



**V Regional Conference
"Perspectives on Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean"**

THE VALUE ADDED OF THE *GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE ON EFFECTIVE TRIANGULAR CO-OPERATION*
8 October 2020

The Argentinean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) hosted the V Regional Conference "Perspectives on Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean" on 7 and 8 October 2020, 100% online. Around 200 participants connected throughout the two days of the event, which encompassed plenary and breakout sessions.

The Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Co-operation (GPI) had excellent visibility during the Conference, not only during the breakout session organised by the initiative but also in the plenary. On the first day of the event, Mr Tarik Iziraren, Deputy Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Co-operation (UNOSSC) and core group members of the GPI, mentioned the initiative and the voluntary guidelines during the opening session. In the closing session of the Conference, both Ms Rebeca Grynspan (Ibero-American Secretary-General, SEGIB) and Mr Volker Oel (Deputy Director-General for Latin America and the Caribbean, BMZ) mentioned the importance of the GPI and its efforts towards effective implementation of the modality to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The GPI breakout session happened on the second day, with 41 connected participants, aiming to discuss the value-added of the GPI and to assess how the GPI understanding of triangular co-operation, the roles partners can assume and the Voluntary Guidelines for Effective Triangular Co-operation (VGs) fit into triangular co-operation in practice¹. To achieve this goal, technical partners of the triangular co-operation project "Development of Technical Tools and Methodologies for Environmental Compliance" between Chile, Peru and Germany shared their experiences and reflections.

Project: Development of Technical Tools and Methodologies for Environmental Compliance	
Partners	Chile, Peru and Germany
Goal	Improve processes of the partner institutions (Environmental Assessment and Enforcement Agency - OEFA, Peru, and Superintendence of Environment - SMA, Chile) and promote environmental compliance on both countries.
Period	March 2020 – August 2021 (18 Months)
Total budget	600.000 EUR (each of the three partners contributing equally, with 200.000 EUR each, of in-kind and financial contribution)

¹ For more information on this, access the GPI Report [Triangular Co-operation in the Era of the 2030 Agenda: Sharing evidence and stories from the field](#). The GPI understanding of triangular co-operation and the roles partner may assume are described on page 15, and the nine Voluntary Guidelines for Effective Triangular Co-Operation are listed in the Box 1.4, on page 18.

The project is demand-driven and emerged from long-lasting co-operation between the Environmental Assessment and Enforcement Agency (*Organismo de Evaluación y Fiscalización Ambiental* - OEFA), Peru, and Superintendence of Environment (*Superintendencia de Medio Ambiente* - SMA), Chile. The technical counterparts highlighted the importance (i) of jointly defining the action areas, and (ii) of the high-level political commitment of both organisations to the project. The highest authorities of the OEFA and the SMA met in February 2020, indicating the increased political will to implement the project, which gave an impulse to the partnership and gave autonomy to the OEFA and SMA experts to implement the triangular co-operation project.

Despite getting acquainted with the nine Voluntary Guidelines after designing the project, the three partners agreed that the project activities are in line with many of them. The two most prominent VGs during the discussion were **1. Country ownership and demand-driven co-operation**, and **2. Shared commitment**.

According to the panellists, partners are gradually incorporating the guidelines into project implementation. Partners also emphasised that the project allowed them to go beyond the idea of working in a "donor-recipient relationship", reflecting the dynamic and flexible understanding of triangular co-operation that the GPI promotes. According to representatives of OEFA, SMA and the German Development Co-operation (GIZ), all partners mutually benefit from the processes and results of the project. Hence, there is no single beneficiary and panellists described this relationship as a "dual-responsibility", through which partners are both providers and beneficiaries of the triangular co-operation project. This dual characteristic and process of constant exchange of knowledge are associated with the **VG 7. Joint learning and knowledge sharing for sustainable development**.

The project is implemented under the scope of the German Regional Fund for Triangular Co-operation in Latin America and the Caribbean² and panellists from OEFA and SMA mentioned the important facilitating role GIZ is playing. The project has started in March 2020 and has not been interrupted, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic of COVID-19. Partners are organising virtual meetings to comply with planned activities. For that, panellists stress the flexibility and engagement of all the actors involved.

When reflecting upon the **VG 8. Advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls**, project partners indicated that there is no specific gender component in the planning of the project. Still, most of the team members from OEFA and SMA involved in project implementation are women. Additionally, both organisations have a gender equality committee, and this is a dimension that cuts across all of their programmes. For them, the most challenging guidelines to incorporate to this specific project are **4. Inclusive partnerships and multi-stakeholder dialogues**, and **6. Innovation and co-creation**.

Finally, GIZ, OEFA and SMA pointed out that through this project Chile, Germany and Peru foster international partnerships to tackle development challenges and promote the Sustainable Development Goals, as recommended in the Outcome Document of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation – BAPA+40. Thinking about the value-added of triangular co-operation and how best comply with the Voluntary Guidelines might represent an extra work at first sight. Still, partners agreed that through this effort, the processes

² <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/12942.html>

of implementing an effective triangular co-operation project would lead to better and more sustainable project results.

Programme:

Breakout session 10: The added value of the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation (GPI)

In this session, the work of the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation (GPI) will be presented, in addition to a summary of the activities since BAPA+40, the 2030 Action Plan, the GPI's understanding of Triangular Cooperation (TrC), and the voluntary guidelines (VG) developed in 2018/2019 by the GPI. The session will also reflect on the roles, mutual benefits and VGs from the perspective of the triangular project "Development of Technical Tools and Methodologies for Environmental Compliance" among Chile, Peru and Germany. An exchange about the VGs will be established with the audience of the session.

Speakers:

- Enrique O'Farrill Julien, Head of Bilateral and Multilateral Department, Chilean Agency for International Cooperation (AGCID), Chile, and core group member of the GPI.
- Ruben Verdugo, Head of the Inspection Division, Superintendence of the Environment (SMA), Chile, and
- Mauricio Gonzáles, Head of Institutional Relations and Attention to Citizens, Environmental Assessment and Enforcement Agency (OEFA), Peru, counterparts of the triangular project "Development of Technical Tools and Methodologies for Environmental Compliance" among Chile, Peru and Germany.

Moderator:

- Geovana Zoccal, Focal Point, Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Co-operation (GPI)

Rapporteur:

- Bruno Sotomayor Villanueva, Policies and Program Division, Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI), Peru, and GPI member.