



**SUMMARY: SIDE EVENT OF THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE ON EFFECTIVE TRIANGULAR COOPERATION, GLOBAL SOUTH-SOUTH DEVELOPMENT EXPO IN ANTALYA, 29 NOVEMBER 2017**

The first working group meeting of the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on effective triangular cooperation brought together the core group members (Mexico, Canada, Japan, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)) as well as representatives from governments and international organisations that are members of the initiative or interested in joining the GPI. The aim of the side event was to discuss the next steps of the GPI in the lead-up to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires (BAPA+40 Conference) in March 2019. The GPI has created three workstreams (advocacy, analytical, and operational) to analyze, and systematize experiences and best practices; elaborate a set of voluntary principles; and consolidate frameworks of triangular cooperation that ensure country-led ownership, as well as inclusive partnerships for sustainable development. The side event was chaired by Ryutaro Murotani, Deputy Head of Office for Global Issues and Development Partnership, Operations Strategy Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

**The role of triangular cooperation on the road to BAPA+40**

In his welcoming remarks, Jorge Chediek, Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, announced UNOSSC's active participation as a core group member in the GPI. In UNOSSC's view, the GPI provides a platform that can feed into the strand on triangular cooperation in the preparations of BAPA+40 Conference and its results. UNOSSC acknowledges the importance of triangular cooperation in bridging South-South and North-South cooperation. It provides a way of co-creating development solutions and achieving the goals of the Agenda 2030. Triangular cooperation is an important modality of cooperation for sustainable development that needs to be featured in the BAPA+40 Conference, and Mr Chediek invited the participants to collaborate closely on the road to this important conference.

**Towards Multi-stakeholder effectiveness: the Global Partnership Initiative on triangular cooperation**

The GPI was launched at the 2016 High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in Nairobi as a multi-stakeholder initiative. Noel Gonzalez, Director General of Planning and International Development Cooperation Policies of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), and Carmen Sorger, Deputy Director for Development Relations, Global Affairs Canada, explained the *raison d'être* of the GPI. The quantity and quality of South-South cooperation is on the rise, and triangular cooperation is an excellent example of how all development actors work together. Coordination, speaking the same (project) language and looking for joint results foster more triangular cooperation and encourage going beyond the North-South divide on a very practical level. Therefore, the initiative follows the objective of providing a global platform for different development stakeholders to exchange experiences and better situate triangular cooperation in the current development landscape.





### **What is triangular cooperation? How can we enhance its effectiveness? – Introducing the advocacy work stream**

“The main goal of the advocacy work stream is at the same time its main challenge: elaborating and agreeing a set of voluntary principles for triangular cooperation”, Nancy Silva, Director of the Programs and Policies Department at the Peruvian International Cooperation Agency (APCI), emphasised. She called for a working definition of triangular cooperation that reflects the different frameworks of triangular partnerships and its mutual benefit. This work stream has one year to establish consensus for elaborating the voluntary principles in a participatory and inclusive process – it will be key in feeding into preparations for BAPA+40.

### **Which cases and models of triangular cooperation can we find? What’s the comparative advantage of triangular cooperation? – Introducing the analytical work stream**

Brenda Killen, Deputy Director of the OECD’s Development Cooperation Directorate, illustrated three major goals of the analytical work stream: 1) to collect cases and on this basis, identify models of triangular cooperation; 2) to carve out the comparative advantages and added value of triangular cooperation; 3) to identify challenges and lessons learned which can inform recommendations for policy makers and practitioners. Triangular cooperation projects address the most pressing global challenges, such as forced migration, women’s financial inclusion, and climate change. Participants can work together in the GPI on providing the evidence that is needed to raise awareness about the critical role of triangular cooperation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The BAPA+40 Conference will provide a good opportunity to mainstream and showcase the great potential of triangular cooperation.

### **How is triangular cooperation managed, monitored and evaluated? – Introducing the operational work stream**

Drawing on the outcomes of a seminar on trilateral cooperation in Brasilia held in November 2017, Abdelhakim Yessouf, Senior Technical Cooperation Specialist in the Islamic Development Bank’s Capacity Development Department, presented first insights into monitoring and evaluating triangular cooperation from Brazil, its traditional partners (Japan, Germany, Spain, United Kingdom, Switzerland) and the IsDB’s approach. This exercise demonstrated the importance of compiling and consolidating existing practices and guidelines, such as those of the Ibero-American Programme for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS) in one space. Experiences from the operational level are necessary to inform a strategic, political dialogue on triangular cooperation as a way to achieve the SDGs.



### **Questions & answers - the way forward**

Representatives from Argentina, the Ibero-American Secretariat (SEGIB) and the UNDP Regional Hub for Africa emphasized the importance of triangular cooperation for BAPA+40 and called for harmonizing different existing platforms. SEGIB and UNDP Africa are working on adapting the methodology of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation report in Latin America and the Caribbean to a first report for Africa. The evidence can be collected jointly with the GPI, shared and fed into the BAPA+40 process. Participants from Burundi and Madagascar reminded the participants of the spirit of solidarity and non-conditionality in South-South cooperation and called for these principles to guide the GPI. The core group asked all participants to share information on their triangular cooperation projects to help build the evidence base through the GPI. UNOSSC will let the GPI members know of the preparatory events for BAPA+40. The next working group meeting of the GPI is scheduled for mid-April (tbc) and will be hosted in Lisbon by the Government of Portugal.