. The purpose of this action was to structure a national emergency and emergency system in Haiti. Also donated 360 tonnes of medicines for the treatment of severe and moderate cases of cholera. It was built a Community Hospital, the Brazil-Haiti Institute of Rehabilitation and also a laboratory of orthoses and prostheses, with the support of the Cuban government.

## Conclusion

Health cooperation in Haiti is one of the most important South-South cooperation programs undertaken by the Brazilian Government. The success of this initiative has been achieved through the observance by the three governments involved that human development is one of the main drivers of development in any country.

It has contributed to strengthening the capacity of the Haitian Ministry of Health and

Population to provide rehabilitation services to the population with a view to reducing vulnerability and ensuring the social inclusion of persons with disabilities. Strengthening strategies to guarantee access to safe drinking water for families in situations of food insecurity.

In recent years, Brazil has been active in international level, both by its model of insertion and by the guidelines foreign policy. The health sector is a valuable and strategic tool used by technical cooperation the Brazilian government to achieve its development. This article describes the main foreign policy guidelines Brazil, it conceptualizes and South-South cooperation.



# Nigeria's Cooperation Against Insurgency



Dorothy Esiri\*

## Introduction

Insurgency in the North-East of Nigeria has greatly affected the socio-economic landscape of the nation of approximately 200million population estimate; with far reaching effects in neighboring countries of Chad, Niger, Cameroun located in the Chad basin. The Lake Chad basin combines rich agricultural pastoralism, fishing and animal husbandry, and attracts migrants from all over the Sahel region. The Lake is also a major source of water for inhabitants of the area. The Boko Haram insurgency started visibly in Nigeria in 2009. The group controlled a large portion of Borno State in the North-East of Nigeria which is also in the Chad basin. Thus, the movement of products in the trade in other parts of Nigeria were altered as insecurity grew, cost of these products such as maize, sorghum, beans, wheat, millet, groundnuts as well as fish from the Lake Chad, grew astronomically. Since 2009, Boko Haram campaign of terror has been Nigeria's biggest security challenge though recently there have been increase in clashes between pastoralists and farmers across the country.

Boko Haram's ideological objective evolved from an advocacy from an Islamic state in west Africa, and the Lake Chad region in particular. Its campaign started as a simple uprising in 2002, which transformed into a more organized terrorist group after the extra judicial killing of Muhammed Yusuf, the group's leader by state security forces in 2009; and by 2015, the group had acquired the infamous title of "the world's terrorist organization".

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This paper examines the factors that led to the group, and the effects of the insurgency on the socio-economic life of the countries affected. It will bring to fore the efforts at de-escalation through the multi-national cooperation of countries directly affected by the insurgency; and the supportive initiatives and cooperation by the northern bi and multilateral agencies for its containment and the reconstruction of infrastructure.

## Factors that Lead to the Emergence of Boko Haram

Boko Haram literally means western education is bad. The group belief that western influence is responsible for the failure of the state underdevelopment, poverty, inequality and injustice; and that Islamic relativism is the solution to this.

The North-East region has the highest rate of poverty as a result of low education indices with resultant poor human capacity levels. This has made the region the most underdeveloped in the country. This is the root cause of the Boko Haram insurgency. Poor governance and weak institutional capacity of the Nigerian State to provide public goods thus stimulated the emergence, transformation and audacity of the Boko Haram terrorists. The group emerged as a non-conformist group and in addition to proselytization and anti-state mobilization engaged in a series of confrontations with security forces that led to the killing of its leader Mohammed Yusuf.

The extra judicial killing of its leader escalated the groups violence and audacity, transforming it to an organization of terror. The successive leader, Abubakar Shekau sustained a deadly insurgency that targeted not just security forces but citizens in assassinations, bombings, abductions and seizure and control of territories in Nigeria.

Boko Haram recruited from Nigeria, Cameroun, Niger and Chad. It even professed support for Al Quaida in 2010, and pledged support to the Islamic state in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in 2015. It sourced weapons from Trans-Sahel

trafficking groups that developed from the ruins of Ghadafi regime in Libya, raided armory of police stations and military bases in Nigeria and Cameroun, in addition to developing their own bombs and firearms. The organization was also fueled by local politicians in Nigeria, who used them to gain political advantage.

## The Effects Of Boko Haram's Violence

Boko Haram violent attacks was responsible for 2445 terrorist attacks with 28,186 fatalities, 6051 wounded victims and 2063 hostages captured in Nigeria. There was the destruction of the U.N building in Abuja; the abduction of 276 Chibok School girls and then later the Dapchi School girls. The Nigerian Government claimed that the crisis affected 14.8 million people and caused over 23,000 deaths, 5000 missing persons and over 2 million displaced persons many of whom are in IDP camps to date.

At the peak of the insurgency in 2015, about 20,000 square miles of Nigeria's territory were under their control. These are claims that the associated cost of the insurgency is under reported. As of mid-2017, the government of Borno state stated that the crisis was responsible for the destruction of 1.6 trillion-naira worth of houses and school infrastructure in that state alone.

## South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the Containment of Boko Haram

In 2012, Nigeria and Cameroun established a trans-border security committee. In 2014, in the wake of the abduction, of Chibok girls, President Paul Biya of Cameroun declared war on Boko Haram. Niger Chad, Cameroun joined forces with Nigeria and deployed troops to work on the Nigerian border. Military cooperation among these 4 countries progressed geometrically. Leadership of these countries had meetings to discuss ways to surmount security and economic challenges in order to promote mutual development. Military

training exchanges between these countries were mounted. With these trainings and cordial relationship, joint operation against Boko Haram has been facilitated.

Local Militias from Nigeria, Chad and Niger called the civilian joint task force also involved in the war. The multinational joint task force received support from the African Union, Belgium, Canada, China, Pakistan, Colombia and other western nation in teams of training, advisors, and technical support. A private military company made up of mercenaries from South-Africa called STTEP (Specialized Tasks, Training Equipment and Protection) also provided support.

All these cooperation has brought about a decimation of Boko Haram.

## Conclusion

Even though Boko Haram has lost its ground and the security situation is improved, further measures need to be taken to eliminate the factors that gave rise to it in the first place. The structural problems in the North east of Nigeria need to be tackled. The Government needs to come out with a policy to ensure education at all levels of society. There is also the need to cut the number of new recruits joining Boko Haram by tackling false information spread by the group to attract new members. The United Kingdom has pledged to support Nigeria with this.

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# Niger-Nigeria Joint Commission for Cooperation: A Case of South-South Cooperation



**Farida Zakaria Abdou Rahamane\***

Today's world is a world of interaction and exchange in all aspects of life, especially in the important sectors of political, technical, economic. That is why alliance and unity between countries to emerge. But also, to interact and help each other for ensure a common development.

There are various cooperation between the countries of the world through multilateral and bilateral engagements. In this article, I focus on South-South Cooperation which aims to promote self-sufficiency among Southern nations and to strengthen economic ties among states whose market is more equally matched. The South-South Cooperation is defined as an exchange of expertise between governments, organizations and individuals in developing nations. Through this model, the developing countries help and support each other with knowledge, technical assistance, and investments.

The case of Niger and Nigeria is discussed, the two neighboring countries of the South have a common vision for development. As part of the partnership a Niger-Nigeria Joint Commission is created for exchange of problems and solutions.

Since time immemorial, Niger and Nigeria have been intimately linked by their history and geography that has shaped their present and engaged their future. It is not necessary to insist on the fact that a large part of their territory and therefore of their populations have been part of all the successive Empires in West Africa, particularly the Empire of Mali, Songhay, Kanem Bornu

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and the Hausa States. Similarly all along a 1500 km border covering the Regions of Dosso, Tahoua, Maradi, Zinder and Diffa for Niger, the States of Kebbi, Sokoto, Zanfara, Katsina Jigawa, Yobe and Borno for Nigeria are the same people who speak the same languages, have the same cultures and practice the same religions. That is to say a community of destiny that has been forged between these populations since the beginning of time. This vast space of Sahara, Sahel, Savane and Forest which groups together Niger and Nigeria is threatened by desertification highlighting a need of a mutual challenge that needs to be addressed.

The common life of states, despite shared values, requires a framework built with method and determination. That is why, 10 years after their independence, Niger and Nigeria felt the need to create a legal framework to organize and govern the multiform relations that they maintain. The convention establishing the Niger-Nigeria Joint Commission for Cooperation is this instrument. Indeed, it was an outcome following the official Government visits in November 1970 to Nigeria of the President of the Niger Republic His Excellency Diori Hamani, and the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria His Excellency General Yakubu Gowon. In March 1971, at Niger, the two leaders signed on the Convention establishing the Joint Commission. It was amended by a Protocol of 22 December 1973 and the installation on 23 December 1973 in Niamey (Niger) of the Niger-Nigeria Joint Commission for Cooperation. Its premises are located at the Boulevard des Ambassades (Route de Goudel) since 1982. The Joint Commission is an International Body under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the two member countries. It is administered equally. Its staff works in a hierarchical and close collaboration for the smooth running of the latter.

The Niger-Nigerian Joint Commission for Cooperation has set targets. The Commission has general and exclusive competence to seek in all fields the means of coordinating and harmonizing the economy of the two countries with the aim of increasing and rendering their co-operation more effective. The Joint Commission shall propose to the two Governments, in particular, the measures

to be taken and the projects to be carried out with a view to the gradual establishment of rational, harmonious and balanced cooperation, capable of ensuring the maximum development of the two countries in the best time possible and lower costs. In their desire to assert the sovereignty of their States and the principle of equality of the two partners for a mutually beneficial cooperation, despite the political and economic weight of the two countries, the founding fathers of the Organization have provided in the statutes the equality of contributions by the two States. The financial charges for the operation of the Commission shall be borne equally by the two Governments.

To achieve its objectives the Joint Commission is organized as follows where the governing bodies of the Commission has a High Authority, which is the supreme body of the Commission and is made up of the two heads of state of both countries. Then there is the Council of Ministers, which meets at least once a year. Responsible to the High Authority, it is composed of representatives of the two governments of equivalent level. There is a Permanent Secretariat, which is responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the Commission and the execution of the decisions of the High Authority and the Councils of Ministers. It is headed by a Secretary General appointed by Nigeria and assisted by a Deputy Secretary General appointed by the Republic of Niger, jointly approved by the two Governments. The Permanent Secretariat is in charge of preparing the agendas of the Commission's meetings and the subcommittees it may set up.

Joint committees of experts are also set up to deal with all areas of cooperation that meet regularly and make recommendations to the Council of Ministers for decision. These joint committees of experts are the important levers of this great institution that is the Nigeria-Niger Cooperation, because they are the designers of the measures and actions and at the same time responsible for the national follow-up of the decisions taken by the Councils of Ministers. They make a decisive contribution to the effectiveness of the Secretariat of the Commission, which is a light structure in terms of its workforce.

The Convention establishing the Joint Commission, has Statutes and Rules of Procedure which constitute the general legal framework for the bilateral relations between Niger and Nigeria. Special agreements and programs of cooperation are concluded to govern the activities of the different countries sectors of the economic, social and cultural life of the two countries. These agreements and programs are Agreement on the Supply of Electric Power to the Republic of Niger by the Federal Republic of Nigeria; Trade Agreements Cultural and Technical Cooperation Agreement; Air Transport Agreement; Agreement on combating desertification; Road Transport Agreement; Agreement on the fight against pests; Memorandum of Understanding on information; Agreement concerning the equitable sharing of the development, conservation and use of shared water resources; Cooperation Agreement on Health; Agreement on the establishment of local bilateral committees; Judicial Cooperation Agreement; Program of cooperation and cultural and educational exchanges ; and Agreement on the sports exchange program.

Sixteen Joint Committees of Experts responsible for formulating recommendations to the Council of Ministers and following up the decisions of the Council of Ministers in relation to the Secretariat of the Commission are established.

The areas of intervention of the Commission are in economic integration; air transport; road and rail; the border security surveillance system; health issues; agriculture and combating desertification; ecosystem management; the demarcation of borders; the supply of electricity; and the equitable sharing of water resources between the two countries, to name but a few.

The Commission Mixte Nigero-Nigeriane (CMNN) in French, in collaboration with the World Bank, recently launched at Kano-Katsina-Maradi (K2M) initiative for food security and trade, including livestock and agricultural products. The main objective of this initiative

was to promote economic integration through people-to-people contacts across the borders of both countries. The initiative also aims to ensure the free movement of people, capital, goods and services in both countries without any unjustified barriers. The program will provide a great opportunity to record the volume of trade thereby establishing reliable commercial information for the purpose of generating revenue for the governments of both countries.

The trade corridors consist of Kebbi-Sokoto-Zamfara in Nigeria, Dosso-Tahoua in Niger, Jigawa-Daura in Nigeria, Magaria-Zinder in Niger, and Borno-Yobe in Nigeria, Diffa in Niger to organize trade fairs in Nigeria and Niger like the other fairs organized by the various regions and states in both countries, the CNMNC has succeeded in setting up a Niger-Nigerian Consular Chamber (NCCN) whose headquarters is in Kano.

The staff of the Joint Commission is 48 agents divided into two categories namely, the Statutory which are the posted executives, the permanent executives A and permanent non-permanent which are the frames B. At the Joint Commission all offices are equipped with computer equipment; each executive has a desktop, a printer, a scanner, a handset and a laptop for missions.

The CMNN has a budget each year to ensure its operation. This budget of 526,724,861.5 CFA per country is submitted to the Council of Ministers for consideration with a view to its approval. It varies according to the categories. The Contracting Parties shall contribute equally to the budget of the latter.

This engagement between Niger and Nigeria lay a starting point to deepen South-South Cooperation and is a proof of mutual understanding that without cooperation, there can be no development. This is what makes the Niger-Nigeria Joint Commission for cooperation a unique bilateral tool.





# The City of Cuenca in Ecuador Enhancing Capacity Building for Southern Cities



**Maria Cristina Molina Galarza\***

## Introduction

"Without the leadership of cities it is impossible to reduce poverty levels, reduce inequalities or achieve effective, responsible and inclusive institutions" (Jessica Faieta, 2016). In the year 2015 the Sustainable Development goals SDGs were adopted to face world challenges and improve the life of people around the globe. These goals seek to tackle issues such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environment degradation and ensure prosperity, peace and justice in every level: global level, regional level and local level.

In this agenda cities play an important role. It is expected that by 2030 due to the urbanization, the number of people living in cities will rise to 5 billion creating important challenges to cities in terms of urban planning, the management of solid waste, the generation of jobs, the distribution of basic services, congestion, lack of infrastructure, and others. (United Nations, 2016). Furthermore in Latin America and the Caribbean 80% of the population live in cities being nominated as the most urbanized region in the world. (Jessica Faieta, 2016). The time for cities to take actions is now, and the best way is empowering local governments so they will provide welfare to their citizens managing a correct urban planning and dealing with the growth of the population. Additionally in the agenda 2030 through international cooperation and south-south cooperation in the basis of learning from each other and the capacity building, cities will strengthen and develop capacities among each other guaranteeing that no country or city will be left behind. The purpose of this paper is

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to give a short vision of the role of the city of Cuenca in Ecuador in terms of cooperation and South-South cooperation. For this purpose a case of study is going to be presented to show the aims of the city to fulfil GDSs 9 and as an example of triangular cooperation that in its next stage become a successful case of south-south cooperation.

## How Cuenca city as a non-state actor manages International cooperation?

The Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador in its article 14 mention that "Municipalities or local governments have the responsibility and the exclusive competence for managing international cooperation without the prejudice of others," (Constitution of Ecuador). Additionally, the National Council of Competences of Ecuador in its resolution CNC-009-2011 reinforce the constitution declaring that: "the transfer and implantation of international cooperation means by the competence of the management of nonrefundable funds and technical assistance will be held by municipalities and local governments in a decentralized way . (Constituyente, 2008)

Since the year 2015, the local government of Cuenca in Ecuador has been trying to link its projects and objectives not only with the SDGs to ensure welfare and good quality of life to its citizens but also with local and regional policies. The local government of Cuenca through its department of International Relations (DIR) manages the international cooperation strategies and activities for the city. Nevertheless the focus of DIR has been North-South Cooperation and cooperation with non-states actors such as international agencies. (Cooperation, 2018)

Since its creation in 2011, DIR has held projects with different international agencies such as: Japan international cooperation agency JICA, German technician international cooperation agency GIZ, Korean International cooperation agency KOICA, Latin America development Bank CAF, Korean trade investment Agency KOTRA, and United Nations agencies such as: PNUD, UN

HABITAT, UN VOLUNTEERS, UNHCR, and UN Women. These institutions have given the local government of Cuenca technical assistance, nonrefundable funds, financial credits, capacity building, grants, and technology transfer. Nonetheless this agencies has manage and traced the way in which they would like to cooperate with the city.

In terms of south-south cooperation Cuenca is still new. The city has sign some international agreements and has generated some sisterhoods with southern cities such as Córdoba-Argentina, Puebla-Mexico, Bandung-Indonesia, Medellin-Colombia, PastoColombia, Concepcion-Chile, and others. These sisterhoods look for exchange successful experiences of each cities in terms of national heritage, culture, security in natural disasters, and others.

In addition, Cuenca has developed and implemented multiple technical-projects to ensure the development of the city facilitating its citizens the access to resources. Due to its linkage to the 20-30 agenda and its objectives, these projects have won 11 international prizes and recognitions worldwide since the year 2014. Those projects are focus on: climate action, in reducing inequality, in generating gender equality, and generating sustainable cities and communities. Some of this projects are: "The green belt of Cuenca", the solid waste management through the Bio gas plant for generating electricity in rural areas, the Integral Improvement Plan for Peripheral Neighborhoods, and others. The last project mentioned has become a successful case study of triangular cooperation. This project has been supported by UN Habitat and now the methodology is transferred to southern cities. (EMAC EP, 2017)

## Cuenca's case study: Triangular cooperation in the project: The Integral Improvement Plan for Peripheral Neighborhoods.

In the last years the city of Cuenca has undergone an accelerated growth that has generated a diffuse line between the urban and rural areas.

Gradually those sectors that have been recognized as rural areas have been absorbed within the urban boundary without the same conditions of the consolidated core (lack of access and basic services). In those areas the infrastructure and the lack conservation of housing is deficient. Houses were built with materials that are not environmentally adequate and the lack of basic services is predominant. Hence, with the aim of reducing this gap, the Municipality of Cuenca, through the El Barranco Foundation and with the technical support of UN Habitat, have implemented the Integral Improvement Plan for Peripheral Neighborhoods. The plan establishes mechanisms of analysis, detection, and actions to take to improve the life of vulnerable populations. This actions will guide the municipal investment in those sectors. The efforts are focused on drafting and formulating immediate action plans to improve the situation in the 10 poorest neighborhoods. (Cuenca, 2015)

For this purpose this project began with the conceptualization of the periphery and the vulnerability in the city and its statistical characterization through 25-indicator divided in socio-demographic, socio-economic, physical-environment, residence and infrastructure and land-use areas. Those indicators include a gender component and they help to identify the 10 most vulnerable neighborhoods, establishing the following priorities:

\*The improvement of the habitat of 10 vulnerable neighborhoods prioritized . This has been identifies through a population-participatory-process, based on the New Urban Agenda, which pursues to be replicable in other environments.

- The establishment of mechanisms and tools of action that guide the Municipality of Cuenca and that can be applied in other cities.
- The training of public officials (capacity building) to reach effective mechanisms and tools for action on the territories.
- The training and socialization with the population in the planning-mechanisms, their current situation and decision making.

- The strengthening of the communities on: risk and resilience; Citizen Security and coexistence; Urban agriculture-permaculture; Productive-ventures; Humanrights and gender; Environmental-Conservation; Risk-and-resilience; Youthparticipation and leadership-development.
- The Establishment of regional-planning-instruments for build organize and less unequal cities. (Cuenca, 2015)

In terms of South-South cooperation, the plan has developed a replicable methodology in different contexts of detection, analysis and also in the elaboration of plans of improvement in vulnerable neighborhoods. This Cuenca's pilot experience adapted to the New Urban Agenda has generated a manual that could be used as a guide or as a reference document for other intermediate cities that face similar challenges due to the growth of their population. This model facilitates the process of tacking inequality by providing infrastructure and access to basic services to marginalized population in addition of being an instrument for strengthen and building capacities among southern cities. In fact, the capacity of replicability and implementation of this project has been recognized internationally. For example the project was finalist at the Transformational Business Awards of the Financial Times; Competitive Practices Contest of the New Urban Agenda of UN-HABITAT, additionally it has been recognized by organizations such as Mercociudades, FLACMA, Government of Spain, Ibero-American and Caribbean Forum of Good and Innovative Practices, in the World Urban Forum held in Kuala Lumpur, and others. (Cuenca, 2015)

## Conclusion

In conclusion for many cities, it is still a challenge to deal with South-south cooperation. For many of them the concept is not clear due to their continuous linkage with north - south cooperation that provides northern countries the possibility of guiding southern 's steps. Some cities fail in doing south-south cooperation in the one hand for the demand-driven approach at the

moment of not setting their priorities and needs and in the other hand when they do not figure out their strengths, or technical skills to be share with other southern cities. In the case of Cuenca the city has focus its strengths in the development of some projects such as the Integral Improvement Plan for Peripheral Neighborhoods mentioned before. This expertise and successful experience has been shared to some southern cities that aim to implement this project. Indeed, Cuenca has receive several international delegations from southern cities that visit the city to have a better understanding of the application of the project. This southern partnerships seek for the capacity building of southern cities and at the same time for the internationalization of Cuenca and the recognition of its leadership in the region for adopting the New Urban Agenda and SDGs.

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# The South-South Cooperation in Education from the Armenian Perspective



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Armenia is a landlocked country in Southern Caucasus surrounded by Georgia, Iran, Azerbaijan and Turkey. Geographically situated on the periphery of Europe and Asia, or West and East, in a very volatile region with a number of challenges based on ethnic, religious, cultural and political contradictions, has to permanently determine its interests, opportunities, maximizing benefits and minimizing possible threats. And due to its geographical location and the geopolitical situation the country is, it has to develop balanced bilateral strategies between two worlds namely North and South for its growth.

Armenia has an intelligent and talented human capital which needs a right management to prosper. A good educational infrastructure is a core for sustainable development for any country. It can be a powerful tool for a self-empowerment in the complex geopolitical situation. It has to focus on improving its education system, and expanding the boundaries for collaborations for engaging in wider policy dialogs within education sector and for sharing best practices with other developed and developing countries, especially in the fields of science and IT.

## Boundaries of Cooperation of Armenia With Two Giant Southern Countries

Quality education is essential for sustainable development of any country. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an ambitious and universal agenda for eradicating poverty through sustainable development

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by 2030. With the new Agenda adopted in 2015, internationally it has been recognized that education is essential for the success of all its 17 Goals. Ambitions for education are essentially captured in Sustainable Development Goal 4 which aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030.

Through Incheon Declaration adopted at the World Education Forum in May 2015, UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, was entrusted to lead the Education 2030 agenda with its partners. The roadmap to achieve the ten targets of the education goal is the Education 2030 Framework for Action, adopted in November 2015, which provides guidance to governments and partners on how to turn commitments into action.<sup>1</sup>

Also, UNESCO's Global Convention of Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications is on its way for finalizing and presenting for acceptance in November of 2019.<sup>2</sup>

South-South (SSC) cooperation is another important tool for sustainable development – as a complement to, not a substitute for, North-South cooperation. South-south development cooperation concept emerged in the southern countries as a solidarity among developing countries, and refers in enhanced sharing between governments, enterprises and civil society organizations of southern developing countries of knowledge and experience.

Armenia is not a signatory country of SSC but shares yet many common concerns. And within bordering countries with Armenia only Iran is signatory country of SSC with whom Armenia has economic and trade ties, and due to geopolitical situation in Southern Caucasus remains Armenia's single land route to the world.

Although, Armenia is not an active participant in the SSC discourse but it takes part in Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Program (ITEC) via participating in various short- and medium-term courses, and do cooperate with India in a bilateral and regional levels. Armenia signed several bilateral agreements with India

on economic, cultural and scientific collaboration like cultural exchange program for 2017–2020, collaboration in youth affairs and have identified potential areas of cooperation, especially in science and technology, education and culture, healthcare, agriculture, pharmaceuticals and tourism. Moreover, in 2016 both countries have agreed on building an Earth observation satellite (EOS) for Armenia<sup>3</sup>. Under that program India also agreed to train Armenian scientists in the use of the system and handling and interpreting its data. The satellite will be operated by a joint Armenian-Indian group of specialists, serving the needs of both countries.<sup>4</sup>

As both countries are good in information technologies (IT) and especially India has become a regional hub in IT sector the collaboration between countries can have come very productive in the region.

The "Silk Road Economic Belt" (SREB) along with China's another initiative, the "Twenty-First Century Maritime Silk Road", constitutes a part of Chinese development strategy collectively known as the "One Belt and One Road". First of two its main objectives are to revive the "Silk Road", the ancient trade route that, linking Asia and Europe, led to the mutual exchange of ideas, goods and technology. The second is to create an "Economic Belt", a transcontinental association of countries along the Silk Road in order to forge closer economic ties, facilitate trade and investment, and improve transportation networks. One of the steps towards fulfilling that ambitious plan is the strengthening the cooperation between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). EEU countries are also members of another regional bloc created in the post-Soviet area, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). These two regional integration groupings constitute a single de facto structure with purposes referred to as a Eurasian alliance.

Armenia is member of all these three organizations, thereby has the opportunity of benefitting from it. The new "Silk road" geographically doesn't pass through Armenia and convincing the stakeholder countries in the

opposite is not very realistic, as a landlocked country with no railroad communication with Iran and a blocked one reaching only to Georgia. But instead, Armenia has big opportunities of enhancing diplomatic and economic relations with China, using its soft power, inserting educational and cultural projects in foreign policy with China.

China widely collaborates with Armenia in education sector and has constructed a Chinese language school in Yerevan which accepted its first students in September 2018. In the school Armenian children will learn Chinese language and get acquainted with the culture free. Bilateral agreement between the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia and the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Fields of Education in 2010, and agreement between the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Mutual Recognition of Documents on Education and Scientific Degrees" in 2015 has been signed.

Certainly, a lot of joint projects due to intergovernmental agreements are in process, but chances of making them more and bigger are unlimited considering also the dynamics of Sino – Russian cooperation.

## Does the Interest from the South Increase on Armenia as a Member of the European Higher Education Area?

Since the beginning of 21st century Armenia started a process of an integration into the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and reformed its education system in line with EHEA principles, and there have been many structural and supportive changes done. There have been also a number of different other intergovernmental collaborations within education sector with a number of Eastern European Countries and only a few Eastern Southern countries like China and Jordan. Noticeably, Armenia has been widely involved into North-South cooperation in the

education sector during the last decade, rather than South-South.

In 2017 Armenia also entered into the stronger cooperation with EU via Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) for strengthening links established in the past through the partnership agreement and to promote close and intensive cooperation based on equal partnership within the framework of the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and the Eastern Partnership as well as within the EU-Armenia CEPA.<sup>5</sup> At the same time, Armenia is in the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and benefits both EEU and EU integrations. Which in general could be a good example for other developing countries for balancing their policies between East and West.

One of the main challenges in the country is the brain drain, which directly linked with existing poor human capital management and is a result of globalization, continuously impacting on developing countries. Therefore, to improve human capital management in Armenia the government needs to improve the human resource management style in professional educational environment, to increase the perception of educators' value-adding role, as well as to combat brain drain in the country by enhancing win-win partnerships and research opportunities also with East and South.

In 2016 it has been acknowledged by the Government of Armenia the need for a widespread reform in its foreign economic policy for the countries' sustainable development, and as education is a main driver for sustainable development of a country and a quality education is a one of the goals of SDG17, Armenia needs to internationalize its education and research fields, by expanding geography of collaborations with the other developing countries.

As it has been mentioned above, Armenia did integrate and took a part in development of European Higher Education Area since 2005 and did reform its higher education system according to Bologna principles agreed with the Ministers of Education of 48 signatory countries. All of Bologna tools are already implemented in the

system and recognized by adequate European Institutions. And by looking to the demographic data of incoming students to study in Armenia<sup>6</sup>, one could notice that most of the foreign flow are from Russia, Georgia, India and Iran. The number of students from Iraq, Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic is growing fast. As data provides the interest mostly from the South and the East towards Armenian HEIs, which gives a ground to assume that the prospective entry to the European market for graduates, which the Armenian qualifications do provide, maybe the reason for those countries growing interest on Armenian HEIs.

By taking all that into consideration Armenia should take an advantage of its geographical position as a connecting rout of East and West and geopolitical stand in as a EHEA member country and should review its higher education policy on internationalization for playing a major role in East and West policy in education, science and technology sector.

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# South - South Cooperation in Ecuador: An Overview of the Key Aspects



Evelin Pamela Medina Herrera\*

## Introduction

“South-South Cooperation is not just a technocratic strategy...it is also the embodiment of a new world order in which the Global South has assumed political and economic leadership as never before, and where developing countries can play their role in ensuring ‘no one is left behind’”.  
(UNFPA, 2016)

Nowadays, South-South Cooperation plays an important role in the development of many developing countries around the world. It is known that SSC has emerged as a substantial mechanism to strengthen *cooperation* and to eradicate poverty. SSC has brought several benefits to many developing countries across the world in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical arena. It has increased the world productivity, incomes and has allowed to developing countries become wealthier and improve their standards of living.

South - South Cooperation is currently a key issue on the agenda in Latin America. Latin America is one of the most inequitable regions in the world, presenting dramatic poverty levels, such as Africa and parts of Asia. In the case of Ecuador, the country is taking advantage of South - South cooperation to enhance development and promote strategic partnerships to share knowledge and best practices.

In this sense, with the purpose to understand this argument, this essay will describe the main key aspects of South - South Cooperation in Ecuador. It will be possible to recognize the importance of the SSC in the development

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of the country. The essay will be divided into three main sections. The first section has been designed to provide general information about how SSC has emerged in Ecuador, so readers can identify the situation of the country regarding SSC. The second section will describe some of the main opportunities and challenges of South-South Cooperation in the country. The third section will be focused on some initiatives of SSC, emphasizing for example health and social assistance programs. And finally, it will be presented the conclusions of this paper.

## The growing importance of South-South Cooperation in Ecuador

It must be said that Ecuador has increased its efforts to fortify and expand its political and economic ties with countries of different regions around the world. The country also plays an important role in the defense of the regional integration, so that is part for example, of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR).

Some of the main purposes of the Ecuadorian International Relations have been the defense of national rights and interests, protection and support to compatriots abroad, protection for peace and security, development of the country thanks to the accurate use of international cooperation, foreign investment, and international markets. Moreover, diplomatic affairs have been important to achieve political, social, cultural and economic development. In addition, the main of this diplomacy is to ensure peace and security, promote a fair order, preserve human rights, fight drug trafficking and support regional integration. (RUALES, 2007)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has traditional functions mentioned in the Constitution and the Law of the Foreign Service. This diplomatic representation has the mission of serving activities that support the development of the country in different areas:

- Economic development
- Cultural development
- Social development
- Management in preserving the environment
- Promoting the country: security and legal system
- Implementation of the state's policy towards other states or non-state actors

In addition, it is important to mention that one of the main objectives of Ecuador's foreign policy is to make the country a South-South Cooperation provider. It has been established to promote SSC with other countries, especially in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region. South-South Cooperation has a strategic role for Ecuador since it allows being part of a permanent learning process, an exchange of knowledge and experiences with countries with similar opportunities and challenges. (MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES Y MOVILIDAD HUMANA, 2018)

"Ecuador was the largest recipient of bilateral south-south cooperation projects in Latin America. However, the report also noted that Ecuador has become an increasingly important provider in bilateral cooperation projects, specifically in the area of social assistance programs, which accounted for 35 percent of all south-to-south projects carried out by the Ecuadorian government". (GALEANO, 2014)

As a result of the coordinated work of the Ministry of Human Relations and Human Mobility, through the Undersecretariat of International Cooperation, in coordination with the different public institutions Ecuador has made available to other countries the Catalog of South-South Cooperation Offer, which is about successful and innovative policies and practices within the framework of public management.

The catalog has 54 experiences, distributed in the sectors: Habitat and Environment, Economic, Infrastructure and Non-renewable Resources, Security, Production, Social and Foreign Policy and Promotion.

## Opportunities and Challenges of South-South Cooperation

### Opportunities:

- Because of the wide cultural relations between Ecuador and Africa, and the growing interest in trade issues, it is easier for Ecuador to strengthen relations in the framework of the South-South cooperation with African countries.
- Current tendencies in Ecuadorian South-South cooperation have focused on capacity building: technical assistance and exchange of experts.
- Climate conditions offer a huge diversity of raw material and agricultural products that ease the trade cooperation.
- South-South promotes the creation of jobs, strengthens trade, improves infrastructure, transfers technology, promotes regional integration and benefits.
- South-South cooperation has the potential to accelerate improvements in health, education, social welfare which is instrumental to fast achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

### Challenges:

- Currently there is inadequate coordination at national and provincial levels and this is blocking the implementation of policies and programs.
- The data on the actual scale of South-South development cooperation are still fragmentary.
- Climate Change and the environment policy (green economy).
- Complexities regarding the ownership or management, lack of harmony on implementation of commercial policy, lack of well-defined national policies, limited documented information on south-south success stories, trade barriers and political problems.

## South-South Cooperation Initiatives

Regarding health, it must be said that projects related health cooperation have become an increasingly important part of regional south-south cooperation. In Ecuador health related cooperation projects comprised one-fifth of total projects received. In this sense, Ecuador has become an important ally for countries in the region that seek to health programs. (GALEANO, 2014)

On the other hand, regarding SSC, Ecuador has promoted some good social assistance programs. Ecuador's Technical Assistance Catalogue contains a significant number of cooperation projects, providing assistance to disabled populations. These projects are mainly focused on supporting people with disabilities.

Two good examples of projects that have operated in Ecuador are: the Manuela Espejo Mission and the Joaquin Gallegos Lara Mission. The program Joaquin Gallegos Lara Mission was launched in 2009 by the Ecuadorian government with help from the Cuban and Venezuelan governments to collect information about individuals living with disabilities. The Joaquin Gallegos Lara Mission provides a \$240 monthly stipend and life insurance to caregivers of people with disabilities. In addition, the program offers individuals with disabilities training in health, hygiene, disability rights and social security. (GALEANO, 2014)

It must be mentioned that Ecuador has supported Uruguay and El Salvador to replicate the programs for people with disabilities. Moreover, The Ecuadorian government has also provided assistance to the governments of Peru, Jamaica and Haiti.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, it must be said that definitely SSC is currently a key mechanism on the agenda in Ecuador. The country is taking advantage of South-South cooperation to enhance development and promote strategic partnerships to share knowledge and best practices.

Ecuador's growth potential is really high since it has some natural and strategic resources. Then, it depends on the country's ability and government actions to make good use of these resources. The challenge of improving the social, political and economic conditions of the country is not easy. That's why it requires coordination and synchronization between public institutions.

The situation of foreign investment in Ecuador has changed during the last years, and continues changing in order to respond population needs. Some of the reforms implemented have allowed eliminate some important restrictions; however, some changes are still needed to promote economic growth and investment improvement.

Ecuador has had the opportunity to improve and increase its participation in the international arena, which has been the door to get important trade and political partners. Certainly, SSC has been a key instrument for getting economic growth and political development.

Finally, it must be said that thanks to the South-South cooperation some developing countries in Latin America have achieved remarkable economic and social development. The countries have gotten an important source of

technical assistance, innovation and development finance. This is particularly important since SSC is a significant mechanism for achieving the 2030 Agenda in the region.

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# The Role of Local Governments on International Development and South-South Cooperation



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## Introduction

The understanding of international cooperation has always involved the idea that national governments are the main actors to achieve development. For a very long time, local and regional governments focused their efforts on providing basic services to their residents, regarding it merely as local issues and not discussed at the international level. However, the international community has been increasingly recognizing the importance of local governments to face global challenges.

This paper aims to acknowledge the role of cities and regions as key players on international on implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and the role of local governments in contributing to South-South Cooperation. I will analyze the case of the City of Cuenca in Ecuador as a case study, and the challenges and perspectives that cities must face in order to achieve development.

## The Role of Cities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September 2015, leaders from around the world gather together in New York and adopted the 2030 Agenda, in which included 17 Sustainable Development Goals that replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The

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new framework aimed to be universal, integrated and inclusive "leaving no one behind". At this platform, the role of cities was also raised. The SDG 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" highlights the relevance to empower the role of cities at the international level. Kristie (2015) mentions:

"It will be under the auspices of cities where we will succeed or fail in achieving our goals of poverty eradication, equality, climate change reduction, and ensuring healthy lives. It will be the cities that determine if we achieve inclusive economic growth or yield to greater inequality. It is in cities where people will seek opportunities for higher education and employment. And, it will be cities that determine if we will continue our steadily increasing usage of the world's resources or if we can realize a more sustainable path."

Strong and effective local governance are critical when reaching global development. By 2030, the most part of the population will be living in cities (Kauzya, 2017). Therefore, cities are called to pay special attention to implement the SDGs and comply with the 2030 Agenda. The success or failure on achieving the goals will be measured according to the capacity of cities to respond to global challenges. The international community and national governments need to support the actions of local governments and to straighten their partnership on creating strategies together in order to impulse economic and social development, improving quality of life of citizens.

For this, international cooperation must be decentralized from national governments, and at the same time funding must be ensured and adequately distributed. It is said that cities are the closest to the people and communities. They are expected to respect the rule of law, promote justice and security, facilitates access to services, ensure accountability, eradicate poverty, etc., while connecting global development actors to local city communities. In this context, Mayors become relevant actors on the process of implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving SDGs.

## Local governments in international South-South cooperation

South-South cooperation is a key instrument of international cooperation. It is a framework in which countries of the South collaborate with each other in the political, economic, technical, social and cultural fields, and it may happen between two or more countries. This has resulted in the improvement of their relations and economic-social development. However, international cooperation can also happen between cities and regions when cooperation is decentralized from national governments, as stated before.

In this sense, for many decades, local governments have cooperated between them, promoting commitment and solidarity. Since the 1980s, the number of local governments partnerships has increased significantly, working together on development cooperation. These partnerships come in different forms: bilateral, multilateral, and networks, and in diverse modalities: South-North, South-South as well as triangular. They are mainly focused on building institutional capacities, financial support, climate change, etc.

To state an example, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, is an international association of local governments that compromise more than 1,500 cities from all over the world. The aim of this city network is to build a sustainable future and foster development between its members. In December 2011, ICLEI alongside with the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) launched the Local Renewables Initiative, where the project "South-South cooperation between cities in India, Indonesia and South Africa" was set out. The city of Coimbatore in India guided the other two municipalities involved, Ekurhuleni in South Africa and Yogyakarta in Indonesia to reduce energy use and integrate renewable energy generation and energy efficiency into municipal planning and development (ICLEI, 2013). The objectives were achieved resulting in higher quality of life to residents.

## Cuenca City case study

Responding to the new global dynamics, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, Cuenca City in Ecuador has involved into this process and global debates on the challenges that cities must face in order to achieve the SDGs. The city was the seat of one of the thematic conferences prior to Habitat III on "Intermediate cities: urban growth and renewal". Cuenca also had an important participation in the conferences held at Habitat III in Quito (Ecuador) in 2016, seeking to strengthen the voice of the cities in this process. According to the United Nations Development Programme (2016):

"The 2030 Agenda and the new Sustainable Development Goals constitute a powerful illustration of the current challenges and opportunities of cities. The Habitat III Conference, the largest global development conference in 2016, aims to ensure renewed political commitment to sustainable urban development, assess achievements to date, address urban poverty and identify and address new and emerging challenges".

In 2017, the City held the "Continental Forum of Intermediate Cities: Latin America", organized alongside with the United Cities Local Governments (UCLG), after celebrating the regional forums on the same topic in Odienné (Africa), Nevşehir (Middle East and West Asia), and Terrassa (Europe). At this platform, cities from Ecuador and the region, joined together to discuss the challenges of implementing the SDGs in intermediate cities through three transversal issues: citizen engagement, urban mobility and gender equality.

In addition, Cuenca has been working to strengthen its institutional capacities to implement the SDGs. For instance, on May 2017, the city held the "The Fourth Ibero-American Summit Of Local Gender Agendas", organized alongside with the Ibero-American Municipalists Union (UIM). The aim of this Summit was to contribute to the SDG 5's debate on gender equality. It became a platform where authorities from different cities of Ibero- America gathered to discuss, share experiences and good practices, and present its

challenges in achieving the SDG 5. Moreover, the city has aligned all its projects with the 17 SDGs with the support of the UNDP, which also included training sessions to the Municipality planning employees.

Regarding international cooperation, the city of Cuenca has become a reference in the country. Since 2011, when the Ecuadorian government decentralized international cooperation through its resolution CNC-0009-2011, Cuenca started strengthening its internationalization as well as its international relations and cooperation. Cuenca has signed many twining agreements with cities, the majority coming from the South such as Medellin (Colombia), Bandung (Indonesia), Puebla (Mexico), Suzhou (China), etc., collaborating in the cultural, social and technical areas. The city has also promoted several projects and programs with the support of many international organizations and institutions such the Latin American Developed Bank (CAF), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the Exim Bank of Korea, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the German Agency for international Cooperation (GIZ), and all UN agencies present in Ecuador.

## Challenges and final conclusions

The challenges of local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs become more and more relevant, taking into account that there are 15 years left for the job. The most critical part of the task is to convince people from civil society and local decision-makers to embrace these global challenges and engage them to implement it.

Therefore, to achieve these goals it is important that cities and regions start strengthening its international cooperation, especially with the South, where many cities will find opportunities, and where collaboration will be based on solidarity. Sharing experiences, knowledge and good practices will drive them to reach development. It is said that by 2030, the majority of the population of the world will be living in

cities. Therefore, they become relevant actors at the international level when implementing the 2030 Agenda and reaching the sustainable development goals is about.

Cuenca City case shows that achieving the SDGs and strengthening its international cooperation with the South is possible. It is important that society and Mayors have the sufficient willingness to promote this global commitment. Cities must ensure to deliver services leaving no one behind, integrate SDGs to its annual planning and implementing them through its projects, promote partnerships at the local, national and international level.

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# India South–South Cooperation: In The Case of Development Sector



**Mesfin Mathewos Koyra\***

## Introduction

The Ethiopian economy is currently among the top performing economies in Africa with an annual average growth of over 11% for more than half a decade (National Bank of Ethiopia, 2009/2010). India-Ethiopia relations are bilateral diplomatic cooperation between India and Ethiopia. It was in July 1948, India and Ethiopia first established diplomatic cooperation between two countries. This cooperation was raised to ambassadorial level four years later in 1952 to cooperate two countries. The two countries have enjoyed close and friendly South-South cooperation with India Ethiopian developmental efforts while Ethiopia has supported Indian interests such as its claim to a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. India and Ethiopia share a common understanding on such issues as cross-border international terrorism, the need and direction for reform of the United Nations, and the importance of action on climate change.

## Trade Cooperation

Trade and people-to-people have been started in India and Ethiopia for almost two millennia beginning at the time of the Axumite Empire. Indians traded in silk, spices, gold and ivory with the Ethiopians in the 6th century and Portuguese assistance to the King of Ethiopia in the 16th century saw the arrival of people from Goa in Ethiopia. British interventions in Ethiopia in 1835 to free European diplomats imprisoned by Emperor Tewodros II under General Robert Napier and in 1941 that ended the Italian

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occupation both involved large contingents of Indian soldiers who fought as part of the British commanded forces. Ethiopia has also been home to a sizable Indian diaspora consisting of traders and artisans who settled down there in the latter half of the nineteenth century. During Emperor Haile Selassie's reign a large number of Indian teachers went to Ethiopia which has led to the development of significant goodwill towards India among the Ethiopians. The Siddi community on India's western coast are thought to be of Ethiopian descent. Bilateral trade cooperation between the two countries amounted to \$660 million in 2011-'12 and is expected to reach \$1 billion by 2015. Indian exports to Ethiopia consists of drugs and pharmaceuticals , steel , machinery, food items, plastic and linoleum products, paper, textiles, chemicals, transport equipment and steel. India's imports from Ethiopia include raw hides and skins, pulses, oil seeds, spices, leather and scrap metal . India is Ethiopia's second largest source of Foreign Direct Investments with investments amounting to \$5 billion. Indian investments in Ethiopia are expected to be worth \$10 billion by 2015 with India approving investments worth \$4.78 billion in 2011 this is the pillars of south south cooperation.

## Economic Cooperation

India and Ethiopia signed a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement in 2007 and a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement in 2011 to promote mutual trade and investments. At the Second India Africa Forum Summit, the then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced a \$300 million line of credit to help revive the Ethiopia-Djibouti rail route. This project however went to Chinese construction companies following delays on the Indian side in sanctioning the funds. The Duty Free Tariff Preference scheme that was announced at the summit allowing for imports from Least developed Countries into India has however had a positive impact on bilateral trade with the value of Ethiopian exports to India now reaching \$120 million. The balance of trade however continues to remain in India's favour. India has also extended \$710 million in

lines of credit to help in rural electrification and the revival of the sugar industry in Ethiopia. Technical cooperation India has agreed to cooperate with Ethiopia in the agricultural sector for the development of the meat and dairy sectors. To build human resource capacity, India trains Ethiopian diplomats and trade negotiators under its Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Program. The Indian Army is involved in training and developing a manual for the Ethiopian Army. The Pan-African e-Network project that India has undertaken to link African nations with each other and to India was launched on a pilot basis first in Ethiopia in 2007.

## Political Ties Cooperation

During the Italian invasion of Ethiopia , Jawaharlal Nehru made a stirring call for solidarity with Abyssinia , noting that "We in India can do nothing to help our brethren in distress in Ethiopia for we are also victims of imperialism but we stand with them today in their sorrow as we hope to stand together when better days come". Upon India's independence in 1947, it sent a goodwill mission to Ethiopia and diplomatic relations were established the following year. In 1950 the countries formalized their cooperation in diplomatic ties and Sardar Sant Singh was appointed India's first Ambassador to Ethiopia. The two countries have since exchanged several visits at the level of Heads of State with Emperor Haile Selassie for the cooperation Ethiopia with Indian, Col. Mengistu Haile Mariam and former Prime Minister Meles Zenawi paying state visits to India. Presidents S. Radhakrishnan and V V Giri , Vice President Zakir Hussain and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh have led Indian state visits to Ethiopia. Ethiopia's ties with India were especially strong under Prime Minister Meles Zenawi who was supportive of India seeing India's growth as to mutual benefit between two country for their economic growth. [2][6] Indian also working in capacity building programs our former Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and the country's first lady have both been educated in India. The second India-Africa Forum Summit was held at Addis Ababa in May 2011

which was attended by as many as 15 Heads of States of various African nations. This was also the first time India was hosting such an event abroad.

## Conclusion

Ethiopia and Indian long history in south south cooperation in development sectors this shows Indian one partner country for Ethiopia. I attempted to look this issue through the vectors of cooperation agreements between the two countries as well as their linkage through investment, trade and political aid. South south cooperation of Ethiopian and Indian can play great role to achieve developmental goals of the country. This cooperation has to be out come to shared goals and targets.

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# South-South Cooperation (SSC) Namibian Perspectives



**Kennedy Kaumba Mabuku\***

## Introduction

In today turbulent world lot has changed as the results of technology. The demands for healthy living, equal distribution of the resources, sharing of technology, skills, knowledge has also become the determinant factors in international relations. It cannot be contested that, most of the African countries were colonized by westerns countries, it is also true that Namibia being a part of African continent experienced colonization as well. During that time no tangible development took place, the resources were limited to the use of colonial masters. Education and sharing of knowledge could not be realized at the full scale. In order to address this, South-South cooperation (SSC) was initiated as a modality to enhance the utilization of the resources and for the countries of the south to work together in development aspects. To date, Namibia has benefited and still benefits from this cooperation. This narrative will look at the few aspects of South-South cooperation in Namibia and Indian Government's contribution to Namibian through south-south cooperation programmes.

## The Impact of South-South Cooperation In Namibia

The national strategic plan of the Republic of Namibia is the guiding document on all nation priorities. Namibia in its strategy plan Harambee prosperity plan entails amongst other pillar the food security. The developmental strategy plan emphasizes on the notion that no Namibian citizen

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should die of hunger while in Namibia. It has five pillars that entails effective governance, economic advancement, social progression, infrastructure development and international relation. In support of this, south-south cooperation touches the aspect of all developmental projects in the country. This is enhanced through international relations, which is very important element for the development of Namibia. With regard to the impact of SSC in Namibia, we can look at China.<sup>1</sup> In 2015, China as part of SSC trained few Namibians specifically those in the farming industry in the area of agricultural sectors. The reference can be made to the Etunda and Mashare farming project that employees many Namibians, 40 people were trained in the agricultural sector. This partnership yielded remarkable impact as their outputs has surpassed the inputs compared to previously experiences. Small scale farmers have indeed benefited as well. They reaped bumper harvest since they now have knowledge on farming conditions.

Those that attended the farming workshops, further shared the knowledge with others specifically those that could not get chance to be trained in farming. I can, fervently say that the knowledge sharing has been ongoing process, as the results we have seen great improvement on farm managements from many Namibian specifically those in the rural areas. As part of SSC, 2014 tripartite agreement with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and China has experienced great outputs in Namibia. Through this agreement, Namibia has seen the improvement on agricultural activities, mutual exchange on veterinary policies regulations and standards from Chinese expertise.<sup>2</sup>

## India Contribution to South-South Cooperation In Namibia

Contribution of India to south -south cooperation in Namibia cannot be overstated. The focus of South -South cooperation is driven by the national priority driven, the same hold true of India 's contribution to Namibian in the area of trade. Education and economic advancement

as part of national interest. <sup>3</sup>Current India Government provides 22 scholarships every year to deserving Namibian Citizens to pursue their studies in the different fields at various Indian universities. As a result of this partnership we have seen the increase in academicians in areas of medicine and research in Namibia. It is right to say that the relationship has brought about uncontested impact. The continuation of these projects not only enhance the bilateral relationship but, honouring the south-south cooperation and its mandates. With education comes knowledge and skills that are essential for development of any countries. As famously stated by nelson Mandela "education is the most powerful tool you can use to change the world". Because of this initiative Namibian has become beneficiary of knowledge, meanwhile the graduates from Indian universities has contributed well to the medical fraternity, research area and other fields has greatly improved also. As we are aware that the successful of any countries in its persuasion of developments depends heavily on the abilities of its people to comprehend research aspects. It is through research that changes can be made. In this regard, the Namibian nation is hugely greatly for the grand provided by Indian Governments through its scholarship programmes and ITEC programmes.

## Perspective of South-South Cooperation In Africa

Having lived in Africa for my entire life, experience has taught me that south-south cooperation has played an important role in developing African countries through various means. However, it is also true that along the area, few countries have exploited the resources of others in the name of south-south cooperation. Looking the many elements of south-south cooperation that guides the operation of the modalities it can be observed that not all countries subscribe to these principles. It is against this background, that some countries have operated outside the scope of would be the principles of South-South cooperation. In case of Namibia,

current there is an issue to downgrade Hosea Kutako International Airport due to its threats to security aspects. Aviation Association has indicated the willingness to downgrade the international Airport because it does not meet the requirements in the area of security. To this end, China has entered into the deal that would be South-South cooperation with Namibia to assist in funding. However, negotiation has been going on for years now.<sup>4</sup> There is strong interest of China to own some properties in Namibia as the results of the capability of funding the airport. To me this is not SSC, as mutual benefits cannot be seen in this regard. Not only Namibia but many African Countries have fallen victims of this economy superpower.

## Challenges of South-South Cooperation

Looking the condition imposed by the India government that once a person has completed his or her studies in India the beneficiary is required to work for the same organization years equivalent to those that he or she spent studying in India. To me this, it is conditionality. It is clear with South-South cooperation that there should not be any conditions. As stated earlier, this is one of the five principles of South-South cooperation's. This can be viewed as condition and therefore condition should not be part of any assistance as mutual benefits cannot be realized. We cannot deny the fact that these types of scholarship have assistance has helped Namibia in terms of capacity buildings. I can fervently attest that through these programme such as ITEC Namibian young people specifically those that has the opportunity to study in India has positioned themselves into global understanding of matters related to various discipline. It can be said also for now, that this commitment seems not to end, this has real improved the relationship between Namibia and India. Though it can be backdated to pre-colonial time when India assisted Namibian hugely in terms of technical and humanitarian aid that contributed to help people of Namibian to be liberated.

## Recommendations

### Lack of monitoring tools

I strongly feel the need to have mechanisms for control and monitoring the effectiveness of South-South cooperation. With monitoring at the central stage of South-South cooperation, the likelihood of commitment from each members' states is imminent. Monitoring could ensure that, all those countries that initiates projects in the name of South-South cooperation stays within the ambit of the principles set by the modality. They indeed operate within the principles of South-South cooperation. Without the monitoring mechanism, I strong believe that, the idea of South-South cooperation is not really meant for development and creation of wealth but mere a cooperation that contribute less in developmental project of those countries in the global south.

### Establishment of Structure

The other important aspect I see as a fundamental limit factors of the effectiveness and meaningful contributor to South-South cooperation is the lack of structure that regulates all affairs of south-south cooperation. It is high time that the entity can be given its new identity. For instance, as the results of South-South cooperation the BRICS was formed with the aims and objectives of promoting technological, information exchange among member country, improve education of BRICS nations, economic advancement, cooperation, bridging the gap between developed and developing countries climate change mitigations, cultural tie ups and assistance in projects, finances, and trade extension.<sup>5</sup> It is true, that BRICS has its own structure that regulates its operations.

## Conclusion

History has taught us that, the country of the west that are referred as developed countries today, tremendously cooperated in the different areas sharing the resources, skills, technologies and human capital. All these, fast-tracked the accelerations of their developmental projects. It cannot be contested that the countries of the south are interdependent from each other's. This

clearly shows that, strong cooperation is need in many developmental areas. When all countries of the south start realizing south south-south cooperation is changing the livelihood of people of the south, the sooner will experience the immense impacts of the south-south cooperation. Although China and India have been the leading role players in honouring south-south cooperation in Namibia, this has come up with some contraventions of the principles of SSC in some areas. If these gaps are addressed as earlier noted, the full realization of the SSC will be on board. In this article SSC cooperation issues were discussed specifically in the Namibian contexts in relation to India and China 's contributions.

#### Endnotes

1. [www.ris.org.in/pdf/nest/Namibia reap benefit from China South-South](http://www.ris.org.in/pdf/nest/Namibia reap benefit from China South-South)
2. [www.fao.org/namibia/news/detail-events/en/c/409200](http://www.fao.org/namibia/news/detail-events/en/c/409200)
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5. <https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-aims-and-objectives-of-BRICS>



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# The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and South South Cooperation



**Majd Mansour\***

South-South Cooperation has undergone main transformation over the past sixty years since the Bandung Conference in 1955. The rise of the middle-income developing countries as the new donors and technical assistance providers in the beginning of this millennium has reformed the landscape of the international development cooperation.

This study highlights some of ASEAN's successful initiatives that show how ASEAN Member States work together to achieve their common goals and serve as useful reminders of the benefit of South-South cooperation.

## Introduction

South-South cooperation (SSC) is defined by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) as an extensive framework for cooperation among countries of the South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains. Involving two or more developing countries, it can take place on a bilateral, regional, intraregional or interregional basis. Developing countries share knowledge, skills, expertise and resources to meet their development goals through concerted efforts.

South-South cooperation on development targets to observe several principles such as non-interference in internal affairs, equality among developing partners and respect for their independence, national sovereignty, national ownership, cultural diversity , mutual benefit identity and local content. South South Cooperation plays an important role in international development cooperation

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and is a respected complement to North-South cooperation.

**South-South cooperation (SSC)** is about developing countries working together to find solutions to common development challenges, the countries of the South have been active in sharing knowledge, exchanging technologies and forming common agenda and collective actions.

## The Association for South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

The Association for South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration), this Declaration was signed by the founding members of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Other Member States subsequently joined the Association. Brunei Darussalam was the first new member to joined in 1984. Viet Nam in 1995, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) in 1997, Myanmar also in 1997 and Cambodia in 1999.

In 2003, the Association's leaders resolved to establish a community based on three pillars which are security, the economy and socio-cultural issues. it was established also with the goal to foster economic growth, social progress and cultural development, while promoting regional peace and stability . In 2007, the ASEAN Charter was signed. The Roadmap for achieving the ASEAN Community comprising detailed blueprints for the three pillars was adopted in 2009 and is to be achieved by end of 2015.

In addition ASEAN Member States benefit from a variety of other regional and thematic actions in areas such as food security, climate change, environment ,higher education, disaster management, humanitarian assistance and scientific cooperation.

As a regional organization of ten Southeast Asian nations, the ASEAN represents a living example of South-South cooperation. Mutually beneficial cooperation has been the backbone of ASEAN .

## Indonesia and South-South Cooperation

Indonesia is considered a middle income country. This country plays a dynamic role in regional and global forums and discussions, is an important actor in the ASEAN community .

Indonesia has been sharing its knowledge and experience with other middle income and developing countries since the 1950s, and its role in South-South and Triangular Cooperation has grown considerably in recent years. The country is also becoming increasingly involved in Networks for Global Governance. Over the past few years ,it has taken further significant steps to contribute more strongly to South-South and triangular cooperation, and to improve the quality of its contribution. One of the drivers of this commitment is the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. In 2010, the Indonesian Government formed the National Coordination Team for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (NCT). Its tasks include coordinating the cooperation programmes, drafting cooperation arrangements with development partners, and monitoring and evaluating the programmes. In order to build on the achievements of the National Coordination Team, the Indonesian Government is also planning to establish a development agency.

## Malaysia and South South Cooperation

Malaysia's major initiative for South-South Cooperation was made prominent through the establishment of the Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program (MTCP). MTCP is synonymous with Mahathir even though the program was officially launched before his appointment as prime minister. Mahathir had the vision of the importance for the South to be economically and politically strong and independent, thus not having to be dependent on the West. Under Mahathir, Malaysia's foreign policy has changed from one that was definitely pro-Western and anti-Communist to one that is

openly identified with Third World concerns and aspirations.

It was during Mahathir's premiership that Malaysia sought to play a more prominent role in international affairs, especially at the United Nations, in the Commonwealth as well as among the developing countries in the context of South-South cooperation.

Since its inception, more than 2,000 participants from 136 countries have participated in the several programs managed under the MTCP annually. Today, the program continues to draw interest and participation from a multitude of countries, ranging from the African continent, Europe, Latin America, and Oceania.

In October 2009, Prime Minister Najib launched a UNESCO-Malaysia trust fund to enhance South-South Cooperation. This new initiative was focused to capacity building in education and science for the benefit of the Least Developed Countries, Small Island States and in support of the Priority Africa agenda.

Malaysia's assistance program was initiated with a small but noble goal of extending a hand in friendship – through training assistance and capacity building. This imperative continues to drive the MTCP and other Malaysian government's initiatives for South-South Cooperation.

## Cambodia and South-South Cooperation

Cambodia is situated in a 'good neighborhood', surrounded by fast-growing economies and middle income countries. These countries – including China, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore – have been able to provide support related to key sectors and reforms, including infrastructure, agriculture, health, education and public sector management. Beyond the sub-region, Cambodia has also received support from India (agriculture, water, power, preservation of monuments), Brazil (agriculture), Russia (drug control), Hungary (agriculture, fisheries), Kuwait (water) and Qatar (agriculture). As a provider of expertise on a South-South basis, Cambodia

has also been able to support other developing countries in fields such as mine action and aid management.

## Singapore and South-South Cooperation

Singapore is also involved in South-South Cooperation in several ways. In cooperation with different international organizations such as the Colombo Plan, TICA and JICA, Singapore provides training opportunities to its partner countries. So far, 75,000 officials from different countries have been trained under the "Singapore Third Country Programme" and about half of the trainees were from the Colombo Plan member countries. Singapore gives priority to the training programmes in the area of private sector development, climate change, water management, urban development and so on.

In 2017, Singapore signed an memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Argentina on Technical Cooperation to share their respective strengths in areas such as Smart Nation Initiatives and food safety. Singapore started off with a pilot course on "Smart Nation Initiatives" in home country that brought together experts and trainers from Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and Argentina's Ministry of Modernization to share their experiences with 22 participants from the Southeast Asian region with the goal to leverage on technological solutions for sustainable development.

## The Philippines and South-South Cooperation

The Philippines established the Philippines Technical Cooperation program which is based on the principles of SSC, particularly mutual benefit reciprocity and cooperative development among developing countries, this program employs non degree training as primary mode of knowledge exchange and capacity building ,and it covers areas where the Philippines had developed the experience and also the expertise related to its own development strategy and priorities. The

Philippines uses two strategies to expand the development outcomes of its program through cooperation with other ASEAN member countries and by participating in triangular cooperation sponsored by aid agencies of foreign aid donors such as JICA, New Zealand Aid and Development Agency(NZAID)

## Conclusion

ASEAN has been a strong South-South cooperation (SSC) association over the last five decades and it represents one of the most dynamic and fast-growing regions in the world with a comprehensive forward-looking agenda towards regional integration.. The ASEAN logo of ten brown sheaves of rice stalks, captures the essence of South-South Cooperation in ASEAN that ten sheaves are stronger than one.

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# Poland's Experience in Creating Development Cooperation Policy – from a Recipient to a Donor



Grzegorz Mazur\*

## Introduction

At the beginning of the 1990s Poland entered a multidimensional process of transformation from a communist system to a free market economy and democracy. Initiated at that time economic and political reforms were mainly aimed at the liberalization of the economy, privatization of the state-owned enterprises and gradual liberalization of trade flows as well as building fundamental rules of democratic system. The transformation of Polish economy and political system had been strongly supported by the European Community (EC) and correlated with the gradual economic integration with the EC. Starting from the beginning of the 1990s Poland had become one of the biggest beneficiaries of European funds addressed to Central and East European (CEE) countries willing to join the EC in future (mainly Phare<sup>1</sup>; since the end of 1990s also SAPARD<sup>2</sup> and ISPA<sup>3</sup>). Aims of those programmes were to facilitate transformation and assist the candidate countries in the preparation for accession. Transformation efforts have been finally crowned on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2004 when Poland and nine<sup>4</sup> other countries joined the European Community. The membership of those countries in the EC/EU has induced full and active participation in all EU policies, including the EU's assistance to less developed countries. This was also a moment when acceding countries from Central and Eastern Europe became active donors and participants of the EU's Development Co-operation Policy.

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The general aim of the paper is to define main challenges faced by Poland in the process of building the framework of development co-operation policy and evolving from a country being one of the most important beneficiaries of structural funds to an active and growing donor of development support.

## Constructing Poland's Development Co-operation Policy – main challenges

Although Poland, together with other countries of the CEE region, had some experience in delivering development assistance to other countries before the 1990s, this co-operation had rather ideological character and was addressed to those developing countries that shared and supported communist ideology (Yemen, Mongolia, Vietnam and Cambodia). In this regard Poland's historical pre-1990s experience could not be utilized as fundamentals for modern development co-operation policy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The collapse of communist political and economic system had led to a drastic reduction of the assistance addressed by Poland to other countries. Moreover, the country – being in difficult social and economic situation in the late 1980s or early 1990s - became to some extent a 'competitor' for other developing countries in applying for development assistance from developed world, including fore mostly European Community and its member states.

The success of transformation and dynamic growth of Polish economy had caused that Poland in mid-1990s started to deliver – at the beginning on a limited scale – development assistance to other developing countries. However, more integrated actions in creating coherent and comprehensive frameworks for development co-operation had been initiated at the end of the 1990s and were strongly related to Poland's preparations for membership in the European Union. The process of integration with the EU required from the country many new commitments in the area of development cooperation, including legal, organizational and financial aspects.

The first fundamental challenge was to found a **legal framework** for actions undertaken in the area of development co-operation, including fore mostly a coherent national strategy describing priorities, rules and actions of development co-operation. Although all actions and documents had to be fully coherent with a strategy and documents adopted at the EU that were a valuable benchmark for other countries, newly adopted strategies in CEE countries raised some doubts. Those mostly referred to insufficiently expressed references to poverty eradication as a strategic aim of development assistance. It was interpreted as a result of lower (than in West European countries) engagement in development co-operation in the least developed countries (LDC). CEE countries addressed their development assistance more to South and East European countries that needed support in such areas as strengthening democracy, human rights or regional security. Among other doubts raised in reference to the strategic documents of CEE countries was insufficient transparency of rules determining priority partners for development co-operation. Decisions on that were mostly results of political strategies rather than clear economic and social criteria. Another critical aspect applied to slow implementation of new legislation in other areas related to development co-operation (e.g. public finances, tax regulations).

In case of Poland, the "Strategy for Poland's Development Co-Operation" was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2003. The vision and priorities of Poland's development co-operation are based on principles of democracy, good governance, respect for human rights and solidarity. Moreover, the country considers its own experience in economic, social and political transformation as a comparative advantage in its development co-operation. In reference to a legal framework in 2011 the Polish Parliament adopted the Development Cooperation Act being a fundamental guide and tool for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in building cross-government ownership of the aid programme.

In the aftermath of adopted Act of 2011, Poland prepared for the first time the Multiannual

Development Co-operation Programme (MDCP) 2012-2015 that included stronger geographic and thematic focus of Poland's development co-operation. The second MDCP was adopted for 2016-2020. The current multiannual programme 2016-2020 defined six following thematic priorities reflecting Polish expertise and comparative advantage: good governance, democracy and human rights, human capital, entrepreneurship and private sector, sustainable agriculture and rural development as well as environmental protection. In addition, the MDCP indicated - on the basis of five criteria (development needs, implementation of development cooperation, bilateral cooperation, cohesion with EU measures and security) - also priority partners. Those are 4 countries of Eastern Partnership (Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) and 8 countries from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East (Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon, Myanmar, Palestine, Senegal, Tanzania and Uganda).

The second fundamental challenge in building Poland's development co-operation policy was to develop **institutional framework**, which was necessary for effective implementation of undertaken commitments and adopted priorities. Problems that had to be addressed in the initial phase of creating policy were the dispersion of competences among different institutions and the shortage (both in number and skills) of human resources/experts in designing and implementing effective development co-operation. However, the Polish Government did not decide - as some other countries of the region did (Czech Republic, Slovakia) - to found a special executive development agency. In consequence, the country created a special department within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). This has been confirmed by the Development Cooperation Act of 2011 that gave the MFA and its Department of Development Cooperation a leading role in defining strategic priorities and coordinating the system of Polish development co-operation. However, as it was stressed in the OECD Peer Reviews (2017), Poland is still in the early stages of developing a whole-of-government approach in providing assistance to partner countries. Moreover, achieving the optimal organizational

set-up, systems, procedures and key capabilities for delivering aid remain an issue for Poland. Although since 2011 human resource management has been evolving at the MFA (specialization and more experienced staff), the Ministry has limited resources to recruit expertise. As recommended in the mentioned OECD Reviews, Poland should also make a greater effort to bring different parts of the aid system together and draw on technical capacity throughout the system.

Beside legal and institution aspects of development co-operation, Poland had to undertake relevant **financial commitments**. In 2016 Poland provided USD 663 million in net official development assistance (ODA)<sup>5</sup>. It means an increase of more than 50% compared to 2015 (USD 441 million). ODA as a share of gross national income (GNI) also grew from 0.10% in 2014 to 0.15% in 2016. Although the growth in relative terms seems to be very high, Poland did not fulfill its commitments of spending 0.33% ODA/GNI in 2015. As in May 2015 EU countries reaffirmed its commitment to increase collective ODA to 0.7% of EU GNI before 2030, the specific target of 0.33% ODA/GNI for Poland (and other CEE countries that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007) was also re-confirmed. Poland has also committed to increase ODA for least developing countries to reach 50% of its total ODA, but meeting this commitment will be a challenge. That would require expanding ODA for bilateral aid and reallocation of Polish aid to its geographical priorities (nowadays priority partners are still not the most important recipients of the Polish ODA).

Further increase in Poland's ODA and fulfillment of adopted targets will be strongly determined by public<sup>6</sup> and political support, giving the government legitimacy to allocate more resources to development co-operation, and growing awareness of global problems affecting Poland such as migration and climate changes. It should be also mentioned that ca. ¾ of Poland's ODA has been distributed via multilateral channels (mostly contributions to the EU actions) and only ¼ through bilateral projects. This is a characteristic feature of many CEE countries that the share of multilateral aid channels is

relevantly higher than bilateral ones (in some of the region's countries even close to 100%). This is to some extent a result of relatively short experience of those countries in providing ODA (and therefore building their own independent bilateral channels of development co-operation) as well as the lack of historical/colonial links with developing countries, as in the case of many other EU countries.

## Conclusion

Although Poland has made a big progress in creating its development co-operation policy and in 2013 joined the OECD Development Assistance Committee, confirming its role as an aid donor, some challenges still should be addressed in making the policy more effective and coherent. Further efforts should be especially concentrated in: integrating development co-operation and other international commitments on sustainable development, clarifying institutional roles and ensuring appropriate resources and institutional capacity for conducting development co-operation, improving institutional efficiency as well as defining a strategic approach meeting the needs of different partners. A challenged of great importance is also to increase funding for ODA to meet re-confirmed obligations in ODA/GNI by 2030.

## Endnotes

1. Poland and Hungary: Assistance for Restructuring their Economies
2. Special Accession Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development
3. Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accesion
4. The "Eastern Enlargement" (2004) included 8 countries from Central and Eastern Europe (Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia) as well as Cyprus and Malta.

5. In 2016 five biggest beneficiaries of Polish ODA were: Ethiopia (USD 42 million), Ukraine (USD 21 million), Tanzania (USD 22 million), Belarus (USD 19 million) and Turkey (USD 18 million).
6. A survey conducted in 2015 found that 65% of Polish people support development co-operation for least developed countries

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# South- South Cooperation and Kenya: An Appreciation



Nardine Masitsa Musambayi\*

*As per the mandate of Palestine International Cooperation Agency, "No country is poor enough not to give anything to another, and no country is rich enough not to accept from another."*

## Introduction

The above quotation anchors the salience of South-South Cooperation. Core here is the appreciation of residual contributions states however rich or poor in capital can contribute to a collective well being. Indeed, the idea of South- South Cooperation (SSC) is rooted in the desire by states considered underdeveloped to cooperate to engender mutual transformation. This inclination to forge collective cooperation, was in response to apparent economic and technological modes of exclusion practiced by countries in the north. Cooperation among southern countries here was to be based on principles of Respect for national sovereignty; National ownership and independence; Mutual respect and equality; Non- conditionality; Non-interference in internal matters of each other. Mutual benefit, constitutes the distinctive principle of South-South Cooperation.

This paper recapitulates on South-South Cooperation, with the Kenyan experience as a point of reference. It specifically seeks to respond to two questions: How can we characterize Kenya's socio-economic and political experience in relation to the South -South cooperation?;

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and How best can this be enhanced for the mutual benefit of this cooperation? This paper argues that South-South Cooperation provides Kenya with an alternative mode of state development and support based on mutual respect. This cooperation has the potential of enhancing Kenya's development while providing critical diplomatic support and should thus be enhanced. To this extent, this paper is organized around three parts. The first examines Kenya's economic and political cooperation activities within south-south cooperation. The second part examines opportunities for enhancing these cooperative activities. The third, provides a conclusion.

## South- South Cooperation in Kenya: An Appreciation

The origin of SSC can be credited to the Bandung Conference (Asian-African Conference), which in 1955 brought together representatives of 29 Asian and African nations in Bandung, Indonesia, to discuss the potential for collaboration among developing countries. In the beginning it was called Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), and was closely related to Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC).

The second period marks the end of TCDC among developing countries in Buenos Aires in September 1978, and the Millennium Summit in the UN headquarters in September 2000. Foreign trade suffered in developing countries during this period, and had resulted in negotiations leading to the General System of Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP), which was launched in 1988 following the Uruguay Round of 1986. The Uruguay Round has been the greatest trade negotiation to date.

The third period (2000-2009) experiences a shift as there was more global effort and encouragement to work against poverty. The Millennium Declaration of 2000 and the Monterrey Consensus on Development Financing of 2002, encouraged states to put their efforts into the most disadvantaged countries mainly in Africa. Therefore, a lot of aid was directed to African

countries. During this period, countries of the south also experienced classification as either Least Developed Countries, Middle Income Countries or Emerging Countries.

The fourth and final period, 2009-2013, sees a renewed strength in activities related to SSC, even though this period first experienced the profound international economic crisis in 2008. The international community experienced a major blow to their economies and this in turn naturally affected the economies of countries of the South.

Kenya's contribution to SSC was highlighted in 2009 at the UN High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation. The commitments made in 1978 were reasserted and gathered in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), and the continuous promotion of SSC by all the stakeholders involved was reaffirmed. This high level conference stressed that SSC should be viewed as more of an expression of solidarity and less of an aid strategy. Developing countries were also encouraged to promote SSC while improving on accountability, evaluation and transparency.

The final text of this Conference was formally known as the Nairobi Outcome Document, and by adopting it, the participants recognized the increasing power of South- South Cooperation since the Buenos Aires meeting. This document invited developed countries to increase their participation in triangular arrangements, primarily in capacity-building and training, and to uphold their official development assistance (ODA) commitments.

The document further stressed that SSC was a compliment to North-South Cooperation (NSC) and not its substitute. It also encouraged developing countries to evaluate the effectiveness of South-South and triangular Cooperation and promote the development of methods which would enhance better national coordination mechanisms and share with each other the lessons learned during this process. Through the Nairobi Outcome, the participants reaffirmed that SSC differed from ODA, as it was a partnership among equals and was based on solidarity, therefore no country was superior to another even if it was the donor of the aid.

Kenya is a member of three Africa Regional Economic communities, EAC, COMESA and IGAD and is part of the East African Power Pool and the Nile Basin Initiative. Under the World Bank Institute, Kenya is engaged in seven South-South learning initiatives: **1.** Gender mainstreaming with India; **2.** Business skills development with Sub-Saharan African countries and Singapore; **3.** Skills in Information and Communications technology with India, Korea and the Philippines; and **4.** With China it has the remaining three, that is; Improving infrastructure and special economic zones in Africa; Improving Water and Soil Conservation in Africa to enhance sustainable agriculture and poverty reduction efforts; **and** Increasing capacity to generate certified emissions reduction credits through registering projects for Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism.

Kenya is one of the 15 African countries involved in the 'Total Quality Management for better hospital services' programme within the Asia- Africa Knowledge Co-Creation Programme (AAKCP) hosted by JICA. It is also involved in competence sharing amongst NGO partners in South and East Africa, agriculture practice learning with South Africa, Educational Reforms with Tanzania as well as Water Management with India.

Kenya also realized an opportunity to improve trade relations between itself and Cuba. Recently, Kenyan government officials stated that there would be negotiations on aviation connections between the two countries, as well as MOUs on trade. A diplomatic briefing on Cuba showed trade had been low because of distance, language barrier, the fact that the two countries mostly export similar products such as sugar, tobacco and lack of direct cargo haulage facilities between the two. To rectify this challenge, records showed Kenya imported goods worth K.Sh.8.3 million from Cuba, mainly Cuban cigars and alcohol. According to the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the highest trade volume between the two was in 2010 when it hit K.Shs. 2 billion.

To improve on this cooperation, the briefing suggested implementation of MoUs signed in 2016 when Kenya established an embassy in Havana. In 2016, the two countries agreed on health cooperation where Cuba was to open up its pharmaceutical products to Kenyans. They also agreed to launch a language exchange programme where certain bureaucrats from the two sides could learn each other's language. Cubans mainly speak Spanish while Kenya's official language is English. Trade officials also sought for a possible connection of flights between Havana and Nairobi. Cuba currently has some connections to West Africa, where Kenya Airways flies. These perspectives reflect a departure from the previous relations between Kenya and Cuba, when Cuba, then under Fidel Castro, sent assistance to Africa mainly through military support to freedom fighters and medical humanitarian assistance in times of disasters like Ebola.

Kenya also wanted Cuba to train some of Kenya's doctors (this is currently being done) and allow pharmaceutical companies to set up shop in Kenya, to help lower the cost of healthcare. In exchange, Kenya would support Cuba's call for the total removal of US Sanctions imposed on it the 1960s during the Cuban Missile crisis. These sanctions were partially removed in 2016 when the United States and Cuba re-established diplomatic relations. But the current United States administration vowed to roll them back.

## South -South Cooperation: Options and Rational for Enhanced Participation

Kenya's economy is quite strong when compared with other economies in Africa, however, there are still some gaps in the resources Kenya has at her disposal, such as in capacity building at various levels like in public education, information collection and circulation and equipment such as in the medical sector. However, there is a lot of positivity though as some of these gaps are already being addressed in Vision 2030. Further, Kenya is developing programs to foster private sector participation in infrastructure investments

to help address the funding gap in the sector. The World Bank Group has provided \$90 million to kick-start Kenya's public-private partnership (PPP) programs. This has resulted in a new PPP law, stronger government capacity to manage PPPs, and a solid pipeline of projects in roads, health, and water and sanitation that will advance Kenya's social and economic goals. In addition to this, better coordination between institutions and enhanced capacity in implementation and upscaling, will allow Kenya to realize even more of her development goals.

Kenya has also remained receptive to requests to contribute to peace operations based on the consent of the parties in the host state, such as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which Kenyan forces joined in 2012. Kenya has deployed troop contingents to among others, the UN Transition Assistant Group (UNTAG) in Namibia, the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia, the two UN missions in Liberia (UNOMIL and UNMIL), the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). It has also deployed military observers to a number of missions including those in Namibia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kuwait, Western Sahara, Mozambique, Rwanda and Angola. Kenya's military cooperation, enhances the prospects of obtaining development aid and other forms of support from major powers and other bilateral donors.

## Conclusion

South-South Cooperation is largely about initiating connection between countries and guarantees new fields of cooperation such as *Fiber Optics*, transfer of technologies, capital, trade, medicine especially generic medicine that is cheap and has helped the fight of H.I.V is from India, which also offers medical treatment. SSC allows the countries involved to learn from each other's

best practices, and share knowledge and resources in order to directly contribute to better policy formation in their countries, so as to effectively and sustainably meet their development goals. This cooperation involving two or more countries can take place on a bilateral, regional, sub regional or interregional basis.

The conversation surrounding SSC and its viability in the long term has now become more significant as more developing countries are embracing the idea dealing with the issues facing their countries by adopting or creating solutions internally that better suit their needs, as well as continually embracing the need for enhanced cooperation among themselves. Further, the Asia-Pacific region has the capacity to impact on all sectors of economic development across the country, be it mining in *Kakamega* and *Kwale*, boats in *Lamu*, Avocados in central Kenya, flowers, animals and meat, ICT, health, security, infrastructure, among others.

However, as with any endeavor, Kenya does face a significant infrastructure financing deficit estimated at \$2.1 billion annually, which constrains growth and development. Sustained expenditures of almost \$4 billion per year will be required to meet the country's infrastructure needs. With public debt standing at 57 percent of GDP, this deficit cannot be met by public resources. The country needs to mobilize the private sector and local currency to finance infrastructure needs. The World Bank Group estimates that increasing infrastructure financing could improve Kenya's per capita growth rate by three percentage points.

South-South Cooperation is indispensable, as development here is not about charity but more about interconnectivity. SSC is of the philosophy that a challenge is not just a challenge for a single country alone as it tends to have more of a ripple effect on other countries as well, and therefore it is quite important that we operate as countries with each other in solidarity, as this solidarity contributes to a people's well-being, their self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed sustainable development goals.

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# The Conditionality in North- South Cooperation and Un-conditionality in SSC: Palestine as case study



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## Introduction

Foreign aid is one of the most important international issues for discussion and research, considering its various political, economic and social aspects. While some recipient countries have not achieved positive results and benefited from them; others have benefited from the aid processes more, and countries as third party benefited partially.

Due to the conflicting results, there is a wide debate among economists that, for the time being, those who support the continuation of aid and those calling for its abolition. This has led to the emergence of a radical system of International cooperation in South - South Cooperation (SSC). As a result of these conflicting claims and it is important to investigate these effects on the Palestinian economy, also the countries that received a large proportion of foreign aid.

This paper will examine the foreign aid through the existing North-South Cooperation (NSC), and its conditionality impact on the Palestinian economy, and try to measure the measurable variables to conclude the effect. As well as to compare the NSC with the SSC which is being applied by the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency.

## Foreign aid as North South Cooperation

The Foreign aid received through NSC has conditionalities of structural change which have economic and political

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connotations for the recipient country. This kind of aid contradicts with the SSC strategy, which emphasises on mutual benefits of the participating developing countries of the south. Most of the NSC includes several obstacles or challenges for the receiving country such as, interference in the states internal political affairs. For instance, in Palestine due to the Israeli occupation the NSC programs or projects, do have a vetting system of professionals being employed by the international agencies. These conditionalities also interfere in states international political affairs. For example in the United Nation Security Council sessions, countries votes or position might differ based on the aid the country is receiving, even if the position is against its manners or values.

One of the most important challenges in the NSC or foreign aid is the conditions that are being imposed during the implementation phase of the projects. In Palestine, several projects are being implemented without tangible outcomes, because of the conditionality of the received aid. Most of the aid is focused on capacity building, strategic planning, and very minor aspects or fields which are not the needed fields, and do not fit in or meet in the National priorities; on the contrary it fits in the foreign aid providing country agenda. Nonetheless the NSC projects or the project which are being implemented are high cost project, due to the administrative costs which the donor send employees from his/her behalf to conduct the projects are needed but due to a high range salaries, and administrative costs. Only the residual portion of this aid budget goes to the on ground/ or the field implementation.

## Solutions and recommendations for the Conditional aid

Solutions to the NSC conditionality, and recommendations, can vary between states, furthermore, it can be similar in several cases. It is important to link any aid or any cooperation to be meeting the state national priorities, which will maintain the development process in the recipient partner stats. In addition to impose the state development priorities on all the donors so they

can plan their agenda and program in parallel with the state national agenda and priorities, as a way to accommodate their professional experts in the countries' needs. Also to set a national unified process or an institution which moderate and facilitate the funded projects or organization to be following a specific national criteria which is based on the Countries' national priorities and strategic plans, to help in monitoring and evaluating every single project and have a sustained projects and achieve the needed goals of all the spent grants.

## South –South Cooperation the case of the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) experience

The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA), established by a Presidential decree by President Mahmoud Abbas on January 2016, is the main public diplomacy tool of the State of Palestine, as a national coordinator for South-South and North-South Cooperation.

PICA transfers Palestinian knowhow to countries of the South, in the form of development and technical assistance. Its creation is guided by a national responsibility towards the international community and is an expression of gratitude and appreciation for the support given to the State of Palestine, over the years.

Guided by a vision of solidarity through development, the State of Palestine seeks to mobilize its skilled human resources to provide technical assistance to support partner countries in responding to crises and tackling development challenges with the aim of promoting South-South Cooperation and realizing the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

In order to work towards this vision, the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) was created as the development cooperation arm of Palestinian foreign policy with specific attention given to supporting developing countries across and beyond the Arab region.

PICA envisions that sustainable development becomes a reality through cooperation and solidarity within a just and prosperous international community.

That overall vision informs the objectives, principles, priorities, partnerships and delivery mechanisms proposed in this strategy. In turn, it also drives the human and financial resources that are vital for PICA to be able to deliver on its objectives. PICA's vision is to contribute towards this vision by forging a new humanitarian-development partnership between the State of Palestine and other developing countries, anchored in sharing and co-creating proven solutions for building resilience. The Mission: contributing to Palestine as an agent of positive change in the World. The mission is to deploy the human capital of the Palestinian people to design and implement sustainable development solutions through South-South Cooperation that contributes to achieving the 2030 Agenda. To deliver its mission, PICA taps into Palestinian human resources located in local and international institutions, including academic researchers, students and volunteers, the private sector, NGO community, as well as the Palestinian expatriate community.

PICA seeks to enhance social and international development through the exchange of expertise, using Palestinian knowhow in multiple sectors and engaging in a dynamic exchange of good practices rather than a traditional donor-recipient relationship. PICA also plays a vital role in exercising solidarity on international level by executing bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation initiatives leading to improved living standards and strengthened resilience across the world.

The mission of PICA will contribute directly to advancing Agenda 2030 and its Global Goals for Sustainable Development (the SDGs). In specific PICA will contribute to SDGs 3, 4, 6, 7, 11& 16 and other goals as agreed with local and International partners.

## PICA role in SSC

PICA has already experimented with implementation, yielding early results in some countries in Africa and Latin-America. While this reflects an early geographic focus on those two regions, PICA has also seized a number of other opportunities across different geographic regions.

In total PICA has 21 projects, since 2016, covering 17 countries, across all regions. In addition, 12 bilateral development cooperation initiatives between PICA and other development agencies have been signed (with Turkey, Tunisia, Belgium, Morocco, Thailand, Poland, Sri Lanka and Chile among others), and 1 trilateral cooperation initiative (with Tunisia and Morocco).

PICA will in certain cases give priority to countries where, as part of a triangular cooperation partnership, an international donor approaches PICA with already-funded proposals for deployments or other technical assistance that will draw on PICA's comparative strengths.

PICA has four main pillars or thematic focus:

### **1. Relief and humanitarian Fast Responses**

- Palestinian Rapid Response and Rescue Team

### **2. Technical Cooperation and voluntary Programme – Public Private sector (PPS)**

- Agriculture
- Health
- Education
- Volunteers
- Publich Private sector

### **3. Foster Investment opportunities**

- Promote investment opportunities across foreign markets
- Advocate for Palestinian investors (including Palestinian in Diaspora) investing in global PICA-supported projects

### **4. Policy Leadership**

- OIC roadmap formulation
- Resilience& humanitarian development nexus
- Development effectiveness

PICA after 2 years of its creation was able to implement and be part of the South-South Cooperation arena, and some of the Missions are:

- **Palestinian Rapid Response and Rescue Mission to Dominica, September 2017**

PICA coordinated for a Palestinian Rapid Response and Rescue Team to be sent to Dominica in the immediate aftermath of hurricanes Irma & Maria. This mission was deployed under the direction of H.E President Mahmoud Abbas and consisted of 36 members, including specialized doctors, rescuers, paramedics, civil defense members, humanitarian relief and shelter experts, to actively participate in the international relief efforts in the region.

- **Palestinian expert team to Mauritania:**

With the aim of supporting Mauritanian communities and initiate the implementation of development cooperation between Palestine and Mauritania as well as to start the implementation of the "Solidarity through Development in Africa" program, PICA led its first mission to Mauritania in November 2016 in cooperation with Islamic Development Bank IDB and UNDP.

Over a period of twelve days, a Palestinian team consisting of six agriculture engineers from the Palestinian ministry of agriculture, eleven doctors from the Palestinian ministry of health, and one renewable energy expert in addition to two journalists engaged with Mauritanian counterparts

The results were clear: a medical team conducted more than 109 surgeries and 1061 medical examinations, an agricultural team passed on the knowledge of economic empowerment in the field of agriculture to the Mauritanian side through introducing methods for planting new crops, and renewable energy expertise was transferred to ensure solar systems for irrigation and cooling greenhouses were introduced and applied.

## Conclusion

Traditionally, aid and development support have come from developed country sources, such as European, and North American Countries. Over the last few years there has been a broader framework for Development Cooperation which sees developing countries taking a more prominent role in the donor line-up. South-South Cooperation is managed by the developing countries themselves with active participation in the process from government, public and private sector actors, academia, institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) amongst others. The nations of the South have been ever more vigorous in cooperating with each other in terms knowledge sharing, technology exchange, and common program formation and collective action initiation. Consequently, SSC aims to stimulate self-reliance among the countries of global south and to reinforce their economic relationships. By empowering SSC we can make sure that 'NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND'.



# Zambia Agriculture Sector – Potential Growth And Increased Participation in South-South Corporation



**Maria Mitiyao Mwale - Ntembwa\***

## Preface

South - South Cooperation, a cooperation of countries who after the second world war had lower development than countries in the north, best explained in its principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership, independence, equality, non - conditionality, non - interference and mutual benefit. The modalities for South - South Cooperation include assisting each other through capacity building, technological transfer, Financial assistance through Grants, Lines of Credit and also through Humanitarian assistance<sup>1</sup>.

## Introduction

Zambia's inspiration for the notion of South -South Cooperation lies in her history. Not unlike Mahatma Gandhi, (Indian Nationalist Leader) who linked peace and prosperity, African leaders like Kwame Nkrumah at the independence of Ghana, linked Ghana's political independence in 1957 stating that her independence would be meaningless without the total liberation of Africa. Likewise Zambia's first President Dr Kenneth Kaunda is quoted in April 1966 as stating " Zambia will not be independent and free until the rest of Africa is Free"<sup>2</sup>

This for Zambia was the birth of her contribution to the freedom struggle of Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. The contribution was not without a cost to the newly independent state which was

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struggling to develop socially, economically and also striving to develop human resource capacity with only 107 University graduates, 287<sup>3</sup> at the time of attaining independence.

## Zambia's Contribution to South - South Cooperation

Zambia has from time in memorial practised and adhered to the Principles of South - South Cooperation even before the notion was thus defined by Developing Countries.

From the time after her independence, Zambia through its leadership recognized that her independence was not removed from the Political and economic independence of her neighbours and as such she played a major role in the attainment of liberation of countries of the region namely Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique, and South Africa<sup>4</sup>. This did not come without a cost of lives and resources to the country but it was felt strongly by the leadership then that without collective political independence economic liberation would be a fallacy.

## India-Zambia Relations and Cooperation

India and Zambia have exchanged high level visits from the time of Zambia's independence, with Late President Indira Gandhi visiting Zambia 3 times from 1964 and the Zambian President Dr Kenneth Kaunda visiting India more than 10 times. There have been several other exchanged visits by high level officials from both countries.

Other major contributions include training in field of Medicine, Military and trade. Major imports for Zambia include drugs and Pharmaceuticals, Technical expertise through training in programs through ITEC and Military field<sup>5</sup> with Training of Zambia Defence Chiefs and 300 Officers trained at India Defence Institutions. Zambia exports to India non ferrous metals, Copper and Ore, Semi Precious stones.<sup>6</sup>

## South - South Cooperation

Zambia has benefited from countries like China that helped build major infrastructure such as the Tanzania Zambia Railways, also referred to as TAZARA Railways, that is a joint country railway between Tanzania and Zambia linking a land locked Zambia to Tanzania that has access to the sea.

In more recent times, Zambia has found herself participating in activities of capacity building especially in the areas of education where trained teachers from Zambia have been recruited to work in countries such as Botswana to assist in the teaching of teachers to carry the mantle, this exercise was in the early 1980s to late 1990s when it was felt that Botswana had built her capacity in education and sufficient local capacity and the locals could train the different levels of school starting from primary to university levels. In 2018 Zambia has sent on request of the Government of Seychelles through the Zambian Mission Accredited to Seychelles 300 teachers from the Government of Zambia payroll have been sent as expatriates to Seychelles on request for assistance in the education, starting with English teachers to science teachers as well as primary school students<sup>7</sup>.

Other areas of cooperation extend to health sector where Cuban doctors and Indian doctor have assisted in the areas of Health.

Zambia has also in recent times been able to assist through maize exports and contributions to countries which have been affected by drought and natural disasters. In the recent times Zambia has assisted Zimbabwe and Malawi through humanitarian aid. Exports in Maize have also extended to east African countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi.

## Agriculture As A Critical Area Requiring South - South Cooperation

While recognizing that Zambia's major Industry is the Copper industry contributing 12% of

the country's GDP and 70% of the Zambia's total export<sup>8</sup> The Agricultural sector provides an opportunity to increase both at micro and macro level increased participation for economic growth. Notwithstanding the fact that the copper industry would also contribute more if the export of copper was encouraged to incorporate value addition so that the earnings would be increased but this would be another important subject for another interrogation. Improved agriculture sector impacts directly on food security, which has been redefined as "involving the strengthening the livelihood security for all members within a household by ensuring both physical and economic access to balanced diet, including the needed micronutrients, safe drinking water, environmental sanitation, basic health care and primary education"<sup>9</sup>

## Gender Dimension To Agricultural Sector

The agricultural sector has been selected as an area that would contribute at various levels of the economy both at micro and at macro levels. There is political will to increase participation in Agriculture with major policies such as policy in Land Sector to improve land allocation to women, who are seen as having the potential to contribute through farming activities. The current land policy encourages women to own land thus giving an opportunity to women to actively participate in the agricultural sector. The land policy states that 40% of land should be allocated to women<sup>10</sup>. In Zambia women are active participants in growing maize and vegetables for household consumption and further investment into women in agricultural directly impacts into reducing poverty at household level.

## Addressing Youth Unemployment And Rural Urban Migration

This sector would also assist in addressing the challenges of youth unemployment that poses a security challenge to Zambia. While the formal sector employs a limited number of youths this sector enhances the chances of

youths participating in the national economy by producing crops both for local and export and also creating the much needed income for the country.

Rural urban migration has been a challenge for the country and the Region as a whole as youths leave the rural areas to look for "better" livelihood in the urban areas. The end result in most cases is that this puts a strain on social amenities resulting in bulging shanty compounds which are unplanned and therefore not serviced encouraging rise in social disease.

Investment into farming in the rural areas would reduce the numbers of youths seeking job in towns as they would be able to create produce food for themselves and the community at large.

## Positive Contribution To Environment

Agriculture sector also presents an opportunity to address the environmental challenges through planting of trees alongside farming.

This addresses and contributes towards the attainment of SGD 13 on Climate Action.

Unlike other sectors that impact negatively on the environment such as like the copper industry that leads directly to environmental degradation, the agriculture sector creates a positive outlook in the efforts to address SDG 13 on climate action.

## Addressing Sustainable Development Goals N01 Of "No Poverty" And Sdg 2 "Zero Hunger"

A country that grows enough food to feed itself clearly will be addressing the SDG Number 1 that seeks to eradicate poverty by the year 2030 this also works towards addressing SDG Number 2 on Zero Hunger.

Zambia currently exports Maize to neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo Malawi, Zimbabwe and has in the recent past exported to Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda.

## Requirement For South – South Cooperation Assistance

Zambia has a comparative advantage in the Agricultural sector through the availability of arable land, availability of water, through water sources and various water bodies, human resource and favourable weather conditions.

The challenges lie in the lack of adequate capital to the Small scale famers that are the major contributors to this sector, reliance on Rain for the production of maize resulting in only one production per year as opposed to the possible 2 to 3 planting seasons because of non water in non rainy seasons.

These could be addressed through technical support to be able to harvest water, access underground through drilling boreholes and other such measures.

The use of environmentally friendly manure to grow maize would also ensure that the soils are not destroyed while trying to achieve higher yields.

Zambia continues to lose crop and fruit through the inability to properly cure and store the crops once harvested resulting in continued poverty.

This can through cooperation be reversed, through introduction of affordable solar Cold rooms and Solar dryers available through International Solar Alliance, India.

## Conclusion

South – South Cooperation needs the full participation of all developing Countries as no country can develop primarily on reliance on its own resources. All developing countries have something positive to contribute towards the development of other countries as such synergies should be encouraged amongst countries of the South.

## Endnotes

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# Sharing knowledge about liquid gas petroleum between India and Peru



Jordi Ramirez Orihuela\*

In last decades, globalization made countries grow economically and improve the way of life of millions of people all over the world. Despite this, globalisation has left people behind and inequalities still persist nowadays across a number of dimensions like social class, gender, education, access to health, distribution of power and more, all this have significant implications for economic growth and macroeconomic stability of a country (Rawls, 1999).

South South cooperation appears in this context like an alternative way to reduce this inequalities by capacity building, in house training, technology transfer, financial assistance, lines of credits and humanitarian assistance. It this sense, South South Cooperation is not about giving money to a recipient country to improve certain social area, but to build capability in the recipient country to achieve it by them self (Lopez, 2014). Thus, development depends on the access to resources and capability to add value to them, and here lies the importance of South South Cooperation, because it facilitate access to resources by sharing knowledge of “know how” to empower citizens trying to achieve social justice.

South South Cooperation is effective in its own level approaching some specific issues. At this point is important to mention the development compact in terms of technology and knowledge sharing characterized for being driven by the demand of the receptor country without any conditionality, main characteristic of North South Cooperation. For this reason, development compact

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is about increase capacity to access to resources by effectiveness of the assistance, following the principles that govern South South Cooperation such as mutual gain, non interference, collective growth opportunities, absence of conditionalities, where monitoring and evaluating the impacts of assessment have critical relevance. (Chatuverti, 2016).

In this framework of solidarity partnerships, the governments of India and Peru have initiated a project named "Strengthening knowledge in the safety and distribution of liquid petroleum gas between Peru and India" in 2018 that is being implemented. The cooperation is provided by the Ministry of Oil and Natural Gas of India and the Indian Oil Corporation Limited. On the Peruvian side, the beneficiary institution is the Supervisory Agency for Investment in Energy and Mining of Peru with support by the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation.

In the specific case of liquid petroleum gas commercialization and considering that Peru still have gap of 26% of households that do not have clean energy to cover their basic needs such as food, use firewood, dung, coal and others, the Supervisory Agency for Investment in Energy and Mining of Peru was convinced that the exchange of information and experiences regarding the safety and distribution of liquid petroleum gas are the key to generate new strategies that allow expanding the energy frontier in the most vulnerable segment of the country. Through the use of clean energies of liquid petroleum gas, natural gas and electricity for the cooking of food, it will improve the quality of life of said segment of the population. Likewise with this exchange of experience, this South South project seek to contribute viable alternatives to improve the safety of liquid petroleum gas cylinder (Vasquez, A. Tamayo, J. Salvador, J. 2017).

In this regard it is specified that India has taken a big step forward, in 2017, it became the sixth world economy and the third largest consumer of liquid petroleum gas worldwide, with a production of bottled liquid petroleum gas 20 times larger than Peru, developing processes, equipment technology and a culture focused on

user safety that consumes liquid petroleum gas in cylinders, also implemented programs that benefit families in extreme poverty in India.

In this context, the principles of this project were to establish the basis to allow the activities of cooperation, considering the principles of mutual interest, exchange information, knowledge and technical support. The specific target of this project was to reach liquid petroleum gas penetration in areas where it is technically and economically not possible to bring natural gas, such rural areas, by implementation of infrastructure of cylinder park, replacement of old cylinders to accomplish the demand for liquid petroleum gas, also emphasizing the provision of safety facilities.

In this sense, Indian experts in hydrocarbon traveled to Peru to share knowledge with Peruvian professionals, they supervise management, processes and plant supervision. First, they celebrate meeting of coordinators of both countries were they share approaches related to the interinstitutional agreement draft which include aspects like sales growth of liquid petroleum gas, distributors, packaging capacity to improve the value chain in terms of production, transportation, distribution for the final consumer to have an improved access of this product for people living in extreme poverty in Peru. This step concludes with the signature of one interinstitutional agreement on technical cooperation in safety and distribution of liquefied petroleum gas between Supervisory Agency for Investment in Energy and Mining of Peru and the Indian Oil Corporation Limited. Likewise, this signing strengthened the ties of interinstitutional agreement on technical cooperation in safety and distribution of liquefied petroleum gas between the mentioned institutions.

The activities of this project also include that a Peruvian delegation had a field visit to Noida Town where the application of safety controls was observed for valve leaks and cylinder. Also it was possible to appreciate the safety conditions of the installation where they received a safety instructions booklet with the insurance policy. Likewise, the Peruvian delegation visited the Bhiwadi liquid petroleum gas cylinder

factory, where they observed the entire cylinder manufacturing process, safety controls, test requirement by the standards, painting processes and labeling of cylinders with manufacturing and re inspection information. Finally, this delegation also visit a beneficiary family of this process to appreciate the facilities of reception and storage of liquid petroleum gas.

At the moment, the first achieved results was to exchange experience and information to allow professionals to enrich their knowledge regarding the safety and distribution of liquid petroleum gas, which contribute to propose policies, guidelines and strategies in the activities of supervision and control of the safety in the distribution and commercialization of liquid petroleum gas, actions that will ultimately contribute to improving the safety and marketing of liquid petroleum gas cylinders that are consumed by more than six million families in Peru.

These study trips to share knowledge and the practice, and the field visits allow for the Peruvian officials to appreciate how it has been possible to implement the advances in India. In this sense, this exchange of experience between countries is very effective because it immediately enlarges the panorama of professionals to propose solutions that can be incorporated into the beneficiary country reality. In other words, professionals carry out short term internships will increase the effectiveness of the cooperation between the bidding and receiving countries.

This is a great example of partnership and work for mutual benefit. The priorities for engagement were determined by partners and it was characterized by professional training,

investment and technology knowledge transfer. This approach with other developing countries is advantageous because it allow professionals from both countries to share experiences considering that they have different energy structures.

Following the principles of South South Cooperation of solidarity and experience drive solutions according to the national priorities, this type of projects allows developing countries to exchange knowledge, experiences and technologies in areas of interest of both parties. It allows to broaden the vision of professionals, which greatly contributes to the development of new proposals that will influence the areas of interest identified. Finally, it contributes to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals like achieve an inclusive inter connected world with opportunity for everybody.

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# Syria and India; Example of SSC Cooperation in Many Sectors Reflecting on the Features Linked to The Practices of the SSC in Syria



Leen Radwan\*

## Introduction

The creation of the G77 was the first strategic rapprochement between countries of the south (which Syrian and India are members of the G77 countries) intended to counter the economic might of the industrialized nations.

Bilateral friendly relations between **India** and **Syria** are historic where the two have ancient civilisational ties. Both countries were on the silk route through which civilisational exchanges took place for centuries. India and Syria enjoy friendly political relations, with similar perceptions on many international and regional issues and membership of NAM. Mahatma Gandhi, Tagore, Nehru and Indira Gandhi are remembered with great respect. The relationship at the political level has always been good.

Relations with India have many positive characteristics, in which India is particularly important in light of the following:

The many opportunities available in Syria and India in different fields, especially oil, industry, energy, telecommunications, community development, SME development and capacity building. The possibility of raising the level of trade with India and expanding resources of insurance imports necessary to meet the needs of the Syrian markets, the possibility of benefiting from the training opportunities provided by India

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## Cooperation in the educational sector

India and Syria have professional exchanges. In addition to a large Syrian student population in India, each year five scholarships under the CEP programme are offered to Syrian students for pursuing higher studies in India, as well as 14 scholarships to Syrian scholars under the General Cultural Scholarship Scheme (GCSS). Syria also offers five scholarships to Indian students for studying Arabic language and literature. The two countries have also signed agreements to cooperate in scientific and technical education.

## Cultural Relations:

India features as an influence in Syrian Arab culture historically through the Silk Route and in particular through the adaptation of the Panchatantra into the Arabic 'Kalila wa Dumna'. More recent influences have been Tagore and the eminent Syrian poet and Ambassador to India, Omar Abu Rishesh. The Cultural Exchange Programme, in effect since 1975, provides the framework for bilateral cooperation. A number of cultural delegations from India have visited Syria and vice versa, under the programme. The Executive Programme for Cultural Cooperation was last renewed in November 2010.

Literary exchanges between the Arab Writers Union of Syria and the Sahitya Akademi, through an MOU signed in 2003, has led to translations of works of Syrian and Indian writers and regular exchange of delegations between Sahitya Akademi and Arab Writers Union.

Indian cultural week (April 8-14, 2017) was observed in Damascus and Latakia in April, 2017, with screening of Bollywood films and display of Indian publicity material & books. Significantly, a 6-member Odissi Dance troupe, led by Ms. Janhabi Behera, under the ICCR's sponsorship, visited Syria on 8-9 April, 2017. Their performances at Damascus and Latakia were widely applauded with full attendance.

## Cooperation in other sectors:

In the first decade of the 21st century, India and Syria also announced areas of mutual benefit which is one of the principles of south south cooperation to focus more attention on: rock phosphates and fertilizers, cement, the power sector, information technology, education and agro-industries were such areas. India additionally expressed interest in expanding its industrial engagements in the form of investments and joint-ventures.

Indian exports to Syria consisted primarily of man-made fabrics and yarns (21%), machinery and transport equipment (20%), pharmaceuticals & chemicals (8%), manufacture of metals (6%), jute and jute products (4%). Its imports consisted of rock phosphates, pulses, spices, raw cotton and raw wool however; more scope was seen for increasing exports of traditional items like jute/jute products, non-basmati rice, tea, coffee, and other agricultural goods.

Many Indian companies have also for important contracts from Syria. KEC (I) Ltd completed a contract of around US\$ 48 million for building electricity transmission towers/network. US \$ 25 million Line of Credit (LOC) was extended by India for the rehabilitation and modernization of the Hama Iron & Steel Plant. India has extended another Line of Credit (LOC) of US\$ 100 million (first tranche US\$ 240 m credit) to part finance the extension of the Tishreen Power Plant. The project temporarily suspended due to the on-going crisis. The work is expected to be resumed in near future. A delegation visited Syria and held discussion with authorities to resume the work at Tishreen Thermal Power Plant Extension Project)

India-Syria Centre of Excellence in IT has been set up at Damascus with the assistance from Government of India. The Centre was inaugurated in December 2010 by the PM of Syria, which is running successfully.

India has extended US\$ 1 million assistance for the setting up of Biotechnology Centre in Syria; the Centre was inaugurated during PM Vajpayee's visit in 2003.

An MOU on Cooperation in Fertilizer sector was concluded in October 2010. The MOU will facilitate Indian involvement in the development of phosphatic fertilizer sector in Syria.

Promotion &Protection Agreement has been signed in June 2008 during the visit of President Bashar Al Assad to India. Presently, both sides are working on amendments to India-Syria Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).

An MOU for cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors has been signed. The MOU provides for a Work Plan and a Working Group. The Work Plan is in place and has been renewed up to November 2011.

Syria-India Joint Business Council (JBC) was inaugurated in November, 2010 during the Presidential visit. The JBC is headed by Mr. V.R.S. Natarajan, CMD, BEML from the Indian side and Mr. Ali Mehran Khwanda of Khwanda Group from the Syrian side.

## The role of India in the Syrian post-crisis

Generally speaking, India and Syria have maintained good ties through the war years. A steady stream of officials from Damascus have visited New Delhi for talks and consultations while business delegations from India have visited Damascus, such as one organized by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India in 2014, led by Delhi-based Cosmos Group,. In August 2016, India's

minister of state for external affairs, M.J. Akbar, visited Damascus to hold talks. During these consultations, Syrian government invited New Delhi to participate in its post-war reconstruction efforts; India is looking into major reconstruction projects in Syria. Notably, India has already renewed its commitments to its pre-war projects, specifically the Tishreen power plant, which can be looked upon as India's premier developmental undertaking in the country. India has told Syria in recent consultations that it is willing to restart work if the Syria can provide security guarantees for its people and companies. A review of the security scenarios has also been initiated to outline whether work on the plant can begin anytime in the near future.

## Conclusion

Cooperation established between Syria and India in many sectors is a good example of SSC that can be a useful tool for promoting capacity in many fields and for producing social and economic benefits for the two countries and especially for the economic recovery phase of Syria.

It is quite clear that the key principles of the SSC between the two countries mentioned above are respect for national sovereignty, solidarity, national ownership, independence, equality, non conditionality, non interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefits, equality between partners; no distinction between donors and the recipient country, and self-reliance.





# The Affiliation of Indian Afghanistan's Development Cooperation with the South-South Cooperation



Shafiq Rahimi\*

## Preface

Afghanistan-India's relation history is spanning thousands of years as the people of the two countries share strong cultural ties, enduring friendship through shared their visions and visualizations. Efforts and strong determination of the two nations have been made time to time for ever prosperous partnership. India makes significant contributions for enhancing regional integration and Development cooperation as a pillar of strength between Afghanistan and India which is disseminating the values of humanism. India's true sentiment spells Afghanistan's progress without any conditions which is quietly indicated the south-south cooperation. India's cooperation with Afghanistan based on economic development, social welfare and capacity building of human resource is superabundant and progressive. Working under Strategic Partnership Agreement has paved the way for development over the years, one such instance is the successful air connectivity program between Afghanistan and India. It was rightly said by Indian Prime Minister "When Afghanistan becomes a haven of peace and a hub for the flow of ideas, commerce, energy and investments in the region, we will prosper together". India's vision for prosperous and stable Afghanistan has broadened the realms of friendship in the hearts of Afghan people.

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Afghanistan's cooperation with India is based on few various aspects such as politics and security consultation, trade and investments cooperation, new development partnership, people to people contacts, culture, education, health, science and technology and regional and global partnership. Hope trust and cooperation will bring prosperity across the region. A collective approach in the region with shared understanding and exchange of technical knowledge and expertise will achieve new vision for Afghanistan.

Therefore for comprehensive peace, stability and prosperity all the regional countries have to work together in building and shaping cooperation frameworks, making substantive contributions thus bringing about a brighter future for their concern religions.

## An Introduction to South-south Cooperation

The South-South Cooperation has already defined in the context of ICPD, MDGs and UNFPA that a means of development by an exchange of knowledge, experience, technology and information and capacity development between and among developing countries through governments, civil society organizations, academic institutions, national institutions and networks to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD agenda and achievement of MDGs in participating countries”.

## Some few perspectives and identification of South-South Cooperation:

- South-South Cooperation has been defined as an exchange of Knowledge experiences, technical expertise and financial resources between governments, organizations and individuals in developing countries. Through this opportunity, the developing countries could be able to help and support each other.
- South-South Cooperation previously means countries of the South helping each other by sharing technical or economic knowledge and skills to achieve the goals and facilitate

development.

- South-South Cooperation is a broader concept that means the collaboration among developing countries to allocate and distribute their surplus and shortage resources among themselves to achieve development objectives basically, to strengthen the economic ties and promote self-sufficiency.

## Alternative perspective on development (wonyuk 2010)

- Endowment Perspective or Framework Approach (Liberalization):
- It focuses on independencies and autocratics, every individual has the right by sharing and exchanging their surplus and scarce resources and playing the game to achieve their own objectives.
- Evolutionary Perspective or Ingredients Approach:
- Based on this approach, developing countries struggle and admire to shape up their capacity buildings by supplying the missing ingredients and constituents.

## Some Essential Principles:

- Respect for national sovereignty, National ownership, Independence and Equality, Non-conditionality and non-interference, Mutual benefits for both sides,

## Modalities:

- Capacity building, in house training, Technology transfer, Financial assistance, Lines of credit and Humanitarian assistance,

## India Afghanistan Development Cooperation (MoEC | Afghanistan & IST Economic Times in ET Commentary | India, World)

The Afghanistan-India relation is exceptional and dynamic prefacing shared vision of economic, social and cultural periphery. The proximity is accounted with active engagement and prioritizing to accomplish better strategic relation of India with Afghanistan in bringing economic development, stability and peace

that will ultimately guide progress in the country. The prestigious history of Afghanistan-India relations is an excellent reputation on the bilateral front covering all the aspects of friendliness, trust, mutual interest, people-to-people contact. Afghanistan-India relations have progressed exponentially over the years and the transformation of bilateral relation is mirrored with remarkable development in achieving the shared objective. In the recent years Afghanistan and India is turning out to be great economic partners. With joint efforts India supported Afghanistan that have benefited significantly in establishing a concrete base for a multifaceted strategic partnership. India's development approach with Afghanistan remained a top priority which is focused on their aspirations of being a developing economy. India has invested in institution and infrastructure building in Afghanistan that won lot of trust in the hearts of Afghans.

The Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) of Oct. 4. 2011 has further mechanized greater integration between Afghanistan and India over the years. In Sep.11. 2017, the 2nd Strategic Partnership Council Meeting between India and Afghanistan was held under the aegis of bilateral Strategic Partnership Agreement 2011.

Under these SPA framework the Joint Working Group (Development Cooperation) functions in four committees namely; political and security cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, capacity development and cooperation and social, cultural, civil society and people-to-people relations. The JWG committee has always functioned as an important and constructive factor for development cooperation in education, infrastructure development, training, people-to-people contact, creating an enduring foundation for Afghanistan-India bilateral ties.

### **The Purpose of India and Afghanistan partnership (SDPs Department/ MoEc / Afghanistan)**

Based on India-Afghanistan comprehensive strategic partnership, setting forth the values and understanding to realize greater achievements

for the two nations. Under the SPA umbrella, cooperation between Afghanistan and India is flourishing and it can be closely linked with the developments happening in Afghanistan in economic, infrastructural, education and skill development training programs.

The second Joint Working Group on Development Cooperation (JWG- DC) held in Kabul this month reflected on development projects in the areas of cooperation such as capacity building, infrastructure, education, healthcare, good-governance, human resource development, etc. to promote infrastructural development and enhanced economic relations of Afghanistan and India.

### **Development Projects Financially Supported by Indian Government:**

- Construction of Afghan Parliament Building,
- Afghan India Friendship Dam (Salma Dam),
- Doshi & Charikar substations,
- Supply of 1000 new buses and approving of US\$ 2.65 million for repair & maintenance of the over 400 buses that already donated by India government,
- Supply of 170,000 tons of wheat,
- Restoration of Stor Palace,
- The Shah-Toot Dam and drinking water project will open major opportunities expecting to supply irrigation water for about 10,000 hectares of agricultural land and drinking water to around two million people in<sup>1</sup> Kabul city,

### **Small (Community) Development Projects (SDPs) Supported by Indian Government:**

Further the High Impact Community Development projects (SDPs), India has affirmed its commitment to begin the phase IV of the projects and Phase I, II and III are in-progress. In mid-2014, Afghan side submitted in total 189 projects has been approved and amount of USD 100 Million fund received from Indian Government side.

In view of the short gestation period of Projects

that are implemented under the SDP Scheme and as these directly benefit the common people, India has decided to increase the outlay under SDP Scheme to USD 200 million.

### **India's cooperation in health and nutrition sector:**

India's cooperation in health and nutrition sector has immensely attributed on positive note. Assistance to the Indira Gandhi Institute for Child Health (IGICH) which is established in 1970 is 200,000 USD per annum. Afghanistan has further requested to train 33 doctors from IGICH in India. Three lakh children are treated at IGICH annually. India has been contributing US \$ 5 million, spread over 5 years to the Afghan Red Society Program to treat congenital heart disease in children.

### **Indian Scholarships to Afghan Students:**

- 1000 Annual Scholarships Scheme,  
A 3 members delegation comprising officials of ICCR, AIU and EdCIL visited Kabul and met with officials of Ministry of Higher Education, Kabul University etc. to address the queries of Afghan side especially with regard to scholarship implementation, admission in reputed universities, living conditions in Hostels, greater provisioning of seats in technical and professional courses etc. ICCR is already working on a 'Study in India' booklet, which once ready would help international students in selecting the right courses and universities.
- Agricultural Fellowships Program,  
Undertake greater efforts for the utilization of Agricultural Fellowships. Out of 614 scholarships earmarked for Afghanistan during 2012-13 to 2016-17, only 182 scholarships were utilized till 2015-16.

The duration of above mentioned scholarship have been extended to 2020-2021.

Utilize not just Post Graduate Degree Courses but also pursue Undergraduate and Doctoral level degrees in the field of Agriculture, Horticulture and other related fields.

- Afghan National Institute of Mining,  
Consider training in India, say at ISM Dhanbad, a batch of 50/100 students in a 4 year Under graduate Engineering Programme instead of establishing a Mining Institute in Afghanistan.
- 500 scholarships to the children of martyrs of Afghan National Defense and Security Force (ANDSF) have been incorporated to which 82 admissions have been offered under this scheme for the current academic year.

### **Afghanistan Cooperation with India:**

Afghanistan's cooperation with India is based on few various aspects:

- Political and security consultation,  
Both sides expressed grave concern at the incidents of terror and violence in Afghanistan resulting in loss of innocent lives. Noting that terrorism presented the greatest threat to peace, stability and progress of the region and beyond, they called for an end to all forms of support, State sponsorship, safe havens and sanctuaries to terrorists against Afghanistan. It was agreed to strengthen security cooperation between the two countries. India agreed to extend further assistance for the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces in fighting the scourge of terrorism, organized crime, trafficking of narcotics and money laundering.

The Indian side reiterated its support for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace and reconciliation process. It was agreed that concrete, meaningful and verifiable steps for immediate cessation of violence were essential for the success of regional and international efforts to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan.

- Trade and Investments and Capacity development Cooperation,  
The two sides are welcomed the establishment of the Air Cargo Corridor between Kabul - Kandahar and New Delhi in June 2017. It was agreed to expand it to include other cities in Afghanistan and India as well as to increase

the frequency of the cargo flights between the two countries.

A very large and willingness market for all types of Indian products and services,

Afghanistan has been hired and recruited Indian experts and professionals to assist in capacity building in various government and non-government organizations and institutions on project bases,

- Alongside Afghanistan India's international trade, many afghan people individually have trading been with India and they continue are getting benefits from the trade. The trade has been in different purposes mainly in clothing, the most popular products are (Men and Women Suits, pants, trousers, ensembles, skirts, trousers, Panjabi dresses, etc.)

### **Recommendation of Future Cooperation between these Two Countries:**

As already mentioned that Afghanistan-India's affiliation history is spanning thousands of years as the people of the two countries share their strong social and cultural ties, enduring friendship through shared their visions and visualizations. The prestigious history of Afghanistan-India relations is an excellent reputation on the bilateral front covering all the aspects of friendliness, trust, mutual interest, people-to-people contact, etc.

The proximity is accounted with active engagement and prioritizing to accomplish better strategic relation of both countries in achieving their international objectives that are bringing economic development, peace, prosperity and stability that will ultimately lead to progress and development in the countries as well as in the concerned region.

Efforts and strong determination of the two nations have been made time to time for ever prosperous partnership. Therefore, this partnership which is mostly emphasize on political and security consultation, social, cultural and economic relation between these two

countries should be quite steady and sustainable in the future as well.

As well known, now Afghanistan particularly (south, east and west borders) is under the terrorist attacks and criminal conflicts of Al-Qaida troops which basically supported by our close neighbor countries and some other foreign interventions. Therefor we want not only India, because India has already supported Afghanistan to strengthen its security, peace, prosperity and economic stability and in the future they may continue as well, but we exactly need all regional and international efforts to keep the violence and promote peace and stability in Afghanistan and all over the world.

### **Conclusion**

The South-South Cooperation which was already defined in the context of ICPD, MDGs and UNFPA, is a broader and meaningful concept that explains the collaboration among developing countries to allocate and distribute their surplus and scares resources among themselves to achieve the political and development objectives basically, to strengthen the social and economic ties and promote self-sufficiency. It more emphasize on independency, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference and mutual benefits and utilize the modalities of capacity building, technology transfer, financial and humanitarian assistances.

Afghanistan and India have close relationship since more than 1000 years back. The cooperation between these two mentioned countries is brightly stated in above which is indicated the political, security, peace and prosperity cooperation, trade, investment and economic development cooperation, capacity development in education, health and technology cooperation and social, cultural, civil society and people-to-people relations. The fact which needs to be mention here is that the cooperation between these two countries since previous years is quite companionship and friendly. Self-interests, interference and political issues and inequality haven't been seen in the relationship.





# The Suriname-India South South Cooperation Experience



**Joan Rellum\***

## Background

Suriname, a developing country in South America, bordered by Guyana, French Guyana and Brazil, has been a Dutch Colony till November, 25th 1975. Since this date the country is a Presidential Republic, with Mr. Desire Bouterse as the president. The population is 541.638 and is very diverse in the context of ethnical background and religion. the country is quite small with an area of 163.820 square kilometers and a GDP of 5.8 Billion is 2014.

Nowadays Suriname's biggest incomes are derived from our export products gold, oil, rice and Bananas.

Suriname has a history of slavery of more than 200 years, which came to an end in 1863. After that period we had a period of contract labour, where indentured workers brought by the Dutch and the British during the 19th-century served as immigrants. Amongst those immigrants there were also people from India. Their descendants still live in our country nowadays as one of the biggest ethnic groups, called the Indo-Surinamese or Indian Surinamese. As per the 2012 Census of Suriname, 148,443 citizens of Suriname are of Indo-Surinamese origin, constituting 27.4% of the total population. Some other big ethnic groups are the indigenous, afro Africans and Javanese,

## Relations with India.

As indicated above, Suriname has a long term relationship with India, which started in the time when Indians came

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to our country to serve as immigrants and still continuous because of their recently in Suriname living descendants. In the past decade these two countries started intensive diplomatic, political and economic relations in order to strengthen the bond between these states.

## Diplomatic relations

India and Suriname established diplomatic relations in 1976. India opened its embassy in Paramaribo in 1977, and Suriname opened its embassy in New Delhi in 2000. Suriname also has an honorary consul in Bangalore.

The Suriname-India Joint Commission to strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors of both countries was established in 1992 and is ongoing in the context of South South Cooperation, in which India is providing aid to Suriname based on our requests and needs. During the visit of the President of India to Suriname in June 2018, several Memorandum of Understandings were signed as well as lines of Credit have been agreed upon for an amount of approximately \$100 million. The different ministries in Suriname are now identifying their needs in order to submit programs/projects to be financed out of The Lines of Credit facility, with assistance of the Indian Project Preparation Facility. This Facility also assists in doing the different assessments such as social economic impacts and feasibility studies.

## Private sector initiatives between Suriname and India

Because of growing interest and potential to do business in Suriname a group of India Diaspora took the initiative early in 2018 to establish a Chamber for Indian private sector agencies, because these agencies faced some challenges while trying to find out how to do business on their own. This Chamber, which official name is the Suriname India Chamber of Commerce and Industries(SICCI) aims to facilitate the Indian business society when they want to do business in Suriname. The facilitation consists of guidance through several procedures before the business

can start, such as visa and legal stay permits, work permits and registration at the Suriname Chamber of Commerce as well as guidance through our banking system in case they need credits or other assistance.

For the business society it is also important to know whether they can or cannot benefit from the Lines of Credit that are available out of the bilateral economic agreements between Suriname and India. This is a policy issue and is still being discussed.

Business Circle meetings between the private sector and the governmental stakeholders are conducted on a regularly base to discuss and find solution for the challenges that are faced during the process of establishment of the foreign business initiatives.

## Indians on the Surinamese Labour market

On the Surinamese Labour market there are local and foreign workers active in the different economic sectors. In order to regulate working on the Surinamese labour market, every employer who wants to employ a foreigner in his company, needs to apply for a work permit at the Ministry of Labour of Suriname. According to a procedure in which a list of criteria is written, the application will be considered and the ministry decides whether an applicant receives a work permit or not. This because locals are preferential for our government to obtain a job. But if the employer can prove to the ministry that he was not successful in obtaining a local worker for a certain job in his company, the permit can be granted. On annual basis several Work permits are granted to Indians to work in the following sectors: agriculture, mining, production, and other service providing sectors for example administrative services and health services.

Apart from the regular work permit applications, we also have a shorter procedure in case the Indian would apply for a work permit, because he will be providing his employment in relation with an agreement between the Government of Suriname and India, for example

in the case of the Lines of Credit agreements . If a company will be doing a job in the context of the signed MOU's, the foreign employees will be treated according to the preferential procedure. In the Lines of credit with Suriname it is agreed that when programs will be implemented 75% of goods and services (workers will be part of the services part), will be provided by Indian companies.

### **Experiences from the current ITEC/RIS course on South South Cooperation in relation to the India Suriname cooperation of the past years.**

The current course has been very enriching for me as a participant. I was very impressed by the different presentations on this topic, especially those regarding the background of South South Cooperation in which the mutual benefits between the countries on the southern hemisphere is one of the most important pillars for South South Cooperation.

Apart from what I mentioned earlier regarding the aid we gain from India, during the course I also experienced this while we had our field trip to Bare Foot College. In the 2016 solar mama's program, 2 indigenous women of Suriname participated in the 6 months Solar mama's program. they are now able to bring a positive contribution to their villages where there was no availability of permanent electricity before.

Regarding the mutual benefit I also see in mutual benefit when I take a look at the way the Indian private sector is being facilitated by the Surinamese government by providing guidance through our quite bureaucratic administrative system. This because in the end Suriname will benefit from the services that will be brought to us by these agencies.

### **Word of thanks**

I therefore thank the RIS for these lectures and wish them lots of success in their upcoming events. I'm leaving India with lots of beautiful experiences and knowledge. My expectations of the subject South South Cooperation have been met in a very good way.





# Role of South-South Cooperation in Global Development



Mukhammed Shakhabidinov\*

*"Continue to grow and evolve." (Mahatma Gandhi)*

**Keywords:** South-South cooperation, Global South, Global Development, international relations, developing world.

## Introduction

In recent decades, the role of globalization in the world economy has significantly increased. Globalization has created new opportunities for all actors of world trade. It has involved greater openness in the international economy, an integration of markets on a worldwide basis, and a movement toward a borderless world, all of which have led to increases in global flows.

As a result, the global economy is witnessing rapid change in terms of international cooperation in order to promote mutual economic growth among the nations. The emerging and other developing economies have come to the fore as the most significant actors in designing and implementing the new development policies and programmes across the developing world. This cooperation in the fields of knowledge exchange and technology transfer among southern economies of the world is growing in both incidence and intricacy. It is increasingly comprising of extending economic support as well as cooperation in the domains of wellbeing, training, communication, research, and development. The participating countries suggest concrete solutions, provide adequate awareness, offer guidance and contribute in joint activities.

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This broad notion comprising of a highly comprehensive variety of partnership amid developing nations is usually observed to consist of three scopes, namely: political, economic and technical, and is collectively known as South-South Cooperation (hereafter SSC).

The concept of SSC covers many layers of economic initiatives and political realities. In common parlance, it can include political, military, economic, or cultural relationships; humanitarian assistance and technical cooperation between developing countries; the allocation of financial resources for development projects and regional integration as well as the constitution of blocks—a common position and agenda in multilateral negotiations (1).

## Current Tendencies in South-South Cooperation

Since China and India (“Asian drivers”) and other “rising powers,” especially Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa, began their steady climb, international cooperation has been faced not only with new opportunities, but also with a number of specific challenges. During the political debate new variants of relations have also been identified from time to time. Accordingly, a marked rebirth of SSC has taken place. While Chinese cooperation and investments in the developing world have multiplied in the past decades and surpassed those of many of the so-called traditional powers, Brazil (with the ABC, since 1987), the Republic of Korea (KOIKA in 1991), and more recently Mexico (AMEXID in 2011), India (the Development Partnership Administration in 2012), and South Africa (the Development Partnership Agency or SADPA in 2013), now have cooperation agencies of their own and are sometimes adapting their laws to scale up—that is, projecting new development practices in their respective regions and beyond. Through South-South diversification, emerging and middle-income countries have seen their roles as regional leaders catapult them into positions as potential global leaders. (2)

A sober look at SSC shows, however, that neither hasty condemnation nor euphoria is helpful: what is needed is an objective debate in which all the actors involved in development cooperation participate.

The spirit of SSC materialized in the creation of coalitions among developing countries—the Group of 77 or G77 within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and, as of 1995, the World Trade Organization (WTO)—and led to some concrete achievements. The United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was calling for a New International Economic Order (NIEO) and products from developing countries were granted privileged access to Northern markets (e.g. the Lomé agreement between the European Community and the Africa-Pacific-Caribbean countries) as well as exceptions to the free-trade regime. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) united countries around a common agenda and successfully managed to put pressure on Western economies by increasing international oil prices during the 1970s. The South Conference (now South Centre) was created in 1987 and identified the following major areas of SSC: finance, trade, industry and business, services, transport, information and communications, and people-to-people contact. (1)

In the past decade South-South trade has expanded more quickly than North-South trade. South-South investment too has shown unprecedented dynamism. Investors from the South often have important regional know-how, use appropriate technologies and prove more willing to take business risks in a difficult political environment. A further indicator of the increased importance of SSC is the fact that countries in the South have become an additional source of official development assistance (ODA).

Over the past few decades, countries of the Global South have increased trade and attracted foreign direct investment (FDI), which has caused their rapid economic growth. These countries have driven exports and decreased their import

tariffs, both of which have escalated growth in their countries. (4) Between 1980 and 2010, developing countries increased merchandise trade from 25 percent to 47 percent and the share of their world output from 33 percent to 45 percent. In 2015, developing countries made up 44 percent of total Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflow, with East Asia leading as the top recipient of FDI and as one-third of global FDI. (5) The outward-oriented approach to development has attracted incredible foreign direct investment into developing countries, which provides employment, new technologies and higher productivity. (7) This in turn has led to countries with more technical competencies and specialization in many areas of development, which has given them more self-reliance and political capital. (8) Developing countries have concurrently increased their FDI outflow. As of 2015, developing countries were more than one third of FDI outflow, with Asia investing more in FDI than any other region. China, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Kuwait and Chile are a few of the countries from the South among twenty of the world's largest investor countries. Southern countries are increasingly investing in each other, as South-South FDI grew by two thirds from 2009 to 2014.

SSC is today at a particular juncture as a result of two concurrent events: The adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015; the forthcoming United Nations Second High-level Conference on SSC, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (PABA + 40 Conference). This Conference represents a unique opportunity to strengthen and further revitalize South-South and triangular cooperation, within the framework of a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

There is concrete evidence of developing countries successfully addressing multidimensional development problems common to the South. Developing countries are becoming key players in climate resilience efforts; in energy, land-use, transportation, waste, agriculture and water, and the transition

to sustainable infrastructure and cities. (9) Moreover, SSC modalities are well suited for strengthening regional cooperation on adaptation, the establishment of regional centers and networks, implementing and enhancing capacity-building in developing countries as well as policy coherence and coordination around the Climate agenda. Development cooperation among the South could prove vital for scaling up and transferring replicable solutions - by the South for the South - in key areas for realizing the 2030 and Climate agenda.

## Conclusion

Currently, the international system is passing through a stage characterized by a return of geopolitical interests, a turn towards protectionism and a weakening of multilateralism. This scenario presents new challenges for Southern countries, and I believe that the adequate response is to reinforce commitment to international cooperation and regional integration, and to work towards building a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, as called for by the 2030 Agenda.

Thus, it is reasonable to ask: what is the impact of adopting Sustainable Development paradigm as a guide in governance, practices and management of SSC? The answer to this question requires an analysis of the alignment between SSC and sustainable development with the need to rethink the principles of SSC from a new paradigm. That task could have its first breakthroughs at the BAPA + 40 Conference.

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# Armenian Development Cooperation with India and China In the Framework of South-South Cooperation



Nunufar Stepanyan\*

*Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.*

-Nelson Mandela

Development is a process that creates growth, progress, and positive change. The basic component of development cooperation is **independence**: so if you have independence you can decide the directions of cooperation and national priorities, as well as the countries with whom you want to cooperate.

Armenian's development cooperation efforts began after the country declared its Independence in 1990. After the final collapse of the USSR and the creation of CIS received universal international recognition of the Republic of Armenia. Being a post-Soviet country Armenia is considered a developing country. In this regard, it is very important to establish effective and fruitful cooperation contacts with external partners - different countries and international organisations. So, *development is a political term* which is used to reflect and justify a variety of different agendas held by different actors.

The foreign policy of the Republic of Armenia is aimed at strengthening the country's external security, maintaining external favourable conditions for the development of the country, presenting the positions of Armenia on the international scene, deepening engagement in the international organizations and processes, strengthening cooperation with the friendly and partner states, as well as resolving regional problems and creating an atmosphere of cooperation.

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Our established multi-vector cooperation linkages between many South countries like India, Georgia, China, Belarus, Brazil, Argentina, United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Iraq, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kuwait, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon and so on.

In the framework of this topic I will try to represent the development cooperation directions of Armenia according the modern concept of a development compact:

With some of this Southern countries Armenia cooperate in the framework of International organisations like UN, NATO, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE, which members are also - Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO - Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan), Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and so on.

#### *Case study: Armenian-Indian and Armenian-Chinese Development cooperation in the framework of South-South Concept*

First of all I would like to mention that in the concept of South-South cooperation the most important level is Sectoral level, which means partnership in projects implementation level.

As a successful models of South-South cooperation in Armenia we can mention Armenian-Indian, as well as Armenian-Chinese relations.

Both China and India have a good relationships with Armenia. Development Cooperation is implemented according to the philosophy of SSC. There are taken steps by the Government of Armenia to deepen cooperation and support with partner countries, as well as to refresh cooperation directions according to national priorities.

The modern concept of a development compact provides for development assistance that works at five different levels, namely **trade and investment, technology, skills upgrade, lines of credit** (LOC) and, finally, **grants**.<sup>1</sup> Generally, all these five directions of development compact are

for the access of markets (not only goods market, also too brains market) or resources.

**Trade and investment level** - The main objectives of the state policy in the investment area in Armenia are the following: improvement of *investment environment*, improvement of *legal framework* and *promotion of investments* in the economy of the Republic of Armenia, including foreign direct investments. The main goal of Armenia's investment policy is to create a favorable investment and business environment, increase transparency of regulatory environment, reveal the country's competitive advantages, increase investment sizes, develop market infrastructure, create high-quality and high-paid jobs, develop human capital and, based on all these, provide sustainable economic growth and population welfare, which is in line with the priorities of Armenia Development Strategy 2014-2025. The Government of the Republic of Armenia will follow the principles of "Open Doors" policy, liberalization of investment activities, reservation of national and most favorable treatment of foreign investors, proper protection of investors and other advanced international practices.<sup>2</sup> Now Armenia can also give new impetus to Armenian-Indian cooperation in the multilateral format as Armenia is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, and enjoys regime of generalized scheme of preferences in the trade with the European Union. Those entrepreneurs who would launch business activities in Armenia should have every opportunity to take advantage of the auspicious conditions provided by Armenia.

In 21st century development cooperation is implemented using network management. In this regard, as an important step is the forming of *Intergovernmental commissions* between the partner countries. If we try to analyse the sphere of Intergovernmental commissions in Armenia the result will be following: the Government of the Republic of Armenia has 33 Intergovernmental commissions, from which approximately 21 Commissions have **trade and investment orientation**. For example there are *Armenian-Chinese joint commission on trade and economic cooperation* and *Armenian-Indian intergovernmental*

*commission on cooperation in the fields of trade, economy, technology, science, education and culture.*

The next step for creating a favorable commercial environment and promotion of trade and investment interests of a government in a foreign country in many developing countries are opened *Trade and Commercial Representations*, sometimes known as a trade presentations, commercial offices, or trade missions. The trade representations are serious tools for the development of trade and economic relations. For example, there is a *Trade and Commercial Representative of India in Armenia*. Armenia has a Trade Representation of RA to China, and in November 17, 2017, in China took place the opening ceremony of the *Office of cooperation* of the Republic of Armenia in Qingdao.

One of important tools in this regard are *exhibitions and conferences* (for example "World Food: India -2017 Conference", New Delhi, 2017 November) which are organised for introducing native producers and manufacturers and become the best platform for sharing the best practices available in partner countries, as well as identifying new markets and establishing new partnerships. During "World Food: India -2017 Conference" also were presented the economic priorities of Armenia with India (also can see *Speech of the President of the Republic of Armenia made at the conference*)<sup>3</sup>. This is good opportunity to push the private sector in development cooperation, which will deepen privat-public partnership too.

**Technology** - The Governments of Armenia and India acknowledged their close partnership in the information technology (IT) sector too, exemplified by the operation of the Armenian-Indian Excellence Center in Information and Communication Technologies, founded in 2010 (*Parliament.am, January 12, 2010*). However, the most interesting agreement is related to India's intention to build an Earth observation satellite (EOS) for Armenia. Under this deal, New Delhi also agreed to train Armenian scientists in the use of the system and handling and interpreting its data. Reportedly, the satellite will be operated by a joint Armenian-Indian group of specialists,

serving the needs of both countries (*Gov.am, Business Standard, April 25; Spacewatchme.com, April 28*). There are range of Agreements, Protocols, Memorandums of Understanding, Programs which regulate the cooperation in technology sphere.

**Skills upgrade or capacity building** - the educational sphere is also one of main area of development cooperation between Armenia and these two countries. Many programs are realized which, besides educational component, is also straightening Armenian-Indian and Armenian-Chinese friendship. There are many institutions which are teaching Chinese in Armenia. For example, there are 6 schools at present where are implemented pilot projects teaching Chinese at schools. One of huge projects was the constructing of Armenian-Chinese Friendship School in Yerevan by the government of China opened in 2018. Also has published Chinese textbooks for Armenian learners.

In the sphere of higher education for every academic year the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) organizes Masters programs "*Youth of Excellence Scheme of China*", which is promote the mutual understanding and friendship between China and Armenia, and to provide education opportunities to the youths.

The other project is the *Confucius Institute* at Yerevan, the only one of its kind in Armenia, was officially opened in February 2009. During these years substantial progress has been made in terms of Chinese instruction, the promotion of Chinese culture, the implementation of ICLC projects, and the editing of textbooks for local use. In addition to language classes, special enrichment courses such as martial arts and Qigong are also offered. Over a hundred Chinese cultural events were hosted, including international Chinese seminars, performances by artistic troupes, culture and art exhibitions, Chinese language days and other events. The institute organized visits from delegations of elementary and secondary school leaders and education officials to China.

**Trainings** are organized for state sector employees in different areas too. In this sphere as a succeed model of cooperation between Armenia

and India is the **Indian Technical and Economic /ITEC/ programme**. In the framework of these programme many governmental officials are trained in India which empowers them not just with professional skills, but also prepare them for an increasingly globalized world. As specialists from many countries participate in these courses intercultural communication, sharing of the best practice, bringing new ideas to the table become valuable component of ITEC Programme.

**Grants** – one of directions of the modern concept of development compact are grants. In this sphere one of principles of SSC is the importance of demand-driven needs. That means the recipient country assessing own needs should define the areas of grants or technical cooperation. For example, during resent years in the framework of technical assistance China provided Armenia approximately 249 urban buses, 200 ambulance vehicles and so on.

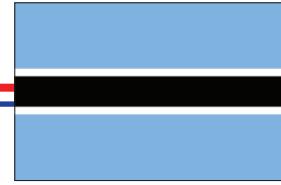
## Conclusion

South-South cooperation is a platform which is used to describe the exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries, also known as countries of the Global South.

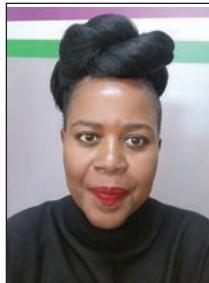
Similar to other countries, in the Republic of Armenia SDGs are recognized (Sustainable Development Goals) as priority and leading policy framework for the upcoming years. Armenia have a solid track record of resolving domestic issues by forging partnerships, for example to push multi-stakeholder partnerships, especially involving various international actors. This approach is the key to the prominent role on development cooperation. Armenia is open for technical cooperation, trade and investment, which can be realised through effective cooperation and jointly implemented Development projects and Programs. That is why it is very important the effective using of multilateral partnership platforms for responding global challenges. Finally, it is necessary to understand that development cooperation look like bilateral traffic, that's mean all engaging actors have their interests and mutual benefit is one of main points of South-South Cooperation.

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# Botswana and South – South Cooperation: A Look at Experiences, Contributions and Way Forward



Girlie Obolokile Tshireletso\*

The intention of this paper is to briefly explore how Botswana as a country has so far benefited or still benefits from South- South cooperation and its contribution to fellow South countries. It will not be limited to regional, continental cooperation but also to emerging economies especially China, India and Brazil. The paper will further explore if indeed what Botswana and these other countries are doing together is in line with the intentions of South-South Cooperation including what Botswana as a country needs to do on its side to ensure and reinforce that the cooperation improves with time. It is for this reason that only a handful example of countries will be used as a sample. Even though Botswana is a part of South – South Cooperation, it should not be forgotten that it has its own foreign policies. These policies dictate how she interacts with foreign nations through set standards of interaction for her organizations, cooperation's and citizens. It is critical to note that alongside the country's policies, it has to abide with the South – South Cooperation intentions which include among others; regionalism, collaboration, mutual benefits for all, ownership, solidarity, respect for national sovereignty and non- conditionality. It is worth noting that out of the 19 embassies and 3 consulates in Botswana, over three quarters of them are members of the South- South Cooperation. That Botswana is a member of the Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC), a member of the African Union (AU) and Southern African Customs Union (SACU) among others.

One of the main objectives of South- South Cooperation is to make economical cooperation stronger between

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countries and promote smooth trade. This can be best noted in how Botswana relates with her sister Southern African Development Cooperation (SADC) counterparts. In July 2012 Botswana entered into an agreement with her neighbor and fellow SADC member to use Namibia's sea port for easy access to the sea as Botswana is landlocked. The port has cost Botswana around 50 million Pula and it will be beneficial to both countries to access European countries. Both Namibia and Botswana are semi arid countries which mean that other than the border they share a lot. There have been talks and discussions on sharing joint water resources that run between the two countries like the Kwando, Linyanti and Chobe rivers. Talks about the possibility of pumping desalinated water from the Atlantic Ocean into Botswana through a pipeline are also underway. According to a statement on the Botswana government website, Botswana leased a 3 6200 square meters portion of land to establish a dry port to facilitate and fast-track import/export activities within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. The port is going to be run by Sea Rail which is a subsidiary of Botswana Railways and is registered in both Namibia and Botswana. This development of the dry port in Walvis Bay will, amongst other objectives, stimulate Botswana's growing economy by creating appropriate infrastructure and processes that provide a supportive regulatory environment to encourage international trade from European countries into both countries and between the two countries themselves. The Port of Walvis Bay is one of Africa's most efficient and best equipped with the capacity to handle more than 8 million tons of cargo and also linked to Namibia's air, rail, and road network, making it the most ideal place to service other landlocked countries.

Another example which comes even before the formation of South-South Cooperation can be noted in how Botswana has and continues to have good relations with South Africa which is an emerging economy. During the apartheid era, Botswana contributed a lot in accommodating members of the African National Congress (ANC) who sought refuge in Botswana from the

apartheid regime. There were incidents when the regime would bomb places in Botswana suspected of hiding the asylum seekers but Botswana never gave in to the pressure, she continued to ensure that eventually peace and understanding prevails in South Africa. This cooperation grew very strong over and got renewed to fit into the new policies of both countries not forgetting those of South-South cooperation. Examples of human development can be noted in the number of mineworkers that South Africa recruit from Botswana, it is a very commendable number and helps in the fight against poverty which is one of the sustainable development keys. Due to these historical bilateral relations, the two countries enjoy easy flow of goods between them. It is worth noting that the two countries enjoy good cooperation in the mining industry, tourism industry and trade in general.

There is no how one can talk about South-South Cooperation in relation to Botswana and not mention India. India and Botswana have been closely related as far back as after Botswana's independence in 1966. Since then a number of agreements have been signed on bilateral cooperation between the two countries which include among others; In 1997, an agreement for cultural exchange programs between the two countries was signed, 2001, Bilateral trade agreement, 2002, Protocol for foreign office consultation, 2006, Avoidable double taxation, 2010 there were quite a number of agreements, cooperation in Agriculture, education exchange program, science and technology program. The most interesting one which showed the cooperation and trust enjoyed by India and Botswana was when they signed an agreement for secondment of the Indian army personnel to train the Botswana Defense Force personnel. To date these agreements are still working smoothly for both countries as just the South-South Cooperation promotes parallel development with no expectations from both parties. From these agreements one can safely say that the two countries indeed are trying their best to touch all bases when it comes to developing alongside each other. They range from people based to economic based objectives, which is what South-

South cooperation is all about. ITEC is a very clear example of how India through its high commission in Botswana, has kept its promise of educational exchange programs. It nourishes a variety of Botswana citizens through sustainable development programs. The other example is of the Barefoot village in India where women from Botswana come for a six months course to learn basic survival skills and are taught how to make solar products and how to fix them. This program empowers Botswana women and when they get back to Botswana they are able to educate others and even start their own solar based businesses.

Another emerging economy to be noted that has good cooperation with Botswana is Brazil. Brazil and Botswana established diplomatic relations from as far back as 1985. When she started intensifying her relations in the 2000's, Brazil established her Embassy in Gaborone in the year 2009, the same year, Botswana embassy, the first mission of the country in Latin America, was opened in Brazil. The challenges of social development and the fight against hunger and poverty are of essential importance in this bilateral relation. In 2005, Brazil and Botswana signed a Bilateral Agreement on Technical Cooperation, legal framework of the joint work programs. As Botswana is member of the SACU (Customs Union of Southern African countries) in 2004, MERCOSUR and SACU concluded a Preferential Trade Agreement, an intermediate step for the creation of a free-trade area between the two. This cemented the fruitful relations enjoyed by both. Botswana is a semi arid country; this means that climate variability is not sustainable for agricultural farming, more especially cereal

crop production thus making food security a problem for Botswana. It is for this reason that Botswana imports some of her staple foods which include corn from Brazil. Only 0.7% of total land area is arable in Botswana therefore cereal crop production gets hampered by traditional farming, recurrent drought, erosion and even disease. The annual requirement as at 2009 for principal crops was 250,000 tons of which 174,198 was imported at the value of 53 million US Dollars. It is for this and other reasons that South-south cooperation intentions are highlighted between these two countries.

There are many contributions and gains that Botswana has made by being a part of the South-South Cooperation. It goes to show that it is not about the size or population of a country that can drive it to be great global influence, engage meaningfully with its neighbors while making sure that key development plans are adhered to. It is through exploring or looking back at Botswana's contributions and gains that one can see how far or near South-South cooperation impacts on economies. Bilateral cooperation is clearly defined in Botswana's dealings with others through the agreements signed which touches all spheres from economic, social and other needs of both countries. South-south cooperation is an essential breakthrough for developing and emerging economies to go forward hand in hand.

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# Diversification Of Economic Partners in Cameroon Cooperation: The case of Indo-Cameroon Cooperation.

## Introduction



**Daniel Yahoenti \***

Contemporary diplomacy has been enriched in recent years by new models of analysis, among which we have South-South cooperation on the agenda. It will develop as an alternative to North-South cooperation. Although its evocation dates back to the 1970s, its implementation dates back to recent decades.

South-South cooperation can then be defined as an exchange of knowledge and resources in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental, or technical fields between governments, organizations and individuals of developing nations.

As a theoretical framework, South-South cooperation is based on a set of principles and is backed up by specific implementation modalities. It has been adopted as an effective mechanism for achieving goals for sustainable development.

Aware of its influence on the intensification of cooperation relations and the positive externalities it will have on developing countries, several southern countries have taken over this cooperation and the results are quite satisfactory.

Cameroon in its quest for the achievement of its emergence has chosen to diversify its economic partners. Thus, it has undertaken an economic move towards southern partners, whose cooperation can have a real impact on its economic growth. This diplomacy was set in motion by the head of state, who continues with the other institutions of the state undertakes meetings at the summit to attract foreign investors in Cameroon.

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\* Commonwealth Department, Ministry Of External Relations / Cameroon

Thus in recent years, China has signed many cooperation agreements with Cameroon, and the Cameroonian head of state was present in China at the last China summit in Africa where many financing agreements have been signed between the two parties

If the example of Cameroonian Sino cooperation presents itself as a model par excellence of South-South cooperation, it is important to underline that other countries like India can draw inspiration from the Chinese model to increase its cooperation presence in Cameroon

## Cameroon-India: Strengthening bilateral cooperation

The cooperation between Cameroon and India dates back to independence when India was one of the first states to recognize Cameroon's independence. It then developed between them diplomatic relations on a variety of areas including economic.

India has thus invested in the field of scientific cooperation in various fields. The health component seems to be the mainstay of the most successful cooperation right now.

According to the Honorary Consul of India in Cameroon, India made a gift in the form of telemedicine, linking the University of Yaounde 1 to a large Indian school. This cooperation allows students from the University of Yaoundé 1 to attend classes without having to travel. Hundreds of Cameroonianians have trained in computer science and data management and in tourism.

Telemedicine is installed at the University Hospital Center of Yaounde 1 (CHU) and operates in several parts. There is the part of the teleconference where Indian and Cameroonian doctors are put in contact. This technology allows Cameroonian doctors thanks to the support of an Indian expert to give the best diagnosis to a pathology of a patient in Cameroon in real time.

Finally, that of telemedicine which allows the continuous training of Cameroonian doctors who allow them to update their knowledge on the evolution of their profession.

Regarding the health component, India is the largest provider of antiretrovirals in the generic form in Cameroon. This production has lowered the price of this drug in Cameroon and has thus promoted better management of the disease and health.

The Cameroonian Prime Minister inaugurated last February a drug production plant in the economic capital Douala. This is probably the fallout from the visit he had had to perform in India a few years before with important Cameroonian businessmen.

India has also invested in agriculture with the provision of 60 agricultural tractors to the Cameroonian government. Moreover, India has granted Cameroon a credit line of several billion CFA francs for the supply of heavy equipment. The long-term project will be used to install tractors in the Ebolowa (industrial zone) and to participate in the modernization of Cameroon's agriculture, by promoting the access of heavy equipment to the populations and consequently higher yields leading to an industrialization of this sector which employs a good part of the population.

India has also provided an envelope of 22 million FCFA to get the cassava sector out of the current practice and bring it into the modern world by exploiting several other derivatives of this product yet so rich but used to a small extent. India is also very active in the production of rice and maize in Cameroon. Commercially, many Indians trade in Cameroon and some invest in the area of P.ME.

We can also cite prominently in this cooperation the scholarship program of the Indian Government that allows Cameroonianians to come to train in India on various themes and varied. The SOLAR MAMA project, which to date has already seen the participation of 11 Cameroonian women (8 already trained and 3 in training courses) who, thanks to the lessons learned on solar energy, have contributed to this initiative to reduce underdevelopment in rural areas of the country.

If the cooperation between India and Cameroon has many fruits, we can say that it is not enough

to bear the example of cooperation between Cameroon and China and other countries of the South.

From a diplomatic point of view, the two countries do not have either an Embassy or a High Commission in either country. Yet Cameroon appears as a leader of this sub-region and should have in his country a diplomatic mission that would cover the sub-region and fortify this cooperation, which would also benefit other countries.

Similarly, because of the increasing mobility of Cameroonian, it would be indicated that Cameroon also opens a diplomatic representation in India that can meet the growing needs of its nationals who come to India for various reasons and facilitating the access of Indian investors to Cameroon.

The cooperation between the two countries in the absence of a fairly dynamic formal framework, will take place from below, where many Cameroonian patients come to India to be treated making India a real referral hospital for Cameroon . Meanwhile, Indians also invest Cameroon with informal cannons where they peacefully conduct their activities.

Most people that apply for medical visa at the Honorary Consulate of India in Douala face challenge of long visa process. Due to unavailability of Indian embassy in Cameroon, the applicant has to send documents to Nigeria for visa processing. This is impractical for and applicant seeking urgent medical attention. If one can understand such a practice which is based on the principle of multiple representation, (because the diplomatic competence of the Indian consulate in Nigeria extends over Cameroon) one could still find a mechanism to remedy. This situation is more embarrassing in that it also applies to the holders of official passports.

The solution would not pass by the granting of a reciprocal visa at the entrance which would then accelerate the movement between people and therefore the goods and technology transfers.

Numerous examples of cooperation exist between India and some East African countries,

but throughout this training it has been almost impossible to give examples of cooperation in which India has invested in central Africa and particularly in Cameroon. Yet in the analysis several factors bring Cameroon and India together and the two could reciprocally benefit from this cooperation. Central Africa is thus the weak link in cooperation with India.

Moreover, while South-South cooperation presents itself as a modality for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and responds to a certain number of practical modalities, the fact remains that Southern countries must pool their forces and create institutions which would really allow them to have an impact on the achievement of their objectives.

## Conclusion

As for the cooperation between Cameroon and India, it appears that there are many fields that require a review taking into account the potential of both countries for more efficient and successful cooperation.

Even more India must undertake a very strong diplomatic offensive like the one in china, South Korea, which for their part, multiply summits, meetings with African and Cameroonian leaders to invest these countries and bring everything particularly the know-how he has at his disposal.

Finally, it is important to underline that South-South cooperation could eventually bring the underdeveloped countries down to the same extent as North-South cooperation, as there are many countries in the South, especially the dragoons that are halfway between the two countries. Southern countries and the world powers that do not really transfer their technologies and are contend to sell their local products as well as domestic labour. The risk of this cooperation would be the creation of a new bloc in the south, certainly the extreme south for poor countries.

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