

TRIANGULAR CO-OPERATION CONTRIBUTING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BAPA+40 OUTCOME DOCUMENT

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The Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, known as BAPA+40, happened in March 2019 in Buenos Aires. It was a milestone for triangular co-operation, when it received a lot more recognition than in previous similar international events. The Outcome Document brought up the modality 73 times and explicitly mentioned the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on Effective Triangular Co-operation, acknowledging the platform's efforts to map good practices, scale-up stakeholders' engagement and be a tool to multiply the potential of development co-operation.

After more than three years that the UN General Assembly endorsed the BAPA+40 Outcome Document, the GPI is conducting an analytical exercise to identify how its members are using triangular co-operation to contribute to the implementation of the BAPA+40 recommendations.

Among the identified 53 recommendations of the outcome document related to triangular co-operation, four dimensions stand out: (i) triangular co-operation system, (ii) working methods and cross-cutting issues, (iii) partnerships, and (iv) sectoral focuses.

Triangular co-operation system

The outcome document highlights the importance of better understanding triangular co-operation, building human and institutional capacity on triangular co-operation, institutionally embracing this modality and increasing financing through innovative sources and mechanisms. Partners should promote interregional coordination and collaboration, policy dialogue, policy coordination, policy coherence, knowledge exchanges and sharing of good practices, as well as reducing transaction costs and enhancing effectiveness. The document also recommends improving data collection, both in scope and scale, as well as fomenting research and analysis on the modality. Finally, the document also calls for reinvigorating the UN development system.

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Working methods and cross-cutting issues

The outcome document calls for an increase in technical co-operation and innovative solutions, always aligning triangular co-operation to the sustainable development goals and national development priorities, and considering the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability. Partners should boost impact assessment, cost-sharing arrangements, joint research and development projects, personnel exchange, third-country training programs and support for relevant centres of excellence. Acknowledging the principal role of governments, the document calls for mutual accountability and transparency. Finally, it encourages embracing gender equality, cross-cutting all triangular partnerships.

Partnerships

The outcome document acknowledges the increasing role of developing countries in international co-operation and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Recognising the central role of governments, it calls for the engagement of stakeholders from different levels, e.i. local and regional authorities, as well as international organisations and non-state actors, specifically civil society organisations, private sector, academia/think tanks, and community of practices and networks. Additionally, the outcome document highlights the increasing partnerships between developing and developed countries and calls for developed countries, international organisations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to enhance their support for the triangular co-operation activities.

Sectoral focuses

While encouraging the use of triangular co-operation as a modality to implement the sustainable development goals with no sectoral restriction, the outcome document highlights specific sectors in which partners could boost triangular co-operation:

- Community development in rural areas and addressing rural-to-urban challenges;
- Corruption and illicit financial flows;
- Decent work;
- Food Security and Nutrition, sustainable agriculture and food systems;
- Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;
- Good governance, the rule of law, fundamental freedoms, and a fair justice system;
- Poverty eradication;
- Science, technology and innovation;
- Trade, MSMEs, regulatory frameworks and risk assessment;
- Urban planning and management;
- Vocational education and training.