

Global South-South Development Expo 2018

Session Report Template

Triangular Cooperation in the Era of the 2030 Agenda: Contributions to the BAPA+40 Conference

Side event of the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation (GPI): Co-organized by Mexico and Canada with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Ibero-American Programme for the Strengthening of South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS), Islamic Development Bank, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Summary

The Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation (GPI) organized this side event to:

- Illustrate how triangular cooperation can be an effective means of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Highlight the value added of triangular co-operation by showing evidence from concrete partnerships and their results;
- Share experiences and propose a set of draft Voluntary Guidelines on Effective Triangular Cooperation in the lead up to BAPA +40.

The Speakers from the GPI Core Group highlighted the added values of triangular cooperation and its relevance to the Agenda 2030. They also shared the good practices such as reporting mechanisms and the building of national and global ecosystem. The Voluntary Guidelines on effective triangular cooperation was presented and the GPI Core Group called for the participation and endorsement of the guidelines by broader participants to the event. It will be further discussed with interested parties to decide how to influence the outcome documents of BAPA+40 through the advocacy by the GPI.

Panellists/Participants

Co-hosts:

- Ambassador Louise Blais, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations
- Sylvia Paola Mendoza, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations

Moderator:

- Ryutaro Murotani, Director, Deputy Head, Office for Global Issues and Development Partnership, Operations Strategy Department, Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA)

Speakers:

- Jorge Chediek, Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)
- Jorge Moreira da Silva, Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Ana Ciuti, President of the Ibero-American Programme for the Strengthening of South-South Co-operation (PIFCSS)
- Carmen Sorger, Director, International Assistance Relations, Strategic Policy Branch, Global Affairs Canada

- Riad Ragueb, Manager, Reverse Linkage Division, Country Strategy and Cooperation Department, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Session Report

Speaking on behalf of Canada and Mexico co-hosts, Ambassador Blais welcomed participants to this Side-Event and underscored the timeliness of this discussion on effective triangular cooperation in the lead up to BAPA +40. She welcomed GPI's efforts to build on the complementary strengths of different actors and bring innovative and flexible solutions to achieve the 2030 agenda. She also noted that advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is the most effective way to eliminate poverty, create lasting peace, and achieve sustainable development, and must remain a fundamental part of triangular cooperation initiatives and programming. She looked forward to deepening partnerships for achieving the SDGs and continue working with partners from the civil society, the private sector, International Organizations and donor and partner governments to meaningfully advance Triangular Cooperation.

Mr Jorge Moreira da Silva, the Director of the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate, provided an introductory snapshot of triangular cooperation today. Based on the data collected in the OECD's online project repository, which currently contains information on 653 projects¹, he concluded that triangular cooperation is on the rise. It connects all regions and contributes to achieving the SDGs. There is a clear value added of triangular co-operation. It helps to achieve the SDGs in innovative and collaborative ways and can provide solutions to overcome today's most pressing environmental, economic and social challenges. The OECD found that 31% of all projects contribute to achieving 'green' goals. Of the projects analyzed, 70% have budgets below than USD 1 million and 50% have a life span of 2-4 years. Thus, triangular cooperation provides low-cost, flexible and adapted solutions. Triangular co-operation is increasingly multi-stakeholder: 37% of the projects in the OECD database involve actors beyond governments and international organisations, such as academia and research institutions, civil society, the private sector, philanthropy and sub-national actors. To conclude, Mr Moreira da Silva mentioned that BAPA +40 is a unique opportunity to increase the visibility of triangular cooperation and to promote it as a complementary modality to South-South and North-South Cooperation.

The videoclip, produced by the efforts of IsDB, was introduced to demonstrate the objectives, activities, and the three Workstreams in particular (namely advocacy, knowledge-sharing, and operational) of the GPI.

Ana Ciuti of the PIFCCS presented the experiences of the Ibero-America Programme, with a focus on the reporting mechanisms of triangular cooperation projects to the PIFCCS Secretariat, and emphasized how the reporting mechanism can enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the programs.

Then, Mr. Jorge Chediek (UNOSSC) came in for his keynote address, highlighting the importance and relevance of triangular cooperation in the discussion towards BAPA+40. He emphasized that triangular cooperation can serve to further enhance the impact of South-South cooperation on SDGs, with references to the experiences of Japan, IsDB, PIFCCS among others.

Carmen Sorger (Global Affairs Canada) presented the GPI draft Voluntary Guidelines for Effective Triangular Cooperation, elaborated by the GPI Core Group and Advocacy Workstream (the latter of which is Co-Chaired by Canada, JICA and Peru). The draft Guidelines set out an approach to

¹ Over 60 countries and international organisations shared information voluntarily through surveys and subsequent updates. The data is not exhaustive and is regularly updated by the OECD.

triangular cooperation that both reflects the contemporary development landscape and grounds the modality in effectiveness, as follows: (1) Country ownership; (2) shared commitment, (3) results-oriented approaches; (4) inclusive partnerships; (5) transparency and accountability; (6) innovation and co-creation; (7) knowledge sharing; and (8) leaving no one behind. On behalf of the Advocacy Co-Chairs, she invited all to join the GPI Advocacy Workstream to continue advancing the Voluntary Guidelines with all stakeholders to prepare for endorsement at BAPA+40.

Riad Ragueb (IsDB), while presenting their work in the Operational Workstream, commented on the importance to build global and national “ecosystem” for South-South and Triangular cooperation to be successful. He highlighted the political will, national strategy, structure (e.g. development cooperation agencies), and funding mechanisms as some of the crucial elements for such ecosystem.

After these presentations, there were contributions from the participants to the discussion. While most of them agreed with the importance of triangular cooperation, some requested to clarify the definitions/terms/categorization used in the discussion. The panellists clarified that the word triangular does not necessarily mean that the number of participants are three, nor that one of the stakeholders would be placed at the top of the triangle. There was also a request to sharpen the added value of triangular cooperation, and the moderator pointed out the role of facilitator to improve the efficiency and quality of the cooperation, as well as to find potential collaborators and centers of excellences as some of the key features of triangular cooperation.

Sylvia Paola Mendoza of the Mission of Mexico concluded the session, urging the participants to apply triangular cooperation to go beyond traditional thinking of North-South relations.

Session Outcomes/Next Steps (if any)

- The GPI Core Group encouraged events participants to actively contribute to the ongoing activities of the GPI Workstreams, including on the Voluntary Guidelines, in the lead up to BAPA +40 by:
 - Sharing their experiences of how triangular cooperation can be an effective means of implementing of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, e.g. through the planned GPI report on the four sub-themes of BAPA +40;
 - Contributing to the discussions and revisions of the draft Voluntary Guidelines on Effective Triangular Cooperation until the end of 2018.
 - Joining the endorsement of the proposed Voluntary Guidelines.
 - Supporting the GPI in drafting a paragraph on triangular co-operation for the Outcome Document of BAPA +40.