

Global Issues and Local Actions in South-South Cooperation



RIS

Research and Information System
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

Learning South-South Cooperation (LSSC)
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Global Issues and Local Actions in South-South Cooperation

Reflections from Participants



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PREFACE



Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi

Director General, RIS

South-South Cooperation has always occupied an important place in the RIS work programme. Since 2015, RIS has been conducting the program on Learning South-South cooperation (LSSC) under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) of the Ministry of External Affairs. In these years around 150 participants from more than 50 countries spread across the developing regions of Latin America, Africa and Asia have participated in this program. It is noteworthy that ITEC programme, initiated in 1964, completed its 55 years of journey this year.

The present program is the fifth in the series with 31 participants from 25 countries, representing diverse sections from their respective societies bringing in diplomats, government officials, researchers, academics, media persons and development practitioners. At the Annual RIS conference on South-South Cooperation, popularly called as Delhi Process in August 2019, RIS launched University-Think-tank Connect for bringing the two groups together. At this course we could make a beginning by bringing in observers from University system. I'm sure in future we would be able to expand the foot print.

The present report is a compilation of the reflections by the participants of the Fifth LSSC program held at RIS between 11th and 22nd November, 2019. The course was designed to have three modules that elaborated on the theoretical framework of SSC, global development cooperation architecture and current global issues and challenges faced by SSC. The contributions from the participants are considered to be an effective learning outcome of this program.

The compendium is divided into two parts. While the first part concentrates on some of the general issues related to SSC, the second part delves into country-specific experiences. All the contributions to highlight the spirit of solidarity – the main driving force of cooperation among the southern countries. It is expected that this compilation will contribute meaningfully to the understanding of the issues in and state of SSC and would provide different perspectives on development cooperation.

I would like to thank all the participants at the course for their hard work and to RIS faculty for their engagement in the preparation and production of this report. Chairman RIS Dr Mohan Kumar guided the programme. I am extremely thankful to him for the same.

I am particularly thankful to Ambassador Amar Sinha, Professor Milindo Chakrabarti and Ms Amika Bawa for leading and coordinating the programme and for their inputs in bringing out the report. The intellectual process also got benefitted by inputs from Professor S K Mohanty, Dr Priyadarshi Dash, Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Mr Arun S. Nair, Dr Milan Sharma, Dr Nimita Pandey, Ms Prativa Shaw, Ms Chandani Dawani, Mr Apoorva Bhatnagar and Mr Abhinaw Jha.

I would also like to thank my colleagues from administration and publications, led by Mr Mahesh Arora and Mr Tish Malhotra for their full support in making this programme a grand success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sachin Chaturvedi", with a stylized flourish above it.

Sachin Chaturvedi

Part I

GLOBAL ISSUES



Co-development and Global Political Economy (GPE): The Role of the South – South Cooperation



**Rafael Gustavo
Miranda Delgado***

Abstract: The objective of the article is to analyse the role of South – South Cooperation (SSC) for the co-development in the contemporary Global Political Economy (GPE). It states that the countries of the Global South share historical elements and contemporary challenges that enhance the possibilities of cooperation. However, this potential has not been fully utilized, so it is essential that political and institutional support be given to generate a co-development of the South, based on partnership, solidarity and mutual benefit.

Introduction

Contemporary global economic relations are characterized by greater speed and intensity of commercial exchanges of final and intermediate products, greater mobility of productive factors and a greater plurality of economic agents. This poses new challenges to global governance and a space of new opportunities for the countries of the Global South.

The objective of the article is to analyse the role of SSC for the co-development in the contemporary Global Political Economy (GPE). The guiding hypothesis of the article is that, through SSC, there can be a co-development of the Global South, understanding this as a process where the countries of the South generate interdependencies and positive synergies for improvements set materials.

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This article was made during a stay at the Research and Information Systems for Developing Countries, New Delhi. The author thanks the institution, especially to the Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi Director General and Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti Coordinator of the Learning South – South Cooperation Course, such as the Embassy of India in Venezuela and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India for the financing. Views expressed are personal.

Towards a new Global Political Economy (GPE)

The economic crisis of 2008 marked a turning point in the Global Political Economy. The world economic and financial architecture has been dominated after World War II by the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, but the ideology and policies they promote lost legitimacy in their main foundations after the crisis.

The main problem that has been presented to the system of capitalist accumulation is the reduction of profit rates, in the context of a world economy that poses a zero-sum game and a significant number of new actors.

In much of the North Atlantic, especially in the United States, the profit rate of non-financial companies fell significantly between 2000 and 2006, thus initiating a significant displacement of capital in the direction of financial activity. The economic crisis of 2008 was mainly caused by the inadequate regulation of the international financial system, product of financial liberalization. These factors fed the financial euphoria that distorted the perception of risk, leading to an excess of leverage that resulted in bubbles, both real estate and other assets (Gowan, 2009; Brenner, 2009; Steinberg, 2008).

In this context, Asia began displacing the West in its role as epicenter of the systemic processes of capital accumulation on a world scale, which suggests that for the first time in capitalist history the nodal axes of economic power are displaced outside the West. The Asian continent has taken center stage in the global economy, it has established itself as the world accreditor and the center of high technology and robotics, as one of the regions with greater commercial and financial dynamism, with high levels of marginal productivity (Radelet and Sachs, 1997).

The rise of China and India has had a special impact on the world economy, due to its contribution to world GDP and its demography as the two most populous countries in the world. For the first time in one hundred and fifty years

the combination of the GDP of three economies of the Global South such as China, India and Brazil equals all the major Northern economies such as the United States, United Kingdom, Germany, France, Italy and Canada, this contemporary rise of the Global South because of its scale and speed is unprecedented in history, for example the Industrial Revolution doubled GDP per capita in one hundred and fifty years in Britain, in the United States it took fifty years, and both countries had a population under ten million, while China and India doubled their GDP per capita in twenty years with populations around one billion, and their share of world production went from 33% to 45%. More than 100 countries in the Global South registered a per capita income growth of over 3% in 2007 (UNDP, 2013).

This poses important opportunities for Africa and Latin America, in the first instance, they have benefited from the expansion of exports in terms of volume and prices, but the countries of these continents must seek to rise in the global value chain. The income obtained from raw material exports must be invested in more complex sectors, with a highly elastic offer worldwide.

Additionally it raises a reconfiguration of the global economic regime and its main institutions. The Bretton Woods institutions and their uniform and universal policy agenda no longer correspond to the contemporary dynamics of global development.

Global institutions for development

Development is plural, in its methods and in its objectives. Therefore, the Global South must seek its own development agendas, and for this it must create an institutional framework and cooperation that gives them autonomy in their economic policy.

Historically, different development patterns can be distinguished, the autonomous industrialization pattern based on exports from the United Kingdom and France, the government-based industrialization pattern and inward industrialization as in Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia, the pattern of balanced growth

with an open economy and limited government intervention in Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden and small European countries, the dualistic pattern oriented to the export of basic agricultural products with abundance of land in Argentina, Australia, Canada, and the pattern of countries with high population density such as China, Egypt and India (Emmerij, 1998). This plurality is not recognized by the Bretton Woods institutions and their policies like those of the Washington Consensus.

Additionally, in contemporary times, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has failed to resolve conflicts of interest between the Global North and the Global South, especially those concerning the latter's demands for fair trade, denouncing the high tariffs that the countries of the North apply to the income of the product, the practice of increasing tariffs as the degree of processing of the products increases, and the high financial support that agricultural producers receive in the countries of the North (Estay, 2005).

Thus, the creation of global institutions that promote co-development is fundamental. These institutions must demonstrate the common objectives of the Global South, understanding the specificities of each country. As Acemoglu and Robinson (2012) point out, economic institutions shape economic incentives, savings and investments, innovation and adoption of new technologies, but it is the political process that determines what the economic institutions will be, and it is the political institutions that determine how this process works.

Market mechanisms are not enough to generate these dynamics, only States can give solidity and continuity to the framework of global institutions appropriate for the co-development of the Global South.

South - South Cooperation for Co-Development

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is born as a complement and alternative to North-South cooperation, and refers to the institutions and instruments used by countries in the Global

South to achieve common and interdependent objectives. This can be bilateral and multilateral, and is based on solidarity, autonomy and mutual benefit.

SSC has several specificities that distinguish it from North-South cooperation, but the most significant is the non-conditionality that respects the sovereignty of each country's economic policy and the horizontality. As Stiglitz (2002: 79) indicate, the main obstacle to the good offices of the IMF is the nature of conditionality, which is that if a country does not meet minimum requirements, the IMF suspends its aid, taking advantage of the opportunity, it offers the crisis to enforce your political agenda. And after reviewing the experiences of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the ruling that on several occasions the IMF programme left the country as poor as before but more indebted.

In the South-South Cooperation there is no conditionality, there is a co - responsibility that monitor and evaluate the process of the cooperation. This responsibility is most important given the plurality of actors and the respect for autonomy in SSC. So, the country that is receiving cooperation is also the agent of cooperation, unlike in the North-South Cooperation, because SSC empowers all the actors in the process of the cooperation. The relation is not uni-directional, rather it is in a tow-way cooperation thus making it mutually beneficial.

The Global South has material and ideational elements to cooperate, such as the development and claim of asymmetric global relations. This constitutes a solid political base. The ability of the Global South to achieve its interests depends on the internal unity of its countries, the hierarchy of common interests, and the recognition of the reduced capacity of agency to act individually. As Keohane (1988: 74) points out, cooperation occurs when the policies followed by a State are considered by its partners as a means of facilitating the achievement of its own objectives, as a result of a policy coordination process.

So much of the responsibilities of institutions for cooperation, are based on the coordination of interest and reduction of information

asymmetry. It is to make common goals and their interdependencies evident. The global economic regime is the privileged space for cooperation, since in a knowledge-based economy, it is the sphere that is presented as a win-win game.

A critical element for the proper functioning of the Cooperation is that its responsible institutions are autonomous. Cooperation must be state policy and not just government, since the change of ideological sign of national governments could prevent the continuity of cooperation policies. Global regimes and regimes of the Global South must be built to promote development cooperation.

Conclusion

Contemporary development challenges cannot be resolved at the level of States, poverty, climate change, migration, pandemics; all are fundamental themes of the contemporary development agenda and merit international cooperation.

The countries of the Global South share historical elements and contemporary challenges that enhance the possibilities of cooperation. However, this potential has not been fully effective, the greater interdependence has been generated by economic and market dynamics, so it is essential that these first incentives be given political and institutional support, in order to generate a South co-development, based on partnership, solidarity and mutual benefit.

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South-South Cooperation: Towards a New Development Paradigm



Mustapha Jouili*

Abstract: The recent resurgence of South-South Cooperation (SSC) has sparked renewed interest in its historic promise to transform the world order. In a context of climate change and intensification of ecological stress, the debate on “development” in the South and the nature and orientation of SSC is taking on a new dimension. It requires a deep reflection on the meaning of development and the search for alternative ways of life and human relations with nature. The question is whether the recent resurgence of SSC is the bearer of a new paradigm which, in addition to the historic promises of solidarity and mutual development, incorporates a new vision of social and relationship with nature.

Introduction

In July 2014, a new positive step towards building a multipolar world was taken, with the BRICS meeting in Brazil, the creation of a new Bank and a Development Fund. These events were followed by a joint meeting of BRICS, the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The goal of the new institutions is to increase growth and eradicate poverty. These bring together “emerging countries” with substantial financial reserves with other countries, whose situation is less privileged, in a South / South relationship. This resurgence of South-South cooperation has sparked renewed interest in its historic promise to transform the world order (Gray & Gills, 2016)

Indeed, development is a concept that encompasses a huge complexity of social transformation processes and refers to a long-term historical project aimed at liberating peoples and nations from the vestiges of colonialism, poverty, and underdevelopment. SSC is than aimed at pursuing these

historical changes through an approach of mutual benefit and solidarity among the underprivileged of the global system.

On the other hand, the policies and ideology of “neoliberal economic globalization” reflected a deep-seated faith in linear material progress, through innovation and application of modern science and technology, with the presumed ability to create unlimited increases in production and consumption. However, this optimistic paradigm of globalized economic development has both created and left unresolved many serious distributional, socio-political and increasingly ecological problems and crises (Gills 2010). In a context of climate change and intensification of ecological stress, the debate on “development” in the South and the nature and orientation of SSC is taking on a new dimension. It requires a deep reflection on the meaning of development and the search for alternative ways of life and human relations with nature.

In all, the question is whether the recent resurgence of SSC is the bearer of a new paradigm which, in addition to the historic promises of solidarity and mutual development, incorporates a new vision of social and relationship with nature. This paper aims to advance some elements of reflection regarding this debate. The after this introduction, the first section summarizes the historical evolution of the CSS. The second section presents elements around the question of the new development paradigm. Finally, some remarks are put forward as conclusions.

Genesis and evolution of SSC

A long more than six decades, SSC Agenda has been affected by several regional and international events (Cabana, 2014). But it can be argued that SSC was started with the “making of the Third World” as a group of countries that were struggling to overcome their colonial heritage and were being pressed to take sides in the Cold War (Escobar 1995). Gathered in Bandung in 1955, delegations of 29 newly decolonized African and Asian countries asserted the end of the colonial era and claimed the establishment of egalitarian relations with the former metropolises and

equal participation in international affairs. The final communiqué of the Bandung conference promoted not only technical cooperation among Afro-Asian countries, but also defined a variety of areas in which participants aimed to expand economic and cultural cooperation and support their collective development. Support for human rights, equality, national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of countries was also underlined as emancipatory objective.

It is in the “Bandung spirit” that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) was founded in 1961 at the Belgrade conference where 25 countries decided to escape the cold war polarization logic and to “seek ways to ensure world peace through genuine neutralism” as Jawaharlal Nehru said. As first institutional framework, the NAM was reinforced by the creation, in the United Nations and in particular at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1964, of the Group of 77 (G77). The NAM, as well as the G77, has been the promoter of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC). Most importantly, both the NAM and the G-77 have been instances of political mobilization and joint collective bargaining wherein the petition of a New International Economic Order (NIEO) by Southern countries has emerged. In December 1974, the UN General Assembly adopted the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States and an Action Program for the Establishment of a NIEO was approved.

Although this initial period lasted more than 30 years, it did not allow developing countries to achieve the economic autonomy and political independence they sought. The 1980s are indeed those of the Third World ebb. The failure of import substitution strategies, the developing-country debt crisis, and the subsequent neoliberal (or Washington Consensus) structural adjustment programmes undermine the positions of southern states in international negotiations (Gosovic, 2016). The rise of neoliberalism had served to overshadow the NIEO project, while the GATT and its successor the World Trade Organization (WTO) have increasingly eclipsed

UNCTAD (Gray & Gills, 2016). However, despite the downsizing of CSS, an institutional structure has slowly developed with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (PABA) of 1978. The BAPA worked for a change in approaches to development assistance and to strengthen the national and collective autonomy of developing countries as a whole foundation of a NIEO.

From the financial crisis of 2008 and the contraction of developed economies that followed, the SSC knows a new dynamic. This is evidenced by the rise of trade flows and foreign direct investment between Southern countries. This resurgence in SSC is based on the exhaustion of the neoliberal economic paradigm synthesized in the “Washington Consensus” and the failure of structural adjustment programs uniformly imposed “from above”. Southern states no longer believe in universal recipes (one size fits all) and are exhausted of economic and political conditionalities that undermine their sovereignty.

This renewed South-South activism is also a reflection of the accelerated growth of several emerging countries, mainly in Asia and the resumption of South-South diplomatic cooperation, which is presented as a series of initiatives reviving the challenge of the hierarchies of the international order. The “IBSA” initiative (India, Brazil and South Africa), also called the G-3, is characteristic of this. Launched in 2003, the IBSA aims to change the international balance of power in the fields of trade and security by associating the commercial pragmatism with the invocation of the principles of free trade and the third-world symbolism. This initiative has been extended by the establishment of regional financial mechanisms to compensate for the shortcomings of the Bretton Woods institutions.

The SSC as a new development paradigm

It is widely recognized today that the time has come to restore the SSC to a prominent place on the political and economic global scene, as well as renewed interest in its historic promise to transform the world order. The recent economic

and diplomatic successes of several key countries in the South, in particular the BRICS, have renewed hope for the potentialities of a new phase of building alternatives to the hegemonic and neo-colonial policies of the Global North.

Indeed, as stated in the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) “South-South cooperation on development aims to observe the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, equality among developing partners and respect for their independence, national sovereignty, cultural diversity and identity and local content” . The SSC is thus more and more recognized as a new paradigm, different and autonomous from NSC and conveying new principles and modalities of international cooperation guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty and ownership and free of any conditionality.

The resurgence of SSC is also visible in the historically important shift in production and industries from North to South, changing the world’s economic geography ((Gray & Gills, 2016). This is made possible by the diversity of cooperation modalities allowing all the southern countries to boost a mutual growth process (Chaturvedi, 2017). For certain this current trajectory of increasing economic growth, industrialization and financial capacity of many countries of the South will be a step or step on the way to a possible restructuring of global power struggles and reform of global governance institutions and norms and rules of the world economy (Vanaik, 2013).

We can easily confirm that the efforts provided in terms of SSC have allowed the southern countries to boost a dynamic of autonomous growth based on the mutuality, knowledge sharing and respect for the national sovereignty. The historic promises of solidarity and mutual development among the underprivileged of the world system are well on the way to realization. But there is still a way to go to boost a new development paradigm that goes beyond the destructive aspects of neoliberal globalization.

At the last BRICS meeting in Brazil, South / South relations between nations have certainly introduced a new dynamic, with infrastructure projects, credit facilities and knowledge exchange.

However, there has been little or no change in the philosophy of development. Growth, trade, prosperity have been advocated without paying too much attention to their ecological and social costs. The basic concept of South-South relations is always expressed in the classical framework of development, with the same concepts and the same measures, with little or no consideration for externalities (ecological and social), to say a modernization captured by the logic of the market (Gudynas, 2016).

More concretely, more international trade means more transport, more energy consumption and natural resources, more harmful gas emissions, increasing pollution of the oceans. The export of raw materials in the BRICS countries or between them means, for Latin America for example, the expansion of extractive activities, with new methods that are not particularly ecologically acceptable and very harmful for local populations (like open pit mines, for example). The result is a “reprimarisation” of economies and an increase in international dependence. Land grabbing in Africa is being allegedly scaled up not only by multinationals, but also by the BRICS, such as India in Ethiopia, China in the Philippines and Brazil in Mozambique. Thousands of hectares are being turned into monocultures with all the negative environmental effects and local people are being evicted from their land and pushed towards unemployment and poverty.

These practices and many others lead us to apprehend that the South, as a whole, reproduces today the same (neoliberal capitalist) model of relations with nature. This is not an ecological fundamentalism. It is obvious that every relationship with nature will leave an ecological footprint. The problem is to restore the metabolic balance (exchange of matter).

New means of action initiated by the South and applied within the framework of the SSC are then to be defined to usher in a new paradigm for overcoming the fundamental crisis of the existing development model.

Conclusion

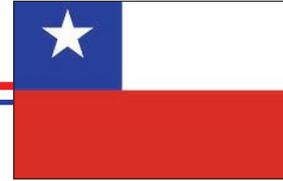
In line with the “Bandung historic project” a new paradigm “Post liberal globalization” can be constructed and become a goal to achieve through concrete and permanent efforts. But we

must abandon this vision of nature as a provider of natural resources that can be exploited as merchandise and adopt a respectful attitude, because nature is at the origin of all life - physical, cultural or spiritual. This new paradigm, assumes a holistic approach to reality, a sense of solidarity among all human beings, and the need for responsible behaviour vis-à-vis nature. In a word, it is the paradigm of a harmonious world where reproduction and improvement of life are the main objectives.

Southern societies have a key role to play in this paradigm shift, for two main reasons. First of all because their situation of dependence has made them the main victims of the current system and they are therefore perhaps more sensitive to the need for a radical change. Secondly, because they remain relatively close to the holistic view of reality and are still aware of the importance of traditional knowledge, even though this consciousness tends to fade over generations. The seeds of change exist and they are just waiting to be cultivated. This is one of the major missions of SSC.

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MERCOCIUDADES: A Case of Decentralised Cooperation in the Context of South-South Cooperation



Nicolás Azócar R.*

Abstract: This article describes and analyzes the case of MERCOCIUDADES as a practical case of Decentralised Cooperation and South-South Cooperation (SSC). It examines briefly different definitions and key elements of Decentralised Cooperation. It also describes the South-South Cooperation framework and highlights the differentiating components with North-South traditional model of cooperation. After that, it studies the conformation of MERCOCIUDADES and the South-South MERCOCIUDADES Cooperation Program as a tangible implementation of the main principles and modalities of South-South cooperation. To conclude, it describes the important role of Local Governments as a key player to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

Introduction

It is broadly agreed nowadays that the global scenario is changing dramatically. One of these changing features is the understanding of the traditional model of international cooperation theorized mainly by the North. It is challenged by the developing countries with the SSC's promising framework and their innovative principles. Latin America is a region where this model is dynamically progressing and has increasingly become a key tool to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by the United Nations through the Agenda 2030.

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is not only limited to countries, it could be used by subnational actors to promote cooperation and to implement different initiatives, which is known as Decentralized Cooperation (DC). An example of this is the establishment of the Red MERCOCIUDADES (MERCOCIUDADES)

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CITIES NETWORK), led by the majors of local governments in Latin America.

The present article will draw upon with a brief definition and different views of the concept of DC. Following that is a theoretical approach of SSC model, particularly with the main pillars, which makes a relevant difference from the historical model of cooperation. Next section will analyze key objectives, programs and initiatives of MERCOCIUDADES. Finally, the relationship between the features of SSC, role of DC and their implementation in MERCOCIUDADES will be laid out.

Decentralized Cooperation

DC is gradually becoming a key instrument to consolidate SSC and strengthening the role of subnational actors on achieving the Agenda 2030 SDG's adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. In order to analyse the case of MERCOCIUDADES as an example of DC, it is interesting to observe briefly the two main visions of this concept as long as it does not have a universally accepted definition.

It is interpreted differently depending on the actors that are involved. For example, the European Union recognised (as agents of this kind of cooperation as) decentralized public authorities, rural and village groups, cooperatives, trade unions, teaching and research institutions, non-governmental development organisations, among other associations (Hafteck, 2003). Thus, the European Union considers any domestic actors that are not agencies of the national government.

The United Nations Development Program defines DC as a long-term partnership between communities in different cities or towns and as a mechanism for establishing a novel partnership modality, which focuses on direct relationships between regional territories, as opposed to the model that promotes bilateral cooperation at the national level. Then, UNDP gives it a limit regarding geographical areas, restricting it to two particular actors from sub-national level (Hafteck, 2003).

Other organisations such as World Bank, the French Development Agency and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency have their own definitions, but it is possible to observe that they understand the relations to be between local governments from different countries with more or less formal partnerships, and they do not reject non-state actors in that cooperation (Nganje, 2015).

It is interesting to observe that DC has added some principles such as territorial roots of the actors, multidirectionality and emergence of new instruments, as well as sharing some principles of SSC such as horizontality and reciprocity: mutual interest and benefits.

In summary, for the purpose of this article there are three relevant elements to highlight and to identify the presence of a DC initiative: (i) Local Governments as lead actors, (ii) a common purpose influenced by the SDG and (iii) the nature of main initiatives implemented: exchange and support (Hafteck, 2003).

South-South Cooperation Model

The South has started to play a key role in the global scenario putting pressure for changes in the international development architecture and promoting the creation of new institutions. The SSC is considered an innovative way to promote development among developing countries, taking place on a bilateral, regional, sub-regional or inter-regional basis. These countries have been working to establish a different approach, which is not contained in the traditional North-South model and it is recognized by two main characteristics: a set of guiding principles and a plurality in modalities of cooperation.

Firstly, it is likely to identify essentials guiding principles: demand-driven, solidarity, non-conditionality, mutual benefit, equality, respect for national sovereignty, national ownership, independence and non-interference, among others. Therefore, it is possible to highlight the emphasis in the horizontal and equity relation where every member is considered a partner and the aid is not subject to any conditionality. They pursue of long-term mutual

benefits, assuming costs proportionally to the possibilities of each counterparty. SSC presents an important difference with the traditional North-South Cooperation model, because it uses local resources, involves low costs and ensures the possibility to implement agreements in a flexible way, fast and without conditionalities (Calvento & Rolandi, 2015). Another innovative point is the valuation of qualitative results.

Secondly, SSC includes a plurality in modalities, such as capacity building, technology and knowledge-base, trade and investment, grants and lines of credit. Even though such variety exists, their convergence is necessary to ensure the aspiration of influencing development in totality. SSC pursues collective 'self-reliance' as against perpetual dependence. This paradigm of development cooperation has been termed as 'Development Compact' (Chaturvedi, 2016).

MERCOCIUDADES

During the period between 1980 - 1990, it is possible to observe the creation of global network or cities network to promote relations between them, to share experiences and to work together to tackle common issues¹. An example of these networks is the establishment of MERCOCIUDADES in Latin America, which was created in March 1995 by the majors during the conference Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities-Southern Cone Region in Asuncion, Paraguay, with the objective to participate actively in the regional integration process, to show the main role of cities in this process and promote economic, social and politic cooperation. After that, in November of the same year, 12 cities signed the Founding Act during the First Summit of Mayors, Intendentes and Prefeitos of MERCOCIUDADES in Asuncion, Paraguay, considering cities as centers for boosting local and regional development (Andrade & Andrade, 2017).

Currently, this association is one of the most important ones engaged in the regional integration process with 349 cities from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay and Venezuela, which represents more than 120 millions of people.² For the purpose

of this article, it is relevant to underline briefly some objectives, programs and projects of MERCOCIUDADES.

Objectives

Firstly, the article two of Statutes declares its objectives: encourage the participation of cities in the structure of Mercosur by pursuing co-decision in the areas of their competence; promote the creation of city networks through operational technical units that develop various actions, programs and projects of common intermunicipal interest appropriate to the integration process; establish and promote reciprocal agreements and services between the various municipalities and the networks that were created; advocate intermunicipal cooperation in the field of science and technology; among others.

These objectives relate to the practical implementation of DC and SSC principles. The non-conditionality principle is possible to observed in the co-decision of participation, the horizontal and equity relation in the elaboration of diverse actions of common interest, the mutual benefit is clearly promoted through reciprocal agreements between different municipalities and the municipalities are the main actors of the network (territorial roots of the actors).

Therefore, MERCOCIUDADES not only considers these principles, but also promotes them, encourages their members to work on that and, as it is will be mentioned later, it allocates funds to support it.

South-South MERCOCIUDADES Cooperation Program

Further, since March 2017, the network launched the "South-South MERCOCIUDADES Cooperation Program" (SSMCP), an unparalleled experience in Latin America, allocating its own funds to encourage local governments, universities and civil society organisations to support and transfer knowledge in a wide variety of priority topics for cities, which would improve the quality of life of citizens, promote the gender

perspective and enhanced regional development. The SSMCP includes two lines of action: "Training for formulation of regional projects" and "Calls for financing projects".

Training has mixed modality (face-face and virtual), allowing participants to benefit from content that would base in theoretical and methodological tools and share different experiences between their own cities.

In the case of projects, every year MERCOCIUDADES selects four projects and prioritizes topics that it would like to enforce, such as climate change, sustainable development, resilience, migrations, culture, innovation and regional integration.

These endeavours have a variety of modalities that can be presented: technical assistance, exchange of experts and officials, internships, forums / workshops / seminars, human resources training and dissemination material. As it is possible to observe, MERCOCIUDADES with SSMCP takes principles of DC and SSC to implement them in a practical way. Furthermore, it endorses a variety of SSC's modalities, especially capacity building, technology and knowledge-base and grants.

SSMCP has been operating for two years. Eight projects were submitted in 2017 and 14 in 2018, involving seven out of ten countries in a variety of issues, such as entrepreneurship, local economic development, open government, gender equality, urban planning, climate change, among others.

In order to implement these lines of actions, MERCOCIUDADES has partnerships with national, regional and international institutions and organisations to support the development of the projects. In that sense, in its first two years it had the support of the Inter-American Development Bank, the Ibero-American General Secretariat and the European Union, among others.

Those partnerships played a key role in the implementation of that initiative because they contributed to backing more projects. As a result, MERCOCIUDADES kept the same contribution,

but the Program's resources to finance projects in 2018 have been doubled from the previous year. It can be seen that with a contribution of US \$ 20,000 annually, the SSMCP has supported projects valued at a total of US \$ 51,782 in 2017 and US \$ 93,988 in 2018 respectively.

Another important aspect is its openness to civil society that the Program has shown, which is evidenced in the increasing participation of universities and civil society organisations in the nominations, accompanying local governments and reflecting a greater articulation between actors.

The growth of resources and the increase of participants in the different instances have shown that SSMCP is a tool valued by local actors and suitable to advance in the promotion of local public policies to solve the various challenges that the region is facing now.

Conclusion

Local Governments are key players in the objective to reach the SDG because they implement the policies and they are in the field working directly with communities, but the high levels discussions not always consider them and they don't have enough resources to tackle their own challenges. That's why, it is becoming relevant for cities to make alliances among partners to share experiences, adapt best practices, search for resources and implement development projects.

In order to achieve that, cities have started to work on international relations by long term partnership agreements, which is known as DC. MERCOCIUDADES is a tangible model of DC, where local governments are leading the actions with a common purpose influenced by the SDG.

On the same page, SSC becomes an alternative to the traditional North-South Cooperation model with their own principles and modalities of cooperation more adapted to the reality of developing countries. MERCOCIUDADES has taken this "Development Compact" framework to a large extent and has gone ahead with concrete initiatives and projects between cities

in Latin America, strengthening the role of local governments to show globally the local problems and makes the voice of the South stronger.

The performance of SSMCP is going well and it has the opportunity to growth still more. For instance, it is important to include private companies in order to raise more resources and finance more projects and training as well as share knowledge between these two sectors.

To conclude, the role of cities network is relevant to tackle social issues and to leaving no one behind, implementing cooperation through mutual benefits, no conditionalities and solidarity.

Endnotes

- 1 It is possible to observe others examples such as Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities (1980), US Asia Environment Program (1982), Eurocities (1986), World Association of Major Metropolises (1986), Cities Alliances (1999) (Andrade & Andrade, 2017).
Website: <https://mercociudades.org/ciudades-miembro/>

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SSC and the Challenges of 2030 Agenda: An Academic-Policy Making Dialogue



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Abstract: After 40 years of the adoption of BAPA, we are witnessing a process of profound transformations in the distribution of international power. The new scenario is marked, among other elements, by the growing influence of developing countries and actors from the private sector and civil society, as well as the relevance acquired by SSC and triangular cooperation. These and other dynamics have generated a wide debate about how to expand and democratize the structures and mechanisms of international cooperation. In this sense, Latin American countries emerge as a distinctive region within SSC, with particular needs and demands, specially regarding their mechanisms and strategies of insertion into the world economy. This new scenario emerges as a window of opportunity to address the confluence of needs, projects and delivery within this strategy.

Key words: South-south cooperation – global south – SDG - BAPA

Introduction

During the 1960s and 1970s, Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries (TCDC) was established as a pioneering associative effort among the countries of the South in their demand for fairer international relations and a new international economic order. During the Cold War, these countries tried to find alternative ways of creating bonds that would contribute to promoting their own development, and strengthen their international bargaining power through articulation and political dialogue. This aspiration was reflected in a fundamental milestone to promote what is currently one of the pillars of South-South Cooperation: the

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approval of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action to Promote and Implement Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA), as a result of the United Nations Conference on TCDC in 1978.

Since then, together with political dialogue, economic cooperation and financial cooperation, TCDC has established itself as one of the constituent elements of South-South Cooperation (SSC), shaping a vast range of initiatives and programs that have contributed to the resolution of specific problems from developing countries.

However, with its changes, in the last two decades a new directionality emerged in International Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean to promote the construction of sovereignty and strengthen national development processes in the region through SSC and emancipatory policies. In fact, SSC grew considerably, which shows that the increasing participation of these countries in this direction reinforces other forms of cooperation. Ibero-American Cooperation has become an international model of SSC, recognized for its dynamism, horizontality and innovation.

Latin American countries adhered to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and committed themselves to its objectives as a paradigm. While International Cooperation is a fundamental tool for insertion to a global scale, it also emerges as an opportunity for building a development agenda delineated by and for the region. That is why SSC becomes a strategic space (and instrument) to attend the needs and capabilities of its people. In recent years, a development agenda has been set up and put in place, which has meant for some regions, such as Latin America, a point of reference in national public policies. As Surasky (2017) points out, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have added to the international development cooperation system established by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) not only qualitative variables and quantitative monitoring indicators, but also raise an unprecedented level of ambition in terms of promoting development within a broader agenda and in which all objectives are interrelated. This poses important challenges for Latin American countries in terms of the importance of moving together and in a sustained

manner for the fulfillment of the goals proposed in the 2030 Agenda. This challenge is even greater if this agenda is addressed from a perspective from and for the South.

Cooperation for development, like so many other international realities, is a field of power and arena of disputes between countries in which actors with different positions in the social structure face different means and purposes (Echart Muñoz, 2016). From a wide variety of approaches, sectors, institutional mechanisms and regional and interregional platforms, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia have demonstrated a renewed and growing interest in the potential of SSC. In this sense, the traditional paradigm based on the unidirectional flow of cooperation from the North to the South can no longer explain a reality that is more complex, heterogeneous and interdependent. In this way, the end of the North-South and East-West guiding principles have given rise to a new geography and a reconfiguration of the political system that is increasingly decentralized and at the same time more contested (Chaturvedi, 2015).

Although the International Cooperation, with a renewed South-South perspective, is embedded in the reference frameworks of the international system where it belongs, it can be a transformational tool to identify the needs of Latin American countries but considering their specific possibilities and capabilities. There are also differences among the countries of our region in relation not only to their capabilities and possibilities to face the objectives set by the SDGs, but also in relation to their perspectives in relation to each one of them. In this sense, the question that arises is whether it is possible to develop a coordinated strategy that allows a regional approach to the fulfillment of those objectives. The BAPA + 40 High Level Conference held in Buenos Aires in 2019 served as a space for the containment and promotion of these strategies by allowing Latin American countries to glimpse the possibilities for thinking about South-South cooperation and sustainable development from a paradigm increasingly shared in the region, and therefore mutually reinforced.

What international cooperation agenda do we need for the well-being of our peoples and the development of Latin American countries?

The importance that regionalism has acquired in Latin America reflects a different perspective within developing countries regarding their strategy of insertion in the international arena. In this context, in the last decade in particular, SSC has represented a tool for regional and interregional integration that allowed the strengthening of relations among States, meeting their needs and taking into account their complementarities. Regional actors have played a central role and the states have shown that they continue to be the cornerstone in these processes. At present, SSC has a strategic role in different regional integration schemes in which our countries participate. Thus, Latin American countries, through different initiatives of International Cooperation and their coordination mechanisms, have demonstrated that they can advance in an increasingly coordinated strategy of cooperation based on the needs, capacities and opportunities of each country and the region. However, it should also be noted that SSC has often tended to be constructed in an “adaptive” manner, either as a way to meet the demands of the North or as a way to fit or adapt in an enormously competitive international system. Our region has a lot to add in terms of SSC to think about new cooperation strategies that do not respond only to demand but are driven by what the region and its states have to offer and are interested in promoting. To this end, the region needs to generate tools and instruments to support the coordination of public policies and cooperation among Latin American countries, for example, in view of the commitments assumed in the 2030 Agenda, taking into account the complexity of this agenda and the challenges that SSC may pose for our region. The BAPA + 40 Conference emerged as a stage to discuss these mechanisms. In this sense, the Argentine presidency of the G20 in 2018 served as a fundamental precedent and an opportunity for the region to influence the international cooperation agenda as well as for the coordination and strengthening of the political and economic ties of the countries of the region. To this is added the celebration of the BAPA + 40 Conference to be held in 2019, which is also a unique opportunity for the search of regional coordination and cooperation tools and the construction of an agenda from and to the south in order to fulfill of the SDGs.

Some elements to take into account in this process of discussion and shaping of agendas. It is known, in the first place, that there is a formal agenda, different from the political/decision agenda, and an issue goes through several stages until its incorporation into the political decision agenda (Kingdon, 2001). Second, political decisions are highly influenced by particular contexts associated with a particular space and time, while being conditioned or framed by social, economic or political-structural contexts (Kingdon, 2001). Thirdly, cooperation policies cannot be explained only by the will of governmental agencies, the action or inaction of the state, but by the interaction of other actors that can also influence the content of those decisions. In this way, it seems central to highlight two relevant issues.

On the one hand, alliances between state and non-state actors are fundamental due to the advantages that contributing to the achievement of common objectives could have. From an academic perspective, and in line with objective 17 of the 2030 agenda, we consider that one of the challenges in this agenda is to strengthen the confluence of two fundamental sectors in the policy formulation and discussion process construction of decision agendas (agenda setting): academic research and public management. The process of research and the formulation of policies and decision-making is a permanent challenge for the generation of tools and strategies in foreign policy matters. Likewise, the redefinition, resignification and innovation of conceptual and methodological frameworks in international cooperation should be a theoretical-academic exercise for the expansion of reference frameworks (Herrero, 2017). Behind the debate on the concepts and fields tensions emerged. In this sense, in this endeavour we must also reflect on the ethnocentrism adopted by our countries from central countries and that raises axes for a cooperation agenda that do not always respond to our needs nor from our perspectives (Deciancio, 2016). On the other hand, countries tend to address cooperation according to demand, which is why often cooperation plans do not respond to an *ex ante* strategy. To that extent, the synergies between countries and the possibilities of mutual learning are reduced. This hinders the transition of passive actors in this agenda to active, proactive

and critical actors. This ultimately implies an agenda that is not only oriented to the demand for cooperation (needs), but also to be planned according to the possible supply, that is, according to the capacities of the region. In this sense, the possibility of coordinating a joint strategy and with a perspective from the South for the fulfillment of this agenda is presented as a unique opportunity.

From this perspective, there is a reconstruction of the idea that regional and global relations can also be strategic relations in the collective and that it is possible to achieve common positions, not only in the economic or trade issues, but also in terms of public policies in general, in greater harmony. Latin American countries, through different International Cooperation initiatives and their coordination mechanisms, have shown that they can advance in an increasingly coordinated cooperation strategies based on the needs, capacities and opportunities of each country and region.

From the various fields of action (environment, health, commerce, technology, just to mention some of those that make up the paradigm of Sustainable Development and that make the structure of the SDGs) International Cooperation, and in particular the SSC, goes through different stages in the process of formulation and construction of the agenda. The study of these stages, as a process and cycle, allows us to identify the indicators that enable the SSC as an intervention strategy to enter the political agenda, the different proposals for a solution to address it, the different ways of addressing it, the construction (or no) of consensus and the actors involved in this process. The journey through these stages can open a window of opportunity for a topic to move from the government or formal cooperation agenda to the decision-making agenda and translate into an active and concrete SSC policy. From the theory of opportunity structure (Tarrow, 1998), a window of opportunity is understood as the moment in which simultaneously, an agenda is recognized,

there is leadership to articulate it within the framework of the specific organism, a negotiation option is visualized, there is an availability of influential allies, and the political climate is positive for the implementation of cooperation.

Along these lines, it is essential to develop tools that serve the development of politics and the positioning of SSC issues become a window of opportunity for it. It is essential to advance in the study and analysis of the factors that influence it, so specific issues of SSC can emerge to the political decision agenda within the framework of multilateral negotiations.

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African Connect in South-South Cooperation with India and China



**Rucktooa Mitheela Lay
Ling***

Abstract: Regional Cooperation plays an important role to deepen partnerships within any given region. India and China have both been supporting and facilitating the African regional integration. The collective power of the African Regional Economic Communities and the South-South Cooperation (SSC) efforts promoted by India and China can enable a more effective outcome for the region. This paper describes the various priority and collaborative areas of SSC between three selected RECs namely SADC, COMESA and IORA, and two emerging economies namely India and China.

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) defines South-South Cooperation (SSC) as “the technical cooperation among developing countries in the Global South.” The UN further states that the SSC is “a tool used by the states, international organizations, academics, civil society and the private sector to collaborate and share knowledge, skills and successful initiatives in specific areas such as agricultural development, human rights, urbanization, health, climate change etc.” An impressive representation of the SSC in the African continent is the 800 million RMB Headquarters and Conference Centre built by China for the African Union (AU) in Ethiopia.

There are currently eight Regional Economic Communities (RECs), recognized as the building blocks of the African Union (AU), in the African’s landscape. These are namely:

1. AMU - Arab Maghreb Union
2. CEN-SAD - The Community of Sahel-Saharan States
3. COMESA - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

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Views expressed are personal.

4. EAC - East African Community
5. ECCAS - Economic Community of Central African States
6. ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States
7. IGAD - Intergovernmental Authority on Development
8. SADC - Southern African Development Community

Each of the REC's has a regional integration agenda to serve as a guide to their Member States (MS) in its implementation. It is important to note that MS are usually members of more than one REC (for instance, Kenya is member of COMESA, IGAD and EAC). The AU, on the other hand, is implementing its Agenda 2063, at a continental level. Amid their regional integration agenda, the RECs are also contributing towards the implementation of this AU Agenda 2063. It should be noted that the need to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are also helping in advancing the power of partnerships. While most countries have their own development and growth agendas, it is important these agendas consolidate at the global, regional and national levels. Moreover, according to the UN, the unique nature and exposure of RECs provide them with more capacity to play a strategic role in integrating the SDGs and Agenda 2063, and at the same time promote SSC.

The objective of this paper is to provide an overview of the role of RECs in fostering SSC with India and China, in the African region; the challenges that they are called upon to address; and the collaborations that has been set up among them. This paper will concentrate on three out of the eight RECs, namely SADC, COMESA and IORA.

African perspective

SADC

On 28 April 2006, the SADC and the Government of India Forum was launched in the Republic of Namibia, to promote technical co-operation in all

fields of economic activity. This SSC partnership aimed at human empowerment from private sectors through skills exchange and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from both regions. Both parties have agreed on six priority areas namely:

- Agriculture:

Over 70 per cent of employment in the SADC region is geared towards agriculture; making it the most important sector in the region for poverty alleviation, economic growth and development. The focus area of cooperation was mainly in irrigation and dry land farming; agro-engineering; and seed technology.

- Promotion of small and medium scale enterprises and entrepreneurial development; including enhancing trade and investment.

SMEs have been viewed as a mean to generate employment and economic activity, in areas such as agro-industry development (small ginneries and textile mills; wheat and maize millers, oil extraction and food canning) in the SADC region. When it comes to trade, sound macroeconomic policies, vibrant financial services, increased investments and industrial development are important to ensure a sound integration with the region.

- Health including Drugs and Pharmaceuticals:

Likewise, with India, the SADC region is no indifferent to communicable and non-communicable diseases. The priority areas are Malaria; Tuberculosis; HIV and AIDS; Non-Communicable Diseases; and Drugs and Pharmaceuticals.

- Human Resources Development:

A broad and developmental integration agenda, with policies, strategies and programmes in different priority areas such as human resources development, education, health, social protection, nutrition, water supply, employment/income generation, culture, gender equality and empowerment of women have been set up to approach the human resources development.

- Water Resources Management:

The SADC Regional Strategic Action Plan

on Integrated Water Resources Management and Development (RSAP-IWRMD) is a comprehensive approach to address the water resource development and management both at national and regional level. A SADC/India cooperation has been established to develop, promote and facilitate best practices, capacity building and sustainability in this area.

- Information, Communications Technology (ICT):

The SADC-India cooperation will look at the exchange of expertise to ensure that the right ICT policies are developed, both at the regional and national level.

In 2018, cooperation in the area of peace and security was established with China and the SADC Secretariat. In line with the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Declaration on peace and security, China's will provide support to the SADC area through grants. China will also provide assistance to construct the SADC Regional Logistics Depot, which is expected to be fully operational by 2023. It should be noted that SADC had a meeting with the special representative to SADC from China before the FOCAC in 2018 to discuss matters of mutual interest. The Chinese-African relations, as a mean to promote diplomacy, trade, security and investment relations were discussed. China has reinforced its continued commitment to Africa for the next three years. SADC Secretariat will be further working with China in exploring new areas of collaboration.

COMESA

On February 2003, the COMESA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India for long-term economic and technical cooperation. The cooperation includes capacity building in areas such as industrial development, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, ICT, energy, trade, SMEs, science & technology. COMESA has participated in meetings between India and the African RECs, which was held in 2011.

Similarly, India has been actively involved in the COMESA Secretariat. The High Commissioner of India in Lusaka is accredited to the Secretariat

and participates in various meetings and summits, with a view to promote the India-COMESA Engagement and, at the same time renew its commitment to Africa. India also participates in several COMESA events namely:

1. Intellectual Property Rights to exchange views on the COMESA Policy on Intellectual Property Rights
2. Enhancing Intra-COMESA Trade through Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development

China has also been involved in various areas such as the promotion of SMEs to create a regional linkage, fostering of trade and development through funding initiatives and other initiatives. More importantly, the inclusion of Chinese Yuan, as well as the Indian Rupee as Settlement Currencies of COMESA's Regional Payment and Settlement System (REPSS) for payments and settlements was approved. The Chinese construction company which constructed the AU Office partnered with the Federation of National Associations of Women in Business (FEMCOM) to locate funds for the construction of an office Complex. Moreover, according to a COMESA report, in 2012, China imported over USD 14 billion of COMESA products namely petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals from Sudan and Libya, and Copper and Cobalt from Congo DR and Zambia. However, it has been noted that the COMESA region is more apt to exporting consumer and agricultural goods to China.

IORA

IORA is an inter-governmental organisation, established on 07 March 1997. It currently has 22 MS, including India. During its chairmanship in 2011, India took a major initiative to revive the emerging geo-strategic challenges that the region was facing and as such set out six priority areas that IORA should focus on, namely: Maritime Safety and Security; Trade and Investment Facilitation; Fisheries Management; Disaster Risk Management; Academic, Science and Technology; and Tourism and Cultural Exchange.

India has also outlined 10 proposals with

regards to its IORA strategy namely:

1. The creation of a virtual university for IORA
2. The provision of capacity building programmes (such as Tsunami Warning and Emergency Response) to scientists from IORA partners at the Indian National Centre on Ocean Information Services in Hyderabad.
3. A special training course for IORA Diplomats at the Foreign Service Institute in New Delhi
4. Workshops on women empowerment
5. Workshops on Skill Development of Youths
6. Secondment of officials from India
7. Provision of office equipment to the Secretariat
8. Institutionalizing of the Blue Economy Dialogue
9. Experts Meeting on Maritime Safety and Security
10. Contribution of USD 100,000 for the IORA Special Fund, for funding of women Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Workshop, Innovation Exposition in collaboration and Water Security and Sustainability conference.

India has also hosted the First Indian Ocean Dialogue, whereby stakeholders from different spheres were called upon to discuss six broad themes, namely the geopolitical contours of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), maritime security challenges, strengthening regional institutions, information sharing, cooperation in disaster relief and management, and economic cooperation.

India has also taken a leading role in engaging the IOR with several dialogues (Blue Economy Dialogue), seminars (Indian Ocean Seminar), workshops (small and medium workshop), expert meetings (Maritime Safety and Security) and conferences (International Relations Conference), on the above 10 outlined proposals.

Conclusion

On the overall, Africa has still a long way to go when it comes to development and growth. Despite the flow of aid, Africa still remains a fragile continent. The RECs have been created for a purpose and that is to pursue outcomes in favour of the whole region. The COMESA – EAC – SADC tripartite; the historical negotiation of a cooperation agreement on trade relations and development cooperation with the European Economic Community; and the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are all examples of how the RECs can come together for the betterment of the region and the continent as a whole. The heterogeneity and individualism of each MS; emerging climate and environmental challenges; as well as the political turmoil and social issues (poverty, gender issues and inequality) can all come as a challenge, but REC need to speak in one single voice. It is only as a group that they will enhance their negotiating capacity and have a more powerful hand on various issues challenging the area. Africa-driven solutions should be the motto to the various African problems. While the need for technical assistance and aid in Africa will most probably not end soon, MS should not underestimate their experiences and capacities to transfer their knowledge and skills within the region. Finally, African countries should assert themselves as partners in every partnership and not allow deterioration of the welfare of the region, in the name of aid and assistance.

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Prospects of South-South Cooperation in Peacekeeping



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Abstract: For international political policy, the development of South-South Cooperation strategies is a fundamental element of the ‘international insertion strategy’ of the Global South as well as a manifestation of efforts towards assertion of autonomy. This article aims to address the current state of security and defense structures that serve as a substructure for South-South Cooperation in this area; the challenges they face, as well as the prospects of South-South Cooperation as a peacekeeping tool.

Introduction

In the backdrop of the growing conflicts and the consequent humanitarian crises happening in the developing world, South-South Cooperation can be a key tool to reduce, mitigate and even prevent them. This can be done through the construction of multilateral structures with inputs from the South and that consider the link between peace and development as central elements.

In this article, we propose to address the current state of security and defense structures that serve as a South-South Cooperation framework in this area; and to inquire about the possibilities of Argentina–India cooperation in this regard especially since both the nations are troop-contributing members in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations.

According to a World Bank–United Nations report, by 2030, more than half of the world population will live in countries affected by high levels of national and international violence. This number is likely to go up unless preventive measures are taken.

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Views expressed are personal.

Besides, according to the 2018 Global Peace Index, the level of peace has deteriorated in 92 countries. It showed an increase in unresolved conflicts, crises and tensions. The spiral of increasing violence was leading to difficulties in ensuring growth and development.

The growing influx of refugees, migrants and/or internally displaced persons are the major problems that the Global South has to tackle while trying to establish and maintain peace. The scenario gets further complicated when elements such as climate change and the war for access and control of natural resources are analyzed as factors that determine an environment of peace and security.

The Global South also face the challenge of finding their own methods for conflict prevention and resolution, since most initiatives in the fields of security and defense come from the Global North, leaving the Global South as mere recipients of proposals.

In the South-South Cooperation structures, security and defense issues have always been overshadowed by the priority given to trade and investment. However, thanks to the negotiation efforts prior to BAPA + 40, the final declaration of the meeting included for the first time the need to consider the socio-economic dimensions of sustainability to move towards peaceful societies, which opens the door to the opportunity to incorporate the South-South Cooperation into the Peacekeeping Agenda.

Challenges faced by Global South

Traditionally within the United Nations framework, a small block of countries mainly from the Global North have control over decision-making in matters of peace and security. The countries of the Global South, although the main victims of conflicts, end up being mere recipients of policies designed by the Global North.

his weakness in approach can be seen in various aspects of militarization, including in the framework of peacekeeping operations, police surveillance, short-term mediation from

top to bottom as well as hasty and exogenous implementation of peace agreements.

The other major challenge in the field of South-South Cooperation in security and defense for the countries of the Global South is to find ways to demilitarize the strategies and orient the projects towards a sustained development approach as a condition for peacekeeping that links the defense of human rights, the consolidation of peace and the promotion of development.

Since its establishment, the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations have become an effective instrument of the UN Organization for the fulfillment of its original principal mandate: to maintain and strengthen international peace and security.

Role of Argentina and India

Argentina and India, as founding members of the United Nations Organization, and in accordance with the objectives of its founding Charter, adhere to the idea that democracy, the preservation of peace and cooperation in the field of international relations are an essential condition for the development and well-being of the people, and the means of international action for their commitment to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security through continuous participation in Peacekeeping Operations within the UN framework.

Argentina's experience in the UN Peacekeeping Operations started in 1958. So far, more than 40,000 national troops have participated in these operations, mainly members of the three-Armed Forces and, to a lesser extent, the National Gendarmerie. Argentina has participated in 35 of the more than fifty Peacekeeping Operations created since 1948, thereby becoming one of the main contributors for peace missions.

Without a doubt, the most important experience for Argentina in this area was the participation in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which was planned within the framework of a political strategy for cooperation in defense matters at the South American level.

The experience of MINUSTAH stands out, not only for the role played by Latin American countries in the process of stabilization of Haiti as the largest contributors of mission effects, but also their role in the field and contact with the population, in the variety of activities developed and the professionalism with which the deployed forces performed.

Currently, Argentina maintains a very small deployment compared to previous years composed of 276 troops and observers in four of the 13 ongoing missions. Adapting to the conditions of the new challenges, and regaining leadership in this area, is one of the main challenges that it faces in the future.

As one of the founding members of the UN, India's contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security has been more than important in these years. India started his participation in the operations in Korea in 1950. India's current deployment of 6,170 personnel reflects the commitment of troops, military observers and staff officers and civilian police from the country in nine of the current UN operations, and more than 200,000 in the last 70 years.

The Indian Armed Forces have experience in counter-insurgency operations and this have a marked advantage over forces from other countries without such expertise. At this point there is a fundamental difference with Argentina. Argentina has important legal and political restrictions for participation, and the legal framework makes a difference between security and defense duties. For those reasons, Argentina does not participate with troops in scenarios such as insurgency operations and where there is a high risk of fatalities.

In February 2019, on the occasion of the official visit of the then President of Argentina, Mauricio Macri, to India, a defense agreement was signed with the aim of increasing cooperation ties in defense matters, in which both the countries committed, among other things, to promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences in peacekeeping operations, as well as the exchange

of defense instructors and/or observers, in addition to joint and reciprocal participation in training courses or defense programs.

With this agreement as a frame of reference, there are some three specific points where it is possible to advance in cooperation. Firstly, it would be important to advance the deepening of contacts between the Training Centers of both countries, ensure pre-deployment training and exchange of instructors for the dictation of courses.

Secondly, efforts can be made to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping operation by taking into account the demand from the United Nations for the same. Although in Argentina, much progress has been made in the inclusion of women in the Armed Forces, the real increase in their participation remains a pending issue. India, in 2007, had become the first country to deploy a contingent of women for a UN peacekeeping mission, deployed in Liberia. Besides, the United Nations Peacekeeping Center of India, in collaboration with UN Women, conducts courses aimed at training military officers to prevent and address sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflicts.

It would be very useful for Argentina to be able to count on the possibility that female personnel of the armed and security forces participate in these training instances, and perhaps also be able to deploy Argentine personnel as part of the Indian contingent in a mission of this nature.

Finally, Argentina has extensive experience in exchanging officers and Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) as part of the multilateral composition of the missions. For example, Officers and NCOs of the Armed Forces of Chile, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay have been part of the Argentine Mission in Cyprus (UNFICYP), becoming a significant regional cooperation venture. The exchange of observers as an integral part of the missions of the other country is an excellent opportunity for the exchange of experiences and the approach to scenarios where the country does not have contingent deployment.

Conclusion

South-South Cooperation is an evolving concept, a legitimate tool to which, countries with a lower degree of development can gain access to growth in certain aspects, thanks to the contribution and collaboration of other countries, on an equal level, under the principles of mutual gain, not interference, collective growth opportunities and without imposition of conditionalities. It is a great opportunity for growth and economic expansion and can be applied to cooperation in defense and strengthening of institutions.

In this context, South-South Cooperation options can be exploited, in terms of capacity building to advance the adaptability in peace operations through the exchange of information and mutual experiences, training instances and even joint participation in missions lead by one of the parties.

South-South defense cooperation, through the strengthening of common ties, must function as a platform to strengthen common positions in the global scenario that allows the participation of the Southern countries in the international security agenda.

An approach from the Global South is necessary, especially since the Southern countries know better than anyone else the specific needs of their people. This insight positions them best to develop our strategies and logic that can guarantee sustainable solutions, implementing innovative initiatives to contribute to the peace processes by addressing the root causes of conflicts.

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Part II
LOCAL ACTIONS



India-Cameroon Cooperation: Need for Re-dynamism



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Fatimatou***

Abstract: Countries cooperate to promote global sustainable development, and this it is necessary to constantly revitalise cooperation efforts, to make them more context-oriented beneficial and profitable. The theme of this paper is to study the cooperation initiatives between India and Cameroon, pushing for a re-dynamisation in their partnership. There is a slow exchange between the two countries which needs a boost. Moreover, the paper will address the question – what is the current level of cooperation? To answer this, the paper will offer the state of the collaboration between the two countries and then to propose the options to make it more promising.

Introduction

In a global context where economic hardships are growing in most developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, economic and trade relations are becoming an important issue. India and Africa countries pledged at the 2008 Forum to lay the groundwork for new cooperation that will allow each party to reap the benefits of open markets. This paper on Cameroon-India cooperation to show that despite the potential offered by each country, much remains to be done hence the need to amplify cooperation efforts and multiply their areas of exchange.

Cooperation relations between Cameroon and India

Diplomatic and political relations

Cameroon and India have maintained diplomatic relations at the level of Ambassadors since 1960. (MEA, India, 2019).

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Views expressed are personal.

India has consistently accredited an Ambassador to Cameroon but with residence in Abuja. In addition, India has an Honorary Consulate in Douala. On the Cameroonian side, the Head of State created the High Commission of Cameroon in New Delhi, India. The operationalisation of this post will be done at the discretion of the Very High Hierarchy of Cameroonian Government. In the current state, however, Cameroon Embassy in Beijing, China (AMBACAM Beijing) is also responsible for India. But in practice and for reasons of efficiency and speed, exchanges of diplomatic correspondence between Cameroon and India are through the High Commissions of the two countries in Abuja, Nigeria. High level visits are infrequent. The most recent is H.E. Kamalesh SHARMA, Secretary General of the Commonwealth from 2008 to 2016 (Tsiele, 2017).

Bilateral Cooperation

Cooperation between Cameroon and India is based on the Commercial Agreement signed on February 22, 1968 and the Agreement Governing Trade, signed on April 20, 1968. These instruments were signed prior to the establishment of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) are less suited to current trade relations. The alternative is to apply WTO agreements in practice to trade between the two countries. Moreover, Indo-Cameroonian bilateral cooperation is characterised by a lack of consultation within the framework of intergovernmental consultations. Indeed, despite the existence of this platform of exchange between the two countries, the holding of its Sessions is not regular. The last was held in New Delhi from 1 to 4 September 2008.

Also, the establishment of a Cameroon-India Mixed Commission envisaged since 2005 is slow to take effect. Nevertheless, the Indian side offers each year to the Cameroonian Government several dozens of academic and training grants, for the improvement of the capacities and potentialities of students and public officials. These offerings cover areas as diverse as economics, science, medicine, technology, engineering, governance, communication and diplomacy; without pretending to be exhaustive.

The most important of this scholarship package is the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation initiative, abbreviated ITEC. The manifestation of Indian interest in Cameroon is also reflected in the organisation of cultural events in Cameroon, as was the case in 1988 with the commercial and industrial exhibition. Also, Cameroon has often been invited to take part in similar events organised in India.

In addition, the Government of India offered a donation of 60 tractors to the Government of Cameroon in 2005 (Bijoy, 2010). This donation is part of a comprehensive project including the construction of a plant assembly of said tractors in Ebolowa and the development of farms. It is also worth mentioning that Cameroon is home to a strong Indian community whose members are recruited in several sectors of activity, including general trade, medicine and logging.

Similarly, the flow of Cameroonians to India has increased considerably in recent years. The latter go there mainly for medical, professional, commercial and academic reasons. The number of Cameroonian nationals in India is estimated at 5,000, the majority of whom are in New Delhi. The main difficulties facing these compatriots are primarily consular. Cameroon exports to India logwood, raw cotton and imports of textile fibers, cereals, pharmaceuticals, aluminum and utensils, machinery and mechanical appliances, clothing, plastics, paints and varnishes and chemicals.

Multilateral Cooperation

Cameroon and India maintain multilateral relations in the framework of International Organisations and other cooperation bodies of which they are both members. Since 2008, India and African states have been meeting in a three-year meeting called the India-Africa Summit to evaluate their cooperation. During the third edition of the Summit in 2015, the Indian side announced the provision of African States credit line US\$ 10 billion for the financing of development programmes and projects during the five-year period 2015-2020 (Rao & Kuwonu, 2016).

It is in this context that the Indian government has agreed to finance, for US\$ 38 million, two projects received from our country, namely the projects on the cultivation of corn and rice in the plain of Ndop (province North West). The related agreement was signed in April 2009 between MINEPAT and Exim Bank India. However, the financing of the cassava project by this line to the tune of US\$ 42 million is not favorable due to deficiencies noted in its assembly and despite the multiple reminders of the Indian side. (MEA, 2017)

In the same vein of boosting its cooperation with African states, the Government of India has committed, at the end of the 2018 Summit, to open 18 resident diplomatic missions in Africa between 2018 and 2021 (Chaudhury, 2019). The future accredited countries targeted by this initiative are: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Swaziland and Togo. In this regard, India, through a note verbale dated 07 March 2019 from its High Commission in Abuja, requested the High Approval of the Head of State for the appointment of H.E. Rakesh Malhotra as High Commissioner of India in Cameroon with residence in Yaoundé and at the same time, informed the Cameroonian authorities of his decision to effectively open his diplomatic mission in Yaoundé during the year 2019. The Accreditation of the Chief of the State obtained, the very first High Commissioner of India in Cameroon with residence in Yaoundé presented the figured copies of his Letters of Claim and delivered the said Letters respectively to MINREX and the Head of State on 18 and 24 September 2019.

In addition, New Delhi will provide African students and officials with 500,000 academic and professional scholarships during the same period. (Waruru, 2019).

Revitalisation of Indo-Cameroonian cooperation

The particularities of each country

Cameroon, a crossroads of Africa, has a great geographical diversity, which has earned it the nickname of “Africa in miniature”, with more than 22 million inhabitants, a 420-kilometer seafront and resources important natural resources (energy, mining, agriculture, forests) the country plays a leading role in the region. It presents the most diversified economy in Central Africa. Cameroon has been growing steadily for 10 years. But these good performances have not been enough to reduce poverty, which remains high both in cities and in the countryside.

It particularly affects young people under 25 years, underemployed 90 per cent, Cameroon aims for the status of emerging countries in 2050. As a result, the government has launched an ambitious program to boost the economy and foster job creation. At the same time, the authorities intend to develop sustainable cities to absorb the rural exodus. The goal is dynamic campaigns, connected to modern cities by value chains transforming products of the earth into wealth for all the Minister of Foreign Affairs on October 12, 2005, spoke about the benefits of bilateral cooperation in the areas of SMEs and health, including paramedical equipment and pharmaceuticals where India’s reputation in generics is well established. This path deserves to be pursued by the government to benefit from Indian expertise in the field of scientific research. – India. The world’s second-largest population (growing at about 1.5 million per month) and seventh in size, India is a developing country with a modest economic position. It is an agricultural country whose production remains varied. Agriculture is mainly cereal based (wheat, maize, rice) despite the importance of other crops (tea, peanuts, sugar cane, cotton, tobacco, jute) often inherited from colonisation. Its mining production is not negligible (iron, bauxite). India also produces coal, oil.

The most important asset of the Indian economy is its intellectual elite trained in the best British and American universities. This gray resource favors the country's transformation into a state-of-the-art technology hub. India has a very significant industrial base in the fields of iron and steel, mechanical engineering, textiles and the chemical industry. His mastery of this knowledge allows him to manufacture and put into orbit his own satellites, in addition to being the holder of the atomic bomb.

India has been among the top ten emerging markets since 1996 and is highly coveted by Europe and Japan. In 2005, the Indian economy grew by seven per cent, a higher figure than any other emerging market and is tending to increase in 2019.

Need for Cameroon to Strengthen its Cooperation with India

SC is currently booming given the global trend. It is based on trade, investment and technology transfer as well as direct financial assistance between developing countries. Africa is full of raw material that is not transformed at the local level, Cameroon is a miniature Africa where the industrial and technical sector is slow to take off. It is therefore necessary for the latter to review, to open the areas of trade with the big giant of the South such as Asia, particularly India and Latin America.

The SSC respects the fundamental principles such as respect for national sovereignty, national ownership, independence, equality, unconditionally, non-interference and mutual benefit. It runs on capacity building, in house training, technology transfer, financial assistance (grant), lines of credit and humanitarian assistance. It presents a macroeconomic and sectorial approach as Cameroon aims.

India is the second most populous country in the world, a rising economy. It is among the most influential states of the Commonwealth of which Cameroon is a member. It maintains an

independent line in this forum of 2008 which Cameroon can claim against the Western bloc.

In terms of economic and technical cooperation, the adaptability of Indian technology to our context in the field of agriculture, new information and communication technologies remains promising. This cooperation should focus on the areas of technology and innovation which is a sector that will boost the economy by solving social problems such as access to water, energy, entrepreneurship, youth. The state must be able to set up internal policies involving all layers of the country's development, including public and private sector cooperation, civil society and international institutions.

The partnership between the two countries seems to be fluctuating in the coming years, India will now open its Embassy in Yaoundé, Cameroon and will begin issuing visas to economic operators in lines and for a period of one year with multiple entry.

Conclusion

South-South Cooperation has specific characteristics but it is important for the actors to consider the learning side in all areas, the intrinsic side of the exchange. It is not only a question of the amount of financial assistance provided, but also of the quality of knowledge and technology transformed between the different countries of the South in order to meet a common challenge.

The legal framework for cooperation between India and Cameroon is very poor outside the trade agreement between the two countries. It is necessary to improve it with a view to promoting exchanges between Cameroon and India, which has become a landmark for advanced technology and because of its important industrial fabric. In this logic, Cameroon could propose to the Indian side: a Cultural, Technical and Scientific Cooperation Agreement; a Research Agreement and an Agreement Establishing an India-Cameroon Mixed Commission to serve as a platform for exchange between the two countries.

Endnotes

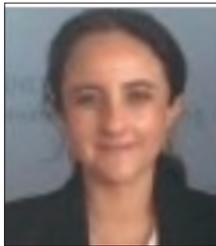
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Ecuador's Positioning on South - South and Triangular Cooperation



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Maldonado***

Abstract: This paper presents an analysis of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation that Ecuador present as a provider and recipient of development cooperation assistance in recent years. Despite having resource crunch, the country could manage resources to finance development projects and other initiatives under the global framework of development cooperation. On the contrary, Ecuador was increasingly requiring financial support for various unfinished projects including human mobility, crisis at the northern border and fighting against corruption. The case of Ecuador as a provider of development cooperation assistance could be presented as a showcase for other developing countries.

Introduction

Ecuador is an upper high income country in Latin America. It has made considerable economic and social progress, despite it is currently going through a phase of serious economic crisis. This paper aims at presenting the current situation in the country relating to various aspects of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). It discusses about the sensitivities associated with the country as a recipient and also a provider of development assistance.

It is important to mention that most of the Latin American countries face challenges to maintain international cooperation, while advancing to make progress in their fight against poverty and improving performance of macro-economic indicators, etc. Although Latin American countries have made significant progress, they still have substantial level of poverty, institutional fragility and huge inequalities (Ayllon, 2013).

In addition to these challenges, several other contemporary problems affect these countries including migration problem in Venezuelan, armed conflict in Colombia, causing difficult situation on the northern border for Ecuador.

In recent years, traditional development cooperation assistance has been gradually emanating from the countries of the Latin American region. Under the framework of South-South Cooperation (SSC), such supports from emerging and other developing countries are viewed as complements to national initiatives.

South-South Cooperation in Ecuador

In Ecuador, the notion of South-South Cooperation (SSC) has been gaining strength in recent years. The Constitution stipulates the “independence and legal equality of states, peaceful coexistence and self-determination of peoples, as well as cooperation, integration and solidarity” (Article 416). Similarly, National Foreign Policy 2017 - 2021 considers the modality of cooperation as a mechanism for capacity building and regional integration. (Foreign Policy Agenda, 2018).

Between 2015 and 2018, Ecuador participated in ninety-two cooperation projects through bilateral programs with Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, El Salvador, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Colombia. The main working areas are: education, health, social, institutional strengthening, infrastructure and services, disaster management, environment, etc. among others. Ecuador also participates in regional SSTC programs, focused mainly on environmental issues, health and strengthening public policies.

Ecuador also strongly participates in the Ibero-American General Secretariat, and is part of twenty-one Ibero-American Cooperation Programmes. The country is participating in several Initiatives such as PIPAS and PIFCSS, taking into account the experiences of countries like Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. Recently such initiatives are implemented in the light of implementing experiences of Peru.

It is important to mention that in the Ibero-American region, around one thousand three hundred thirty-five SSC programs were implemented at the bilateral, regional and triangular level between 2015 and 2017 (SEGIB, 2018). From the total number of projects, Ecuador participated in ninety-two projects/initiatives of which only thirty-four initiatives were implemented and reached various stages of implementation as presented in Table.

These are the following reasons for slow execution of projects.

- Austerity Decree / budgetary problems: The country is passing through a phase of serious economic crisis for which several projects are delayed. In the framework of SSC, several partner countries supporting projects in the country. Mostly these development partners are following the principle of cost sharing with most of the recipient countries in the region. In number of instances, resources have been redirected to depressed sectors and has caused serious resource crunch for the ongoing projects.
- Change of technical personnel, authorities and elimination of public institutions: The state has recently implemented economic adjustment policy, following which several thousands of public officials are removed from jobs. Due to exit of several experienced personnel, this has greatly affected implementation of projects. Besides, several public institutions have been closed down, having its adverse impact on project completion.
- Institutional weakness: The institutional weaknesses faced by Ecuador are similar to several other countries in the region. For overcoming such institutional impediments, successful experiences of the regional countries may be shared with countries which are under financial distress.
- Ecuador is not undertaking any evaluation programme due to lack of resources, although the country is a benchmark country for evaluation in the Ibero-American region.
- Considering difficulties in project evaluation, it is required to take note of various aspects

Table 1: Total SSC Projects in which Ecuador has Participated

Country	Accomplished	In progress	Discharged	Total
Uruguay	8	0	11	19
Argentina	7	0	8	15
Brazil	3	6	1	10
Haití	0	2	8	10
Chile	2	5	1	8
Mexico	3	0	5	8
El Salvador	7	0	0	7
Costa Rica	2	1	3	6
Dominican Republic	0	4	1	5
Colombia	2	0	2	4
Total	34	18	40	92

Source: Archives of the Bi- Multilateral and Regional International Cooperation Directorate

Prepared by: DEIPCI / May 2018

of Southern project evaluation system such as quantification, measurement, valuation system, etc. from the perspective of recipient country. Projects evaluation methodology should also focus on flow of information relating to number of projects as well as costs and benefits of projects for the recipient countries. The impact of the projects on economic development of recipient countries should also be assessed (Huitrón-Morales, 2016).

- Pessimism in South-South Cooperation: Ecuador's fiscal resources have been declining following economic crisis and so also the quantum of resource inflows as development assistance from the South. Considering the track record of resource inflows in recent years, Latin American countries should rethink about their engagement with the process of SSC in the region.
- In the context of recent developments, Ecuador as a development assistance provider would like to look for alternative way to engage itself in financing bilateral programs as follows.
- Creation of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Fund: Taking into account successful examples such as: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay; the possibility

of creating a cooperation fund may be considered.

The creation of the Fund took long time for Ecuador where the first attempt was made in 2014. In this year, certain tax resources were mobilized to institute the Fund. Despite adequate funding under the budgetary provisions, the designated institution for international cooperation could not implement projects due to legal problems. The public institution, responsible for managing resources was prevented to undertake financial or the development cooperation initiatives due to legal issues.

In order to work on the concept of creation of the Fund, operation of the development cooperation funds of Chile, Argentina and Brazil were analyzed in 2017. In case of Chile, the "Chile Fund" was in operation since 2011. The Fund is managed by Chilean International Cooperation Agency (AGCI) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). Similarly, Brazil and Argentina are presently considered as reference points for SSTC in the Latin American region and the world.

Despite recent economic crisis and decline in availability of resources for development cooperation, Ecuador managed resources to create a Fund for South-South and Triangular

Cooperation from various international agencies. The Fund will be administered by the UNDP, with the objective of undertaking bilateral programs under the framework of SSC. Now successful experiences of Ecuador in execution and promotion of bilateral programs may be projected as example for the Latin American region and other parts of the world. The experience of the country in development cooperation can be shared with other countries of the region.

Agreement to Promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation with the United Nations Program for Food and Agriculture (FAO) was signed in February 2019. This would allow the financing of projects and initiatives in the agricultural sector, environment and food security. It is also important to improve relations with countries from other regions. For example, in November 2019, Ecuador will hold a Consultative Meeting with India where the main issues for discussion will be on economic and technical cooperation.

Conclusions

The paper has shown that Ecuador has passed through various challenges to continue as a provider of development cooperation assistance in the framework of South-South Cooperation. The country had to pass through an acute phase to receive development cooperation support for itself, particularly in a situation when it passed through an economic crisis. Difficulties were not only restricted to receive development finance, but also to implement number of development programs and projects in other

recipient countries. Ecuador has continued to engage with FAO in dealing with the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Fund. It is important for the country to work with Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations in order to increase partnerships with other countries and regions. The initiatives outlined in the previous sections are new to the country. It would be, rather, necessary to carry out project evaluation in order to know the efficacy of two of its recently introduced instruments.

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Potential Areas for Partnership between Ethiopia and India



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Abstract: This paper seeks to review potential areas for Ethiopia and India to in with Partnership under South-South Cooperation framework to reduce development gap and vulnerability from unexpected shocks and disasters, increase negotiation power, improve utilization of resources so as to fulfill the needs of its citizens. Based on the above, some southern countries like India have developed the way out with inclusive demand driven, based on mutual interest and cooperation without conditionality and thereby, creating enabling environment for South-South Cooperation. In this framework, developing countries like Ethiopia has great potential for partnership and learning best practice from India for achieving inclusive sustainable development as India has various successful models to learn from. These two countries have strategic potential to mobilize resources, and collaborate in science, technology and innovation.

Introduction

Ethiopia is one of the land locked countries with about 109 million people (2018) which has large number of youth who can be trainable and can become part of active labour force. However, it is one of the poorest, with a per capita income of US\$ 790 and GDP was worth US\$ 84.36 billion in 2018. The country's aim is to reach lower middle-income category by 2025. In addition, it has thirteen months of sun shine, hydro potential, good topography for wind source and geothermal. The government priority is to focus on investing on development public service and renewable energy production and development stimulant infrastructure through public private partnership approaches. It can serve

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as innovative project financing, innovation and technology transfer mechanism for increasing national competitiveness, poverty reduction, and inclusive job creation. It provides mutual learning and partnership opportunities, for Ethiopia's contribution of development cooperation to sustainable development. Ethiopia tries to solve its own problem by home grow economic reform agenda to create enabling environment for cooperation. The reform focuses on strengthened institutional structures at all levels to enhance cooperation, with emphasis on continued capacity building at sub-national and national levels and work in partnership with private sector in developing countries to support sustainable development goals. For this the priority area is investing on infrastructure projects including sustainable renewable energy like wind, solar, hydro and geothermal sources.

Hence South-South cooperation can be of growing importance to Southern economies and their increasing connection to the world, among themselves and other developing countries including Ethiopia. As some source indicates there is a hope for global South countries are in fast growth and create partnership, example Ethiopia and Sri Lanka are partnering with China on trilateral south-south cooperation that will focus on enhancing access to renewable energy technologies within the global commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) specially goal 17. These countries partnership is based on financial contribution, technical support. In this manner it can benefit from being situated within the larger global partnership for sustainable development. This comes with higher expectation for policy coherence to work with partnership with India by strengthening their support on technical and financial support like sugar factory projects in Ethiopia. In this regard, Ethiopia has great potential areas to work with and integrating South-South as well as triangular cooperation into their national development cooperation policies.

Potential Areas for Partnership

As south-south cooperation is not only for government-to-government but also people to

people and other stakeholders. Ethiopia has enabling policy for self-reliance and homegrown economic agenda that is pro-job, pro-growth and pro-inclusivity pathway to prosperity and development reform which these pave way for participation, inclusive sustainable development, and mutual benefit. The potential area for Ethiopia and India to work with Partnership under South-South Cooperation frame work will support both private and public sector capacity building programme, by giving concessional loans, by supporting on feasibility study, training on information technology and participating on tender in green and sustainable source of energy source production like solar, wind, hydroelectric power and geothermal powers and job creation for youth and women. By doing so public infrastructure and energy problem will be solved, value for money will be ensured, all micro and small scale and large scale enterprise will work in full capacity. The economy will be transformed from production for consumption to trade and investment and export, this will also lead to capital accumulation and development which will help to enhance Gross Domestic Product and per capita income. This inclusive development will lead to promoting peace and security for the country in particular for the region and the global north in general. Furthermore, from India experience we will acquire knowledge and skill how to manage different nations and nationalities with democratic leadership and how to accommodate their language, culture and living together in good governance.

In Ethiopia, Public Private Partnership means investment through private sector participation by a contractual long-term arrangement between a public body and a private sector enterprise, as the concessionaire, in which the concessionaire:

a) Undertakes to perform or undertake any construction project or service or lease concession; b) assumes substantial financial, technical and operational risks in connection with the performance of a public function or use of government property; and; c) receives consideration for performing a public function or utilizing government property, by way of fees from any public funds, user levies collected

by the concessionaire from users or customers for a service provided by it, or a combination of such consideration. This help for country competitiveness. For this, the government has developed necessary institutional and legal framework which has put general guideline to start few projects which can be scaled up by developing public private partnership projects. Since Public Private Partnership is complex and new for Ethiopia, experience sharing is crucial its success as India has successful models in developing road networks, solar energy projects on PPP.

Conclusions

The potential areas for Ethiopia and India to work in partnership under South-South Cooperation framework can be based on the demand and priority of both countries which are job creation for youth and women, training, innovation, transfer of appropriate technology. In addition organizational and institutional capacity building on supporting preparation of feasibility study, risk analysis and allocation, market access and giving concessional loans. Other potential areas are project selection, cost-benefit analysis, pricing, insurance, guarantee issue both direct and contingent liability and currency convertibility issue, monitoring and follow up techniques. One of the purpose of SSC is strengthen people to people relations and support private sector to

be competitive through development projects. South- South Cooperation will help Ethiopia as spring-board to graduate from least developed country to middle income one. In addition, the partner country India will also be benefited as it is a win-win situation based on the principle of the south- south cooperation. To conclude, Ethiopia has untapped resource in human, natural and environment. There is also strong government commitments to mobilise public, private and stakeholder engagement. This will help both the countries to work with cooperation and partnership for sustainable growth and achieve global competitiveness and peace.

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Egypt's Approach to South-South Cooperation: A Case Study



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Abstract: South-South Cooperation (SSC) has been receiving increasing attention in recent times in the backdrop of the emergence of Southern economies as strong drivers of global growth. Therefore, this paper will examine some of the important dimensions of the rising trend of SSC and examine a number of key challenges and opportunities in this regard from the particular vantage point of Egypt. The report is structured in the following manner, after the introduction, the paper reviews the difference between South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation. The third section reviews the Egyptian practices in SSC and contribution with the Southern economies in areas of capacity building, trade, agriculture and construction. Following this a SWOT analysis presented in section four. Finally Section five identifies a number of challenges facing SSC and puts forward suggestions towards a more effective Southern cooperation.

Introduction

South-South Cooperation has been defined as an exchange of expertise between governments, organisations and individuals in developing nations. Through this model, the developing countries help and support each other with knowledge, technical assistance, and investments.¹ It means countries of the South helping each other by sharing technical or economic knowledge and skills to facilitate development. A growing body of evidence suggests that learning and cooperation among developing nations is increasing in both frequency and complexity.

The evidence² suggests that their cooperation is expanding to include not only economic cooperation but now encompasses

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health, education, communication, research, and development. Brought together by shared backgrounds and common challenges, people in developing nations are banding together as peers to find new and innovative solutions to development issues. Reviews of technical cooperation suggest that South-South learning from sharing is often more effective in developing capacity than one-way knowledge transfers from the North.

South-South Cooperation is a broader concept covering a very wide range of collaboration among developing countries, and is generally regarded as having three dimensions: political, economic and technical. It aims to support self-sufficiency among southern nations and to strengthen economic links among states whose market power is more equally matched; increase and improve communications among developing countries, leading to a greater awareness of common problems and wider access to available knowledge and experience as well as the creation of new knowledge in tackling development problems; create and strengthen existing technological capacities in the developing countries in order to improve the effectiveness with which such capacities are used and to improve the capacity of developing countries to engage and adjust technology and skills to meet their specific developmental needs; and allow developing countries to achieve a greater degree of participation in international economic activities and to expand international cooperation for development.

Difference between South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

South-South Cooperation often consists of technical assistance on a project level, and at times it is realised in the form of cost-sharing schemes. South-South Cooperation is not limited to “aid” as classified by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC-OECD), since it includes other types of financial flows and technical cooperation.

Triangular Cooperation, on the other hand,

is the result of technical cooperation among two or more developing countries that is supported financially by northern donors or by international organisations. Triangular Cooperation often consists of a financial contribution from a northern donor together with technical skills provided by a southern donor, which is then implemented in a partner country.³

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which is actively promoting South-South Cooperation, defines the term as “a means of promoting effective development by learning and sharing best practices and technology among developing countries” (Kimotho, 2017). Japan’s International Cooperation Agency’s (JICA) Task Force on South-South Cooperation has used the UNDP definition as a base from which to construct its own definition of “Mutual cooperation aimed at fostering self-sustaining development, involving deepening relations among developing countries while conducting technical and economic cooperation. (JICA, 2006)”

Egyptian Practices in South-South Cooperation

South-South Cooperation is about developing countries working together to find solutions to common development challenges. Linked by commonalities of history, geography, and challenges, the countries of the South have important lessons to share, including many success stories from which other developing countries can learn.

Egypt has taken a strong lead in SSC through its special funds for technical cooperation with other regions. Egypt and Tunisia have been cooperating to use the results of scientific research to develop small enterprises in rural areas and challenge youth unemployment in both countries, considered a key contributing factor to the events of the Arab Spring. Mutual interest is also recognised by Egypt in its cooperation with Uganda, where Cairo looked-for “strengthen its relations with Uganda as one of the most important Nile Basin focal points for Egypt’s supply of Nile water from Lake Victoria”⁴

Capacity building

On the capacity building issue, Egypt has introduced many programs for developing countries which are recognised by Ministries and central agency for public mobilisation and statistics, Egypt also 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”. (Anwar, 2018)

Under the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa, Egypt has provided more than 250 short- and long-term experts to some 30 African countries for training and facilitation of knowledge-sharing in a variety of sectors, including water resources, health, agriculture and education.⁵

Trade

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 liberalises trade with seven Latin American countries. These agreements have had a positive impact on trade in the region. (Anwar, 2018).

Agriculture

With over 20 years of SSC experience, FAO has worked with Egypt and other southern countries to provide solutions to support the mutual sharing and exchange of knowledge, good practices, policies and technology between and among countries in the global South.

FAO has supported Triangular and South-South Cooperation activities between Egypt and

five Nile Basin countries, namely Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda. Conducted by the Egyptian International Centre of Agriculture (EICA), in collaboration with the Egyptian Agency for Partnership Development (EAPAD), activities include training in effective sustainable aquaculture, and post-harvest food losses, theoretical and practical lessons, institutional mapping, deployment of Egyptian experts as well as field visits. (FAO, 2019)

Construction

Egypt has built four power stations in South Sudan, a large number of schools and medical clinics, as well as irrigation assistance, training courses and medical convoys.

Egypt also has built new ports and new infrastructure costing approximately US\$ 11 million to ensure that South-South cooperation would be improved, 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. (Anwar, 2018)

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.

Egypt has succeeded recently to finalise the stretch of highway between Dongola and Wadi Halfain 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.

SSC refers to cooperative activities between newly industrialised southern countries and other, lesser-developed nations of the southern hemisphere. Such three activities include developing mutually beneficial technologies, services, and trading relationships.

Key Challenges to Inter-regional South-South Cooperation

A strategic perspective to promote SSC and Triangular Cooperation as an instrument that is based on its distinctive characteristics, contributes to the achievement of SDGs within the framework of 2030 Agenda.

Governance of SSC by developing countries and reporting on the impact and effectiveness of SSC are crucial for lessons sharing and the promotion of South-South and triangular partnerships.

- Need to bring more evidence and data and keep track on lessons learnt and challenges.
- Flexibility of SSC is one of its main features and advantages.
- New areas of SSC

In general, there are three major challenges, the first challenge is strengthening important national

capacities along with policies and coordination mechanisms; the second challenge is ensuring suitable evaluation and monitoring, there by increasing transparency and accountability, complemented by accessible and comprehensive data on SSC in the region; and the third challenge is ensuring sufficient SSC funding and other resources required for South-South transfers to happen. (UNDP, 2014).

Conclusions

SSC plays a key role on strengthening the contribution of migration to both origin and destination countries. SSC is vital for enhancing cooperation in the energy sector as one of the critical enablers for sustainable inclusive development and structural change in particular in LDCs. Digital Economy and its implications for structural change in developing countries is one of the challenges. SSC is crucial to develop digital organisation and suitable digital industrial policies in developing countries. Other new cross-boundary issues for SSC such as migration, water management, terrorism and gender were highlighted. It is important to raise the issue of industry and technology transfer for development.

SWOT Analysis of South-South Cooperation

Weaknesses	Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Benefits are not lightly shared among developing countries <input type="checkbox"/> The gap between North and South will remain for a long time <input type="checkbox"/> Absence of resources and ineffective coordination <input type="checkbox"/> South-South cooperation takes time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Learning from each other's experiences. <input type="checkbox"/> Economic, environmental, cultural and social advances from Southern countries <input type="checkbox"/> Changing North-South relations and changing balance of power <input type="checkbox"/> Lower contract costs
Threats	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complications about ownership or management <input type="checkbox"/> Northern reservations of the rising South <input type="checkbox"/> Political problems are an problem for cooperation. <input type="checkbox"/> Trade blocks and logical property rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> SSC will still grow given economic development in the South <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities as an outcome of globalisation <input type="checkbox"/> Increased awareness of the differences among developing countries will have a positive effect on policy making

Source: Author's interpretation from reading various texts on SSC

Recent developments in South-South Cooperation show that there is a lot to learn from countries like Brazil, China, Morocco and Nigeria – which are among FAO's most outstanding South-South partners in food and agriculture.

The experience of some technology advanced developing countries such as China could serve as a reference. South-South Cooperation means closer technical and economic cooperation among developing countries by employing experts from the South, sharing best practices from the South, and helping to develop a sense of ownership of the development process in the South.

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Role of South-South Cooperation in Agricultural Development of Togo



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Abstract: Togo, like other developing countries, faces major development challenges. In order to re-launch growth, several sectors must be the focus of government attention. In the context of South-South cooperation, Togo is collaborating with several Southern countries in the field of agriculture in order to expect food self-sufficiency, the basis of all integral development.

This south-south cooperation coupled with government efforts has enabled Togo to increase its agricultural production to an extent that it sometimes even exports cereals to neighbouring countries. Young farmers, who can now rely on new techniques learned from partner countries, seem to have a good prospect for the future. This allowed the country to accelerate its move towards modern agriculture.

Introduction

The bipolarization of the world and certain geostrategic and geopolitical considerations are leading developing countries to seek alliances that can provide them with an adequate solution to the challenges they face. Indeed, it is difficult for developing countries to thrive in a world dominated by the powers of the North. North-South cooperation has showcased its limits in the process of development, considering the fact that many southern states that have become more indebted than developed after the North-South alliance. In view of this situation, it is urgent to find a way out to boost economic and social growth in these countries. Also, South-South cooperation seems to be a tool capable of leading these countries towards sustainable and rapid development.

In recent years, South-South cooperation has enabled Togo to make significant progress in several areas namely: infrastructure, agriculture, education, health and technology.

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Views expressed are personal.

Several southern countries are cooperating with Togo in these domains. Among these countries, the countries of the West African sub region can be mentioned more generally, followed by China, India, Morocco and Egypt.

The field that will be the subject of our article deals with the relations between Togo and certain countries in the development of agriculture.

I- Overall situation of south-south cooperation in Togo

In the context of south-south cooperation in Togo, there has been acceleration since 2005, particularly in infrastructure and agriculture.

Togo maintains bilateral relations with India in the context of south-south cooperation. The targeted areas are renewable energies, agriculture and education. Each year, Togolese students receive scholarships to study in India. In 2016, Exim Bank financed a number of projects in the agriculture and energy sectors, exceeding \$100 million. The first project concerns rural electrification and the second concerns the installation of a high-voltage grid capable of meeting the energy demand of the northern part. These are Kara-Mango-Dapaong areas. A Biometric Identification System project (Togo e-ID) is under consideration by the Indian side. In the field of renewable energies, India plans to install solar panels in some villages in order to contribute to the development of these areas. In total, Exim Bank has approved six lines of credit in Togo (Republic of Togo, 2017).

In addition, China has carried out several road projects in the country. Cooperation between China and Togo has diversified over the last 15 years. As part of health assistance in the early 1970s, China runs the Kégué Health Center in Lomé and another health center in Kara in the north of the country. This Sino-Togolese cooperation has developed in the construction of infrastructure: the Kégué stadium in Lomé, the new airport of Lomé, the new Parliament and the highway that bypasses the city of Lomé (Francke, 2015).

II- Specific case of agriculture

Togo is a country of West Africa which has a varied but under-exploited agricultural potential. In fact, Togo is the African country with the largest proportion of arable land, which is 48 per cent of the country's area. Only 41 per cent of this arable land is cultivated. The agricultural sector contributes about 40 per cent of the country's GDP and employs about 54 per cent of the total labour force. Despite this potential, food security remains a major challenge for the country. The situation stabilised in the aftermath of the 2008 food crisis. The fragility of food security results mainly from the instability of food supplies from one campaign to another, coupled with access difficulties for Togolese households. Thus, chronic malnutrition affects about 30 per cent of children in Togo and to cope with this, improving rural infrastructure and storage capacity are crucial tasks. Social infrastructure is much less developed in rural areas than in cities (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, 2010). About 42 per cent of the farming population is illiterate. This rate is significantly higher for women than for men. The rural population is young, 47 per cent are under 15 years old. Among rural households, 96 per cent pursue agricultural activities. Households are largely headed by men, although the majority of the active agricultural population is female. Farm households have an average of seven to eight people. The agricultural area is characterised by a large fragmentation of land with small plots, 76 per cent are less than half a hectare, and only 1 per cent are larger than ten hectares. This fragmentation is a consequence of customary inheritance procedures. However, many farm households have more than one plot. On average, the physical area harvested per household is four hectares, with a very variable distribution (Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, 2013).

A large proportion of farming households grow maize (in all, 40 per cent of the cultivated area), followed by sorghum 14 per cent (traditional seed is mostly used) and rice. Households often engage in mixed farming and about two-thirds practice breeding mostly poultry, alongside plant

production. Fishing and aquaculture are still underdeveloped sectors, affecting about two per cent of households.

A- Cooperation with China in rice cultivation

The Zio Valley, located 30 km north of Lomé, is a traditional region of rice production. The fragrance of Kovié rice, village of the valley, is consumed and appreciated throughout the country. Chinese cooperation has helped to modernize the irrigation system, and to develop a 600-hectare area, ultimately intended to be made available to local producers. In June 2006, a team of Chinese experts went to Kara, the capital of the Kara Region, to begin research cooperation with the Togolese Institute for Agronomic Research (ITRA) on the adaptability of hybrid seed rice and maize under local conditions. The stated goal of the project is to move towards self-sufficiency in Togo by increasing farmers' productivity through improved seeds of Chinese origin. For this purpose, agronomic experiments are carried out on fertilization and sowing density tests.

Some training courses were also organised on these parcels in Kovié. The aim of these was to demonstrate to local farmers the high productivity of Chinese rice varieties. Samples of these varieties had been distributed in this area, but riparian farmers had not achieved the expected yields due to a lack of good cultivation techniques. The Sanguera Center built by the Chinese offers training sessions for farmers. Training is provided by Chinese expert trainers for the different topics applied respectively to rice, maize and market gardening (Francke, 2015).

The lack of fluency in French represents a considerable obstacle to effective communication and coordination in the various centers and agricultural areas set up by the Chinese in Togo. However, the agricultural techniques taught to farmers have increased their yield. Also local rice commonly called Kovié rice, very popular with people is now widespread and accessible to all at affordable prices.

B- Egyptian-Togolese Cooperation: installation of an agricultural farm

Cooperation between the Republic of Egypt and Togo has been strengthened in recent years and several initiatives have made it possible. An agricultural farm was installed in Abatchang in the center of the country 350 km from Lomé through this cooperation. Spread over an area of 150 hectares, the farm of Abatchang has peculiarities; it aims to strengthen the research system of the agricultural sector to improve productivity and production of plant, animal and fisheries. From this initiative, the proponents also plan to focus on training producers, extension agents and research on best agricultural practices while ensuring the processing and marketing of farm products in sub-regional and local markets. The Egyptian experts arrived in Togo with five varieties of wheat seeds as part of this diversification to cover seven hectares pilot phase for their extension after the tests of adaptability. In addition to wheat, the modern Egyptian-Togolese agricultural farm in Abatchang will develop crops of maize, rice, sorghum, soybeans, oilseeds (sunflower, rapeseed) which will be processed locally in an industrial chain for production and processing the marketing of foodstuffs for human consumption and the formulation of feed for livestock.

This project to revitalise South-South cooperation is estimated at about CFAF one billion, 40 per cent of which is financed by the Arab Republic of Egypt and 60 per cent by the Togolese government.

The Egyptian-Togolese Modern Farm in Abatchang will employ permanently 31 locally recruited staff. Other employees on the farm are workers recruited temporarily to perform specific tasks. The target for capacity building varies between 150 and 200 people per year. The farm is managed by a tandem composed of an Egyptian, director of the farm and a Togolese who is his deputy (Republic of Togo, 2017).

C- Indo Togolese Cooperation: irrigation project

In order to improve its agricultural production, India is providing technical assistance to Togolese farmers in growing rice. An irrigation project was carried out by India in Togo. This project

has redeveloped agricultural areas favourable to rice cultivation and underutilised by farmers (Republic of Togo, 2017).

Conclusion

South-South cooperation is a means of development that responds to Togo's current needs in important areas such as agriculture and infrastructure. The prospects for the country lie in its ability to make the benefits of this cooperation available to the population. Also, Togo will be able to reach a good level of development like some emerging countries such as India or China. Moreover, beyond the areas currently taken into account in South-South cooperation, new communication and information technologies occupy a relatively small range. Future projects

will need to be more interested in this area of current.

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Cuba's Participation in South-South Cooperation



Liomara Rivero Iser*

Abstract: The article summarizes the cooperation that Cuba has offered over the years. With the victory of Cuban Revolution on January 1st 1959, the Republic of Cuba has highlighted the vital importance of the practice of the principles of solidarity and international cooperation in its foreign policy.

On October 17 1962, Fidel Castro announces to people the Government decision to bring help to Argelia in the health field. He expressed that day:

“I am sure we will have many volunteers doctors...Today we only can send fifty doctors, but in eight or ten years later, who knows how many doctors we could send to help our brothers...”

Introduction

The first Cuban cooperation action dates back to 1963 with the sending of the first Medical Brigade to Argelia. However, as early as 1960 a small brigade had been in Chile when an earthquake affected that country. Since that date, Cuba has offered cooperation to more than 160 countries. It reflects the humanist and altruistic values that Cuban people have developed during these years of Revolution. Efforts around SSC by Cuba cover several sectors, like health, education sports and construction activities. Some glimpses of them are being presented in the following sections

The Field of Health

International solidarity is a principle of the Cuban National Health System. It relies on medical collaboration in countries of the South, as well as triangular cooperation with other

countries and International Organizations. Cuban cooperation in the area of health translates into 55 years of medical cooperation and over 400 000 professionals and technicians who have served in 164 countries.

Currently, more than 40 000 workers are cooperating in 77 countries, of which twenty thousand are doctors providing services in 30 African countries, 25 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 8 in Asia, 3 in Oceania and 1 in Europe.

Cuba has also contributed to the formation of human resources engaged in the health sector including, teaching and training of health personnel, as shown by the schools of medicine created in 14 countries and the 18,589 foreign professionals who have graduated from these schools. Nowadays, 1,579 professors provide services in eight schools, who are involved in the training of 36,850 students. At the same time, 35,142 health professionals from 136 countries have studied in Cuba, with 9,200 undergraduate students and 2,327 postgraduate students currently enrolled in the different Medical Sciences careers, representing 126 nations from all continents.



Cuba has participated in the founding of medical schools in Africa, for example: Eritrea, Tanzania and Equatorial Guinea. In these schools about 500 young people are currently studying. Cuba cooperates in the confrontation of Ebola virus in three West African countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), in conjunction with WHO in 2015.



Other outstanding programs and projects of great social and human impact developed by Cuba are: Comprehensive Health Program (PIS); Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM); *Henry Reeve* International Contingent of Doctors specialized in Disaster Situations and Serious Epidemics; Operation Miracle; *Barrio Adentro* Mission in Venezuela; Triangular Cooperation: WHO/PAHO-Cuba-Angola cooperation for the eradication of Poliomyelitis, Cuba-Haiti-Brazil and Norway-Haiti-Cuba; and the joint production with Brazil of Meningococcal Vaccine A and C for the countries of "Africa's meningitis belt".



The Cuban experience in South-South cooperation in the field of health and its positive results has been widely recognized by several international organizations such as the Pan American Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund.

The Field of Education

The Cuban achievements in education has been extended to the world through programmes such as the Yo si puedo, with which over 10 million people learned how to read and write in several continents. Cuba has extended its collaborations both in the institutional modality and in social and care work.

One of these projects is the one referred to as Educate your Child, an educational care programme, being in operation successfully for more than ten years in countries such as Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, Brazil and Colombia through UNICEF.

Today Cuba maintains the collaboration in the educational field in 15 nations of Latin American and Africa, especially in Venezuela and Equatorial Guinea.

The Field of Sport

Cuban sport institutions led by The Olympic Cuban Committee and the National Institute of Sport, Physical Education and Recreation (INDER) have offered cooperation and technical support to more than 50 countries with the presence of more than 7 thousands of technicians, teachers and trainers in the sport field who have contributed to increase the result of these



countries in different competitions and also have promoted the development of physical education and healthy sport in developing countries.

The International School of Physical Education and Sport (EIEFD) is a university-level sport school

near Havana, Cuba, that provides scholarships for international students to obtain a degree in physical education, coaching and sports sciences. The mandate of the school is to prepare graduates to return to their home countries in order to work towards sustainable and transformational development in and through sport.

The Field of Construction

As part of the cooperation in the construction field, Cuba has carried out projects in more than 35 countries in Africa, America, Europe and Asia. Cuba's participation in overseas projects relies on its highly qualified and committed personnel as key to ensure the quality and professionalism of its trustworthy and competitive services.



Construction of the international airport in Saint Vincent.



Supervision of the construction of the highway Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam.



Design and supervision of the housing settlements in South Africa.

Today more than 300 engineers, architects, technicians and skilled workers provide their services in design and construction, maintenance and repair, surveying work, specialized technical assistance for any kind of project around the world through United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and DINVAI Construcciones S.A., a Cuban Public Sector Enterprise, which implement the Cuban construction collaboration.



Design and supervision of the construction of a sport center in Grenada



Renovation of the roof of school after devastation caused by hurricane Irma in Dominica



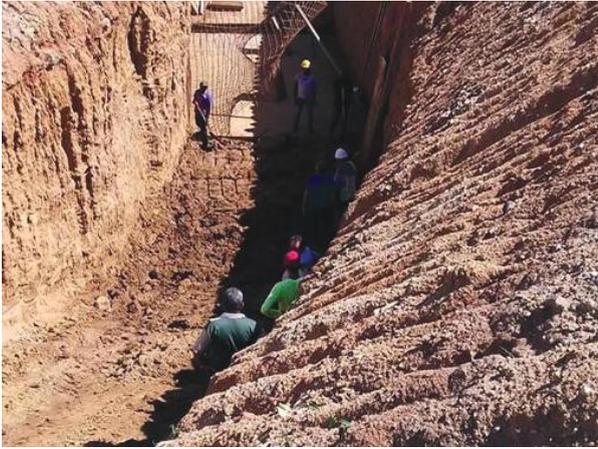
Design and supervision of construction of the "Forestierre Road" in Antigua



Construction of road in Dominica

The countries where Cuba has its presence now are: South Africa, Equatorial Guinea, Namibia, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Dominica, Haiti and Vietnam.

Following are some evidences of Cuban cooperation in the construction field:



Design and supervision of the construction of a dam in Haiti



Conclusions

South-South Cooperation has its fundamental on the solidarity between developing countries, many times in complementary form, taking in account the strength of some countries in certain area and the necessity of the other countries that receive the cooperation.

Like a principle of solidarity that always has characterized the cooperation from Cuba, “we sharing the little we have and not sharing what is left over”.

Cuba has ratified its firm commitment to South-South Cooperation, in spite of its economic shortcomings and the commercial and financial blockade impose by US that do not allow a greater economic development for our country.

Collaboration between the states of the South is an expression of the solidarity that Cuba defends for the benefit of the peoples.



India – Peru South-South Cooperation



Sofía Trigos Yataco*

Abstract: The objective of this paper is to review the progress of South-South Cooperation in Peru as well as the opportunity available for cooperation with India in the development of clusters for Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) with the purpose of promoting competitiveness and productivity in both countries. The relationship between Peru and India has been evolved through the South-South Cooperation, emphasized through the capacity building. However, despite major strides achieved by both countries, there are still some significant challenges in certain areas such as development of clusters for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), which present a great opportunity to share technical assistance.

Introduction

The Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector contributes significantly to India's GDP. Consequently, India promotes the development of clusters¹ to improve the entrepreneurship and participation in production value chain for exports. Similarly, the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) contribute approximately 40 per cent of the GDP of Peru. However, Peru is on its path to develop more competitive SME clusters in the country.

Developing and strengthening of clusters in SME sector is crucial for both the nations to increase their production and competitiveness which would, in turn, help growth of their economies. This can be achieved through the modality of technical assistance under the framework of South-South Cooperation.

This paper examines the progress of South-South Cooperation in Perú from 2009 to 2016 and emphasized on the development of clusters for Small and Medium Entrepreneurs, considering sharing of technical assistance as the best strategy to cooperate with India.

Development of Peruvian Model of South-South Cooperation

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development perceives a new path for International Technical Cooperation (ITC) in the South American region. The entry of new actors, new modalities and financing schemes, interdependence between cooperation agendas and strengthening of South-South Cooperation, are some of the characteristics that ITC presents about the region (APCI, 2013).² In Peru, the International Cooperation represents 2 per cent of the country's annual budget and 0.5 per cent of the nation's GDP. Consequently, it should be understood as a complementary contribution to national development efforts, particularly, one of the methods being experimented under South-South Cooperation (APCI, 2012).

In Peru, the South-South Cooperation is conceived as the interaction that takes place between two or more developing countries with the purpose of achieving their individual or collective objectives through the exchange of knowledge, skills, resources and technical knowledge. All these subjects are under the frame of the principle of horizontality (where countries collaborate with each other in terms of partners); consensus (where their actions are agreed by the

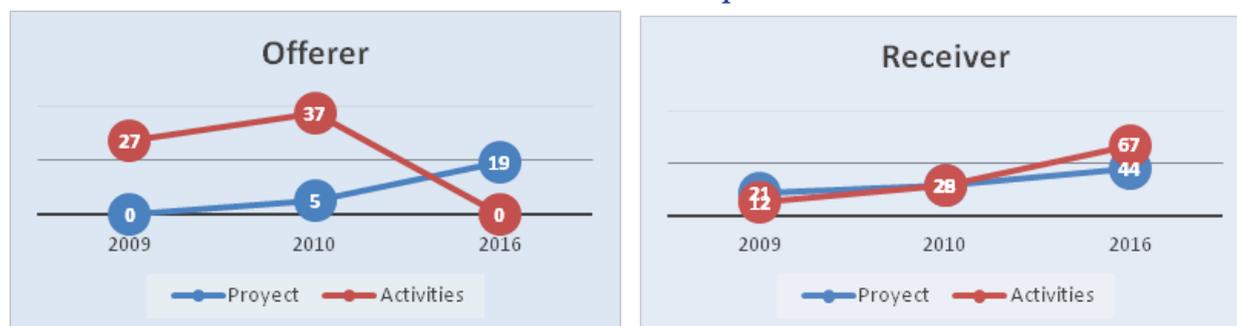
heads of each country); and equity (expected to be done in such a way that its benefits are distributed equally among its participants). It is conceptualized as a complement to North-South Cooperation.

In this regard, the National Plan for International Technical Cooperation was published by the Peruvian government in November 2012, which emphasized on strengthening of technical cooperation for development, through South-South Cooperation. Within the framework of South-South Cooperation, Peru shares with other states its capabilities in those areas where it has comparative advantages. This initiative helps in maintaining a high participation in capacity building in the following modalities such as: i) Technical Assistance, ii) Training, iii) Training Internship, iv) Seminars & Workshops and v) Exchange of experts.

According to the Annual Reports of the South-South Cooperation for the years 2009, 2010 and 2016, elaborated by the Iberoamerican General Secretariat, South-South Cooperation in Peru shows significant growth (Figure 1). In 2009, Peru offered 27 actions and received 12 actions and 21 projects. In 2010, the country offered 37 actions and 5 projects, and received 29 actions and 28 projects (SEGIB, 2009 and 2010). Similarly, in 2016, Peru participated in 130 actions, of which it participated as a provider of development cooperation in 19 projects, and as a receiver of 44 projects and 67 actions (SEGIB, 2018).

To clarify, when we refer to "actions", they are interpreted as the South-South Cooperation

Table: 1 Evolution of South-South Cooperation in Peru from 2009 – 2016



Sources: SEGIB 2009, 2010 and 2018.

activities, which are carried out within the framework of bilateral spaces, such as: Mixed Commissions, Bilateral Commissions, High Level Meetings, among others. In additions, it should be specified that these actions are developed in short terms.

In 2016, majority actions, 47 per cent of the 130 South-South Cooperation actions and projects that Peru kept in execution were carried out under a bilateral modality which were exchanged under a regional framework as shown in Figure 1. Likewise, in four out of ten of these 130 initiatives, Peru exercised the role of a recipient. Education, agriculture and social policies being the areas where Peru provided greater technical assistance, as well as in its role as a receiver. This has strengthened technical capacities in sectors like social policies, agriculture and public policies. (SEGIB, 2018)

Therefore, Peru has registered a notable advance between 2009 and 2016 as a country with the capabilities of offering South-South Cooperation. However, the number of projects in which it participated as a recipient is still higher, nonetheless, increasing its position as a bidder represents a great challenge and an opportunity to generate and promote greater alliances as well as encourage the management of sustainable projects.

Opportunity of SSC between India and Peru

India is among the top countries growing at a fast pace in the world and creating lucrative opportunities for investment. At the same time, it acts as an important player that is opened to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and international trade. In that sense, its involvement is not limited to the exportation of final goods, but has an incredible degree of integration in the global value chains. With this change, the country recognizes that open relations with other countries can support its long-term development goals (ECLAC, 2016).

Linkages in India and Peru relationship involves trade, investment, defence and foreign aid cooperation. The bilateral trade witnessed rapid growth during the late 2000s and early 2010s, rising from US\$ 250 million in 2007 to US\$ 1.128 billion by 2012. In 2012, the bilateral trade between the two countries crossed a billion-dollar mark for the first time, elevating rank of Peru as the seventh Latin American trading partner of India to achieve this milestone. Also, many Indian companies have made investments in important sectors in the Peruvian economy such as mining. In addition, India donated US \$500 thousand towards disaster relief efforts in the aftermath of an earthquake in the country on 15 August 2007 (Ministry of External Affairs of India, 2016).

India witnesses a boom in the services sector, where share of the sector in GDP raised from 38 per cent during the 1970s to 53 per cent in the 2000s. While the Small and Medium Enterprises maintained a share slightly over 25 per cent of GDP during the decades. Although dependence of the economy on agriculture declined in recent years, the sector still absorbed 56 per cent of the total GDP (Ministry of External Affairs of India, 2016). Besides, the Small and Medium Enterprises in India contributes 45 per cent of manufacturing production and 48 per cent of the total exports. After agriculture, SME is the main source of employment in the country. SME sector is dispersed throughout the country and produces a wide range of products and services to meet the needs of local and global market through national and international value chains (SELA, 2014). In order to facilitate SMEs, India has been promoting development of clusters to gain from global value chain in exports.

Though Peru's competitive cluster sector is limited, yet SME contributes approximately 40 per cent of its GDP, becoming the driver of economic growth in the country (MIDIS, 2018). Hence, both the countries need to give focused attention to their SME sector, especially for development of clusters. One way to increase competitiveness of SME sector in both the nations is through modality of technical assistance under South-South Cooperation.

In Peru, the straightness of Small and Medium Enterprises has been contemplated in the National Plan of Competitiveness and Productivity³ (PNCP) which defines competitiveness as the “interrelation of the various elements that determine the increase in the productivity of companies and the context that surrounds them and that allows them to efficiently use productive factors, such as human resources, physical capital, financial resources and technology”. This definition “includes the strengthening of the institutional framework to create a favourable business climate, within a stable macroeconomic framework, which allows for the proper functioning of the markets for factors, products and services”.

The Ministry of Production of Peru has a Cluster Support Program, through which it finances and co-finances projects of up to 5 million dollars each year. Cluster support is one of the several support programmes provided by the Ministry of Production of Peru to increase competitiveness and productivity of small and medium enterprises. Through this Cluster Support Program, Peru is co-financing clusters in industries like agro-industry and leather & shoes industry, both of which are integrated by an Innovation Centre and small and medium local business with the objective to improve its competitiveness and to create value chain in the production process.

On the other side, Indian government has Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) which is specialized for SME and responsible of the development of a variety of programs for business development in this sector. One of the keys to India’s success in the development of the sector has been the creation of clusters that allow the use of infrastructure for a specific sector and increasing the production through economies of scale. The creation of clusters in India has provided various other benefits such as cost of reduction, efficient use of resources, ease of access to new technologies, greater bargaining power and a greater social impact on the community (SELA,

2014). At present, there are clusters of information technologies in various cities in India.

Unlike the cluster development for SME in India, Peru is incipient, therefore, it represents a greater opportunity to join efforts through South-South Cooperation as to create a bilateral program for technical assistance and exchange of experts. Therefore, both Peru and India could make use of the comparative advantages in their SME cluster programs, to develop good practices in productive development through South-South cooperation and to become more competitive in the global market by cost-cutting, productivity improvement, efficient management of supply chains, greater public and private investment in infrastructure and enhancing access to global market.

Conclusion

India and Peru rely on cooperation programmes in different and similar areas. Development of clusters for SMEs could mean a new mechanism of development cooperation through South-South cooperation. There are large opportunities to improve the SSC between Peru and India, which should mainly involve the corresponding government entities to allow the exchange of information and other technical experiences. Finally, a bilateral programme to support the development of cluster in both the countries would enhance the relationship between them and make ways to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Endnotes

1. Cluster means local concentrations of horizontally or vertically linked companies which specialize in related lines of business together with supporting organizations.
2. APCI is the acronym of the Peruvian International Cooperation Agency.
3. Document prepared by the Peruvian government called as “National Plan of Competitiveness and Productivity” (Decreto, 2019).

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The Role of South-South Cooperation in Ethiopia



Getachew Ayalew*

Abstract: The objective of the paper is to analysis Ethiopia’s engagement in SSC. South-South cooperation partnerships have increasingly demonstrated a contribution to development results through a variety of flexible cooperation modalities. These partnerships have included knowledge exchanges, technology transfers, financing, peer support, and neighborhood initiatives, as well as countries forming common development agendas and seeking collective solutions.

Ethiopia engages in bilateral and multilateral cooperation to mobilize resources to complement the resources generated internally. The Growth Transformation Plan II (GTPII) notes that the economic diplomacy of the country has contributed to attracting the good opportunities for the country.

Evolution of South-South Cooperation.

South-South cooperation is a term historically used by policymakers and academics to describe the exchange of resources, technology, and knowledge between developing countries, also known as countries of the Global South. The Global South is making increasingly significant contributions to global development.

A recent United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (IFAD, 2017) report indicates that the origin of SSC can be traced back to the Asian-African Conference in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955. The participants were representatives of 29 Asian and African nations who intended to discuss the potential for collaboration among developing countries. This conference gave birth to Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in 1961, defined as a group of states that were not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc. In 1964 the

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aim of fostering economic cooperation among developing countries resulted in the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

At the first UNCTAD conference, Latin American countries joined with African and Asian countries to create the G-77. In 1978 a conference of the Global South (with 138 countries) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to adopt the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA) with 38 concrete recommendations for improved Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC).

The Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (UNGA, 2019) recognizes the importance of SSC and further “encourages developing countries to adopt or strengthen national policies to advance South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, and to enhance the capacity of national and sub-national coordination mechanisms, as appropriate, in order to improve policy coordination, the sharing of knowledge, lessons learned and good practices, and the adaptation of such practices, including through the voluntary exchange of experience and expertise according to national policies and priorities for development.”

In line with SDG 17, South-South cooperation partnerships have increasingly demonstrated a contribution to development results through a variety of flexible cooperation modalities. These partnerships have included knowledge exchanges, technology transfers, financing, peer support, and neighborhood initiatives, as well as countries forming common development agendas and seeking collective solutions.

In the case of Ethiopia, considering the country’s deep engagement with emerging cooperation with the Global South as well as numerous neighboring countries to share Ethiopia’s good practices and for development solutions, the role of SSC partnership is very important.

The Role of SSC in Ethiopia

The SDG agenda of 2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of 2015 identified South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC) as a useful and important international cooperation framework which helps developing countries to take transformative and collective steps to leapfrog onto a sustainable and resilient development path that will leave no one behind. Through SSC, developing countries are expected to benefit from the various opportunities and closer engagement among themselves, thereby complementing the traditional and still dominant North-South flow of trade, investment, development assistance and technical cooperation.

The Government of Ethiopia has been implementing the Growth and Transformation Plan II (GTP II) to realize its long-term vision of reaching middle-income country status by 2025. GTPII serves to guide the implementation of the country’s medium-term development priorities and provides the framework for aligning the works of domestic non-state actors and external development partners. In light of the growing infrastructure needs of the country to respond to the demands of rapid economic development process, as well as those of the SDG-related goals, Ethiopia needs large investment in economic and social infrastructure and services each year. These large investment costs are financed largely from domestic sources through mobilizing tax revenues. In this regard, Ethiopia continues its efforts to modernize its tax revenues collection systems so as to increase its saving rates and finance infrastructure development.

Given the development targets of Ethiopia and the huge resources needed to finance them, it is thus crucial for the country to mobilize additional resources from external sources in order to fill the gap. Accordingly, the Government is working with many partners, including emerging and developing economies on various aspects, where SSC framework is also any important component. In line with this, Ethiopia has aligned its development efforts to the priorities and objectives set by the BAPA+40 outcome

document, including scaling up the development programs from the Global South to implement the 2030 Agenda, addressing the need to reinforce the institutional framework to promote SSC at national and regional levels, and using the opportunities, experiences and best practices of SSC and Triangular Cooperation (TrC).

Ethiopians were offered scholarship opportunities from various countries in number of universities in different fields of studies. These countries also provided experience-sharing opportunities, short-term trainings and long-term capacity development in the form of scholarships (at MA and PhD levels) in specializations in all fields.

Ethiopia's engagement in SSC is guided by the country's national policy and development cooperation strategy which is based on Ethiopia's national interests. The informant also observed that SSC is being transformed over time from cooperation that is politically driven to economically driven cooperation between and among member countries. Ethiopia has federal, regional and local (district/woreda and village/kebele) structures which facilitate the implementation of its national development plan and also implementation of SSC initiatives. To this end, the Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation Directorate at Ministry of Finance (MoF) is mandated to manage such cooperation. In addition, there is an International Organizations Directorate General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), which is mandated to liaise with other countries. There are also ministries, commissions and other entities in the Ethiopian governmental architecture which undertake bilateral and multilateral engagements on behalf of their respective sectors under directives from MoF and MoFA.

While the development and deployment of the institutional and policy framework to enable SSC cooperation will help to guide Ethiopia's engagement with other developing countries in future, the organic growth and expansion of collaboration with emerging and developing countries is already benefiting the country in various fields. Collaborations in fields such as

health, agro-industry, education, e-commerce, information technology, biodiversity, labour policy and road construction are some of the areas of current focus. But there is still a need to develop and strengthen the institutional and legislative frameworks for SSC and TrC in Ethiopia.

The Key outcomes from SSC partnerships

The results achieved from SSC partnerships were capacity-building (for human resources development) which enhanced knowledge and skills in the country. Personal and diplomatic relationships were strengthened between support provider and support receiver countries in the partnership.

And the outcomes of the SSC are also access to better infrastructure such as roads and better hydro-power transmission to satisfy the country's growing energy demand. Also the partnership supports in agriculture, health, education and science and technology brought considerable benefits. Projects through SSC partnerships not only brought economic development to Ethiopia but also enhanced skills transfer from other SSC countries to Ethiopian citizens.

Conclusion

Now, China and India have become key players in the world economic development efforts and Ethiopia is getting huge benefit from these countries. Also countries in the Middle East (Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, etc.) are offering assistance and Ethiopia has been making use of this opportunity.

In general, the exchange was dominated by training, experience sharing, technical support and access to investment finance. Furthermore, among the modalities, short-term training and long-term training seemed to dominate both from providers and recipient sides. The next most important modality seemed to be experience-sharing visits which took the form of workshops, study tours and other learning mechanisms. In this regard, Ethiopia also provided significant

support to SSC participating countries in Western and Southern Africa.

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SSC Oriented Strategic Partnership between India and Morocco



Salah Abidi*

“My vision of south-south cooperation is clear and constant: my country shares what it has, without ostentation.

Within the framework of a clear-sighted collaboration, Morocco – which is a major economic player in Africa – will become a catalyst for shared expansion...

My country has opted to share and transfer its know-how; in concrete terms, it is offering to build a safe, solidarity-based future.... “

– Excerpt from the Royal Speech, delivered before the 28th Summit of the African Union, January 31st, 2017

Abstract: The enthronement of King Mohamed VI to the throne of Morocco in 1999 was an important turning point in Moroccan-African cooperation relations. Indeed, the absence of Morocco since 1984 from the African Union was reassured through the vision of the new King. Morocco is now an important partner in Africa.

Driven by the royal vision, Morocco’s institutional and private actors had set their sights on Africa, where they developed win-win partnerships with their African counterparts. The purpose of this paper is to highlight the work of South-South cooperation undertaken by Morocco during the last two decades, and to highlight the mutual interest of Morocco and India to establish a partnership for the benefit of Africa.

Introduction

South-South cooperation (SSC) cannot be mentioned without mentioning Africa. Indeed, the countries of Africa are directly concerned by this model of cooperation and are hoping to

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Views expressed are personal.*

find a more beneficial alternative to the model of North-South cooperation, orchestrated by Western countries and international institutions.

Indeed, majority of the developing countries are in the African continent, and the majority of them are in real need of the support of development-oriented partners, which are ready to provide viable solutions to the problems of food self-sufficiency, health, education, etc. to which they are confronted.

In this respect, it should be recalled that the fundamental principle of the SSC lies in the need for developing countries to take control of their own destiny, and to increase self-support mechanisms for their development.

The role of the SSC then becomes more sustainable in the face of other forms of cooperation, based on the principle of profit, and where the beneficiary countries are out of balance with the so-called donor countries and organizations.

In this context, several southern countries have developed rather advanced models on the principles and modalities of an innovative and adapted SSC. Morocco and India are to be quoted in this context.

Indeed, these two countries play an important role in the SSC, considering their particular geostrategic positions, their histories and their external policies directed towards their southern partners.

To what extent would it be advisable to take advantage of a consolidated collaboration between Morocco and India to strengthen the bases of a SSC, based on the mutual interest of both countries and that of the countries of Africa?

Morocco: Strategic partner of African Union

Historically, Morocco's presence in Africa dates back several hundred years through trade and caravans. The signs of this presence are still visible among the local populations, who have rubbed shoulders with merchants and Moroccan notables

who continued their commercial activities in Africa.

The presence of tariqa tijania¹ in several African countries justifies the historical relations and socio-cultural exchanges that marked this common past between Morocco and Africa. However, Morocco was economically cut off from the continent by colonization. It was thus necessary to wait for the independence of Morocco so that it opens again on Africa. Since then, the Kingdom of Morocco, which already had a Ministry of African Affairs in 1961, supported African liberation movements, including the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

The Casablanca Charter, established in 1961 at the Casablanca Conference, was one of the preludes to the creation of the core of the African Union, and a road map for building a true Continental Unity². The coming to power of King Mohammed VI in 1999 was an important turning point in Morocco's contemporary position in Africa. Thanks to the vision of young Monarch, Morocco has since assumed fully its African identity. At the 1st Africa-Europe Summit held in Cairo in April 2000, Morocco announced the waiving off any external debt provided to African least developed countries.³

The Moroccan Constitution of 2011 will officially allow Morocco to reclaim the African dimension, as a central component of Moroccan identity. Six years later, in January 2017, Morocco returned to the African Union (AU) and then officially made in February 2017 application for the Community of West African States⁴ (ECOWAS).

Morocco's Contribution in development of Africa

Starting from the Royal vision, Morocco has made a commitment to contribute to the development of the African continent. Its contribution is divided into four main axes, which define the field of action of public and private Moroccan actors:

- Governance of the continent, without which nothing would be possible to maintain peace, strengthen unity and take a new look at the urgent migration issue.
- Human development to strengthen African skills, facilitates reconciliation and preserve religious tolerance.
- Economic transition, for the benefit of the continent's economic integration, investment and the necessary financial tools and expertise that Morocco can offer in key areas.
- The eco-transition, i.e. the transition to a more sustainable, inclusive and environmentally friendly economic model, through adaptation to climate change, transition to renewable energies, reasoned agriculture...

Since the year 2000, the King of Morocco has made more than 50 visits to 27 African countries. He visited 8 countries for the first time, including 4 in East Africa, 2 in Southern Africa and 2 in West Africa. Similarly, 31 visits by African Heads of State have made official visits to Morocco since that date. This momentum culminated in the conclusion of more than 1,000 cooperation agreements with more than 40 countries, nearly half of which involve 80 public and private economic operators and 300 African partners.

While Moroccan direct investment flows to African countries increased between 2007 and 2016, from 114 million dollars to nearly 326 million dollars. In total, over this period, Morocco has invested nearly \$ 3 billion in Africa⁵.

Morocco has also expanded its diplomatic and consular network with 34 embassies in Africa, including several new embassies in southern Africa and eastern Africa. The results of this work of consolidation of Moroccan-African relations are visible in several sectors of cooperation.

As examples, some areas where Moroccan actors have operated:

- Maintenance of peace: Since the 1960s, the total number of people hired has reached 60,000 in six African peacekeeping operations: Congo, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the United Nations Central African Republic. Currently 1,596

Moroccan soldiers are participating in peacekeeping operations in Africa⁶.

- Migration: Morocco adopted a new immigration and asylum policy in 2013 which allowed the regularization of nearly 25,000 immigrants by the end of 2014.
- The university domain, which is one of the most advanced aspects of cooperation between Morocco and other African countries. For example, in the academic year 2017-2018, the Moroccan higher education institutions welcomed 10,000 African students (compared to 1,040 in 1995), more than 80% of whom are scholarship holders, thanks to the important role played by the Moroccan Agency of International Cooperation⁷ (AMCI) in the reception of sub-Saharan students and interuniversity cooperation.
- Urban planning: With the sharing of Moroccan urban expertise for the eradication of slums, the contribution to the construction of a new capital in South Sudan and the contribution to the upgrading of the city of Conakry in the Republic Guinean.
- The Moroccan contribution in the mining and telecom sectors.
- The agricultural sector, with concrete actions, particularly in micro-irrigation, the development of agribusiness for export, as well as the provision of Morocco's proven experience in agricultural research.
- The fisheries sector, where Morocco contributed to the development of landing bridges in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire to increase the efficiency of the fisheries sector.
- The air transport sector, by making Casablanca-Mohammed V airport a regional hub, serving the main African destinations.
- The Contribution to Africa's Eco-Transition and Adaptation to the Effects of Climate Change: Launch of the CoP22, organized by Morocco in November 2016, of the Triple A Initiative (Adaptation of the African Agriculture).
- The energy sector: conclusion of the cooperation agreement on the gas pipeline megaproject⁸.

West African Gas Pipeline

The conclusion of the co-operation agreement on the mega-gas pipeline project was launched in December 2016, during the visit of King Mohammed VI to Nigeria. This Moroccan-Nigerian project consists of the construction of an extension to Morocco of the West African Gas Pipeline in operation since 2010, which links the gas zones of southern Nigeria to Benin, Togo and Ghana.

In the long run, this pipeline has to travel nearly 4,000 kilometres and cross a dozen countries in order to eventually be connected to the European market, according to its promoters, who see it as a model of “south-south cooperation”. It could benefit 300 million people and “change the face of this part of the continent,” according to them.

In the infrastructure and transport sector, the signing of more than 100 cooperation agreements with African counterparts.

Morocco-India strategic partnership

It is clear from this overview that Morocco is an active player in south-south cooperation, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and West Africa. This strategic positioning would be conducive to further SSC development in Africa, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and West Africa. The establishment of an Africa-oriented strategic partnership between Morocco and India, as a historical actor of the SSC, would be of great interest.

On the one hand, it will further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the various areas of common interest. It should be noted in this respect that the Moroccan-Indian Joint Commission meets on a regular basis as a sign of the interest shown by both parties in their bilateral cooperation. This relationship is governed by numerous cooperation agreements concluded in recent years, which cover several areas of common interest. The latest agreements were signed by the foreign ministers of both countries at the Mixed Commission held in February 2019 in Rabat. These agreements concern the areas of security, youth, diplomacy and housing. Moreover, a renewed interest in both parties has been noted in recent years, reflecting a common desire to give new impetus to bilateral cooperation relations.

On the other hand, this strategic partnership will provide a platform for developing triangular cooperation oriented towards African partners, so coveted by other countries. Indeed, Morocco, like India, has an interesting experience in triangular cooperation, which has benefited several African countries. The case of capacity building for African nationals is a good illustration of this cooperation.

For example, the training institutions under the supervision of the Ministry of Equipment, Transport and Logistics have, in recent years, trained some 100 executives and technicians in the Maritime, Port and Railway disciplines, in addition to 112 laureates. Specialized Institutes of Public Works (ISTP) and the Hassania School of Public Works (EHTP) for Engineers;

Conclusion

As a conclusion, it is clear from the above that the SSC is the right framework for Southern countries to meet their development expectations and to address the challenges they face. Morocco and India are called upon to take up this challenge and set up the bases of an African-oriented partnership, likely to benefit African citizens, as well as African economies, through a common strategy based on the know-how available in these two countries in particular in the area of triangular cooperation and SSC.

Endnotes

1. The Tariqa Tijania is one of the most widespread Muslim brotherhoods in the Sahel. Founded in the 18th century, its presence extends from Mali to Senegal, from Mauritania to Burkina Faso, from Morocco to Algeria.
2. Towards Africa's autonomous development: Strategic Report 2018, IRES.
3. Retrieved from: www.ires.ma
4. Le retour du Maroc dans l'Union africaine, Miguel Hernando de Larramendi et Beatriz Tomé-Alonso
5. Annuaire IEMed. de la Méditerranée 2017, p. 252- 256
6. Retrieved from: https://www.iemed.org/observatori/arees-danalisi/arxiu-adjunts/anuari/med.2017/french/IEMed_MedYearbook2017fr_retour_maroc_union_africaine_larramendi_alonso.pdf
7. Morocco is one of the founding members of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), an interstate organization established on 25 May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and replaced by the AU, pursuant to the Declaration of Sirte of September 9, 1999.
8. Towards Africa's autonomous development: Strategic Report 2018, IRES, page 315.
9. Retrieved from: www.ires.ma
10. 6 Towards Africa's autonomous development: Strategic Report 2018, IRES, 299.
11. Retrieved from: www.ires.ma
12. 7 The Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI), headquartered in Rabat, was created in 1986 as a dynamic, flexible and efficient tool for executing the Kingdom's foreign cooperation policy.
13. The AMCI conducts its actions in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in partnership with all ministerial Departments and Moroccan public institutions concerned.
14. The mission of AMCI is to develop, expand and strengthen all cultural, scientific, technical and economic relations with partner countries, particularly in the context of South-South cooperation.
15. Retrieved from: <http://www.amci.ma/>
16. 8 Publié le. (11/06/2018). Maroc - Nigeria : ce qu'il faut savoir sur le mégaprojet de gazoduc ouest-africain.
17. Retrieved from: https://www.lepoint.fr/economie/maroc-nigeria-ce-qu-il-faut-savoir-sur-le-megaprojet-de-gazoduc-ouest-africain-11-06-2018-2226067_28.php



South- South Cooperation in the Arab Region



Sally Ahmed Mahmoud*

Abstract: This paper explores the philosophy, scope and nature of South-South Cooperation in the Arab region particularly between the Gulf and the North African countries. It examines how the national development funds in the Arab countries have contributed to development assistance. The paper identifies the challenges faced by countries in promoting South- South Cooperation in the region, and visualizes the roadmap for greater collaboration among partners.

Introduction

South-South cooperation (SSC) refers to the technical and economic cooperation among developing countries in the Global South. SSC is also about developing countries working together to find solutions to common development challenges faced by them. It is an approach employed by the states, international organisations, academics, civil society and the private sector to collaborate and share knowledge, skills and successful initiatives in specific areas such as agricultural development, human rights, urbanization, health, climate change, etc. Linked by similarities in their development contexts and challenges, the countries of the South have been increasingly active in sharing knowledge, exchanging technologies and forming common agenda and collective actions. South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

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Views expressed are personal.

As the concept of South-South cooperation continues to strengthen worldwide, the Arab countries are reaching out to other countries for partnerships and collaboration. The assistance has come mostly in the form of soft loans, investments, debt relief, infrastructure building, technical cooperation and experimentation in new technologies and products. Overall, more Arab financial resources have been allocated to the poor countries, with 40 per cent of total Arab financial assistance to the recipients of World Bank's International Development Assistance programme, as per a report released by the Cairo-based UNDP Regional Bureau for Arab States. Additionally, some 20 per cent of total Arab lending has been directed to countries eligible for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC), including Afghanistan, Ghana, Cameroon, Mali and Senegal. Recent developments in SSC have taken the form of exchange of solutions and experts, technology transfer, dialogue on options for policy reform, enhanced official flows and foreign direct investment, and increased volumes of trade.

Philosophy and Approach towards South-South Cooperation

For the Arab providers of SSC, targeted strategic cooperation has become a potent instrument of cooperation, including promoting multi-layered foreign policymaking and commercial interests. At the same time, a traditional concentration of cooperation with other Arab countries is evolving rapidly as Arab providers increasingly offer their expertise, knowledge, services and financial resources to other regions as well. From the richer countries of the Gulf, to more diversified economies such as Egypt or Jordan, to least developed countries (LDCs) such as Sudan or Yemen, there exists enough scope for contribution to SSC. Demand is also high in a number of sectors, often within the same country. Overall, more Arab financial resources are being allocated to poor countries both within and outside the Arab region.

Already, many Arab countries have particularly supported South-South capacity development, including the establishment and operation of training institutes for partner-country officials, and have provided assistance for knowledge-sharing initiatives to help partner countries to develop policy solutions tailored to their unique development challenges. Since countries in the speak same language, the Arab providers have comparative advantage in knowledge transfer to the partner countries in the region. In addition, partnering with institutions in the region ensures political and operational relevance, given similar conditions faced by the countries in the region.

Role of National Development Funds

National development banks have played a key role in promoting SSC in the Arab countries. The largest bilateral partners for SSC are Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The national funds in these countries have contributed to development assistance. There has been a strong focus on development finance, particularly through soft loans in recent years. While the Saudi Fund for Development, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development finance projects or contribute to debt relief in scores of developing countries, they also have kept a focus on cooperation in the Arab region itself. For example, more than half of the nearly 800 loans and 230 technical assistance grants by the Kuwait Fund have been directed for Arab Economic Development since its establishment across 16 Arab States.

Other emerging middle-income countries in the region are actively engaging in SSC. For example, Egypt embodies a trend among Arab countries that are becoming pivotal providers of cooperation even as they continue to be recipients. Other important countries that support the SSC initiatives in the region are Morocco, Qatar and Tunisia. These countries together fit very well into the SSC framework by having a deep understanding of development partnerships.

Challenges in Implementation of SSC

Although the Arab countries are relatively well-placed in terms of resources, there are challenges in implementing the SSC projects. At this stage, many countries of the Arab region still do not have the capacity to address a number of SSC challenges, including knowledge transfer. The need for additional assistance to help to build links between countries in the region is widely felt. Limited capacity in articulating or assessing needs and developing specific programmes and projects particularly imposes constraints on the use of demand-driven approaches.

The three specific challenges which need worth mention are the following:

- **National Capacity:** Strengthening relevant national capacities along with policies and coordination mechanisms;
- **Improved Coordination and Greater Transparency:** Ensuring adequate monitoring and evaluation, thereby increasing transparency and accountability, complemented by accessible and comprehensive data on SSC in the region;
- **Funding:** Ensuring sufficient SSC funding and other resources required for South-South cooperation to happen.

Addressing these challenges can help Arab countries to achieve the vision of sustainable human development in the Arab region.

Opportunities for Greater Collaboration: The Egyptian Case

The Arab Spring has opened up space for governments in the region to re-examine and prioritise their public spending, including on SSC. At the same time, it provides opportunity for the traditional Western donors to learn from the Arab providers of SSC especially the successful practice of horizontal partnerships. In this context, it is imperative to present the development cooperation experience of Egypt as an example for promoting SSC in the Arab region.

Egypt has taken a strong lead in SSC through its special funds for technical cooperation with other regions, and through trilateral cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank, Japan and Turkey. It has conducted more than 50 training courses in policing, nursing, judiciary, diplomacy, agriculture and media. Egypt has also established a solid SSC presence in Africa through investment, notably with the expansion of the Orascom business group. This large group, with a diverse portfolio of activities including infrastructure development, construction, real estate and telecommunications is present in several African countries, bolstering national economic development as well as creating jobs. One of its principal companies, Orascom Telecom Holdings, is one of the largest and most diversified telecommunications operators in the world. It operates in Algeria, Tunisia and Zimbabwe, among other countries, providing significant access to information and knowledge, including among disadvantaged populations and women. At the same time, Egypt, like the United Arab Emirates, is a major destination for exports of other African countries.

Under the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa, Egypt has provided more than 250 short- and long-term experts to some 30 African countries for training and facilitation of knowledge-sharing in a variety of sectors, including water resources, health, agriculture and education. Egypt, which has trained more than 1,200 scholars from Kazakhstan through training courses, has also launched the Centre for South-South Industrial Cooperation for transferring technology and promoting innovation-based industrial development among the African states.

Moreover, Egypt is particularly trying to establish itself as a significant provider of SSC in information and communication technologies (ICTs). On the recipient side, the Government has launched the Egypt ICT Trust Fund as a mechanism to promote ICTs in community development, agriculture, education and health, small and medium-sized enterprises and for people with disabilities, which offer for replication

in other countries. At the same time, Egypt has been a major recipient of Arab multilateral assistance; for example, the multilateral Gulf Organization for the Development of under the Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation with Africa.

Conclusion

The countries of the global South have come a long way in promoting mutual cooperation and exchange of experiences, and have devised innovative and effective solutions characterized by low cost and enforceability with the common challenges facing the countries of the South. The Arab countries have embraced SSC both within and outside the region with significant allocation of financial resources by their national development banks. In addition, the regional countries contribute to the cause of SSC for development in the South through assistance to the initiatives undertaken by the World Bank and other multilateral institutions. Among many other factors, the challenges of local capacity, additional funding and coordination need to be addressed for effective implementation of SSC in the Arab region.

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PICA's Development Mechanisms in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



Ameer Abdelrahim*

Abstract: This article argues in favor of a more human centered, demand-driven, bottom-up approach rather than “Government to Government” approach. This approach paves the path for more inclusive and accommodating mechanism where a win-win modality prevails. This article also discusses and shows the nature and algorithm of the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency in dealing and contributing to the South – South Cooperation as some of the missions and programs are mentioned. The article concludes with the important role that think tanks from the South are expected to play in strengthening SSC.

Introduction

International development and cooperation are undergoing fundamental changes¹. Emerging actors are increasingly challenging the traditional approach to development cooperation. The creation of an alternative paradigm, ‘South-South Cooperation’ (SSC) has been recognized as an important cooperation modality, but faces contradictions and risks that are not too different from those of its North-South counterpart. SSC providers are highly heterogeneous in terms of policies, institutional arrangements, and engagement with international forums and initiatives, which could bring risks and uncertainties. This article outlines the role of the State of Palestine; represented by the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency “PICA”, in achieving the sustainable development goals. PICA adopts South-South and Triangular Cooperation as means to engage with the regrettably increasing development disparities worldwide.

This article argues in favour of a more human centered, demand-driven, bottom-up approach rather than “Government to Government” approach. This approach paves the path for more inclusive and accommodating mechanism where a win-win modality prevails. The article concludes with the important role that think tanks from the South are expected to play in strengthening SSC².

These days putting people at the heart of South-South cooperation has become a priority, SSC is expanding its compass by harnessing energies of the private sector and enlisting proactive participation of Civil Society Organizations, academia, think tanks and intellectuals. PICA implements capacity development activities and provides technical expertise and training aligned to Southern countries’ national priorities namely on agriculture, health, education, environment, statistical, and renewable energy, volunteers and private-public sector partnership. Under this pillar of action, the main goal is to make Palestinian know-how and technical expertise available to Southern countries and exchange best practices, in the spirit of solidarity.

Over the past few decades, SSC mechanism offered fettered engagements with developing countries. The magnitude of the SSC work touches upon the significance of genuine partnerships that exceed socially constructed borders into more impact- laid and comprehensive system.

The Sustainable Development process in the context of Conflict and Crises is usually highlighted in the domestic national sphere through domestic and international efforts. However, it is also important to highlight the contributions of the countries of the South themselves in supporting their counterparts from the South to convey their modern economic and development experience based on the principle of “leave no one behind” and based on international conventions and specialized bodies that coordinate South-South cooperation for a more interdependent world.

Since it was established, PICA has led an important role in developing and promoting SSC as a driver to sustainable development Agenda of 2030. One of the agency’s most important fields

of work is health – it sees this field as essential in the raising of developmental standards around the globe in sectors such as medicine, nutrition, first aid, nursing, medical sciences, health management, public health provision and healthcare development.

The Agency is engaged in three overall strategic areas of work: bilateral cooperation with partners as part of SSC; triangular cooperation, including third party intervention and provision of technical assistance and development cooperation; and multilateral cooperation through international organizations, including cooperation agreements with the United Nations, European Union, African Union and similar organizations.

PICA’s fundamental philosophy is anchored in sharing resources. Therefore, to promote its objectives of equitability and cooperation based on the promotion of SSC mechanisms, PICA has long sought to promote a wide global partnership network, involving not only governments but also non-state actors such as non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia, as a way to develop its capacities and as a source of mobilizing financial resources. PICA’s main success factors are based in perceptiveness, innovation, accountability and partnerships.

The SSC modality highlights that sharing successful experiences, best practices and development solutions are an effective way to address development challenges. Hence, PICA’s way forward is bound to foster this cooperation model, as it is committed to foster and strengthen its role in advancing South-South and triangular cooperation. It will as well continue to aim at addressing human and sustainable development challenges through reinforced partnerships, at the same time working to achieve the SDGs.

SSC is becoming a primary source for the Arab countries’ development. It refers to the technical cooperation among developing countries in the Global South. It is a tool used by the states, international organizations, academics, civil society and the private sector to collaborate and share knowledge, skills and successful initiatives in specific areas such as agricultural development, human rights, urbanization, health, climate change etc.

PICA's Role in South-South Cooperation

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.

Since 2016, PICA has implemented 21 projects, and covered 17 countries, across all regions. In addition to signing bilateral development cooperation initiatives between PICA and other development agencies (with Turkey, Tunisia, Belgium, Morocco, Thailand, Poland, Sri Lanka and Chile among others), and 1 trilateral cooperation initiative (with Tunisia and Morocco).

PICA has four main pillars or thematic focus:

Relief and Humanitarian Fast Responses

Palestinian Rapid Response and Rescue Team

Technical Cooperation and Voluntary Program
- Public Private Sector (PPS)

Agriculture

Health

Education

Volunteers

Public Private sector

Foster Investment Opportunities

Promote investment opportunities across foreign markets

Advocate for Palestinian investors (including Palestinian in Diaspora) investing in global PICA-supported projects

Policy Leadership

OIC roadmap formulation

Resilience & humanitarian development nexus

Development effectiveness

Some of the missions and programmes that the PICA has launched with the aim of participating in the SSC are as below.

PICA's Water Mission to Namibia

This mission aimed at supporting the ongoing efforts of the Namibian Government to overcome the impact of the drought situation.

As a result of this mission, PICA's delegation was able to prepare a study report which includes important recommendations for further steps to be implemented to deal with the current situation. This report was delivered to all governmental bodies dealing with the crisis. It was also agreed to implement different capacity building programs for water, soil and energy technicians in 2020 by deploying Palestinian instructors in specific fields based on the expressed needs of the government of Namibia.

PICA Concludes a Development Programme for the Benefit of the Kingdom of Lesotho

Maseru-PICA concluded its first development programme in the Kingdom of Lesotho in the field of communications, in cooperation with the Embassy of the State of Palestine in South Africa. PICA delegation implemented a capacity building program for the staff of the telecommunication and technology departments from 26 different ministries in the field of information security and e-government. The program mainly aimed at supporting the government's efforts to empower its employees in dealing with the growing challenges in the field of technology.

Conclusion

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. SSC 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), civil society amongst others. The nations of the South have been ever more vigorous in cooperating with each other in terms of 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 empower humans and civil society; we can make sure that 'NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND'.

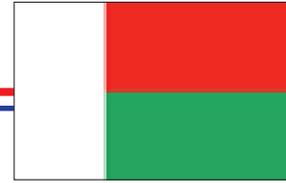
“Our mission is to make bridges, fuse channels and bring hearts closer. The State of Palestine is proud to create a new platform of cooperation. The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) is a voice of friendship and solidarity and a humanitarian hand reaching to the rest of the inhabitants of this planet.”

Dr. Riad Malki

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates

Endnotes

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South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Indian Ocean Area's Maritime Security Governance



**Razafimandimby Nampoina
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Abstract: The Indian Ocean is an important geopolitical space for the world's trade and development issues. Responding to the challenges faced by the rim States of the Indian Ocean, the security architecture of this area has been redefined through the participation of international organizations. Consequently, promoting the maritime security has become a priority of member States of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). This is an aspect that should be further promoted by India and Madagascar in particular to ensure stability in the Indian Ocean region.

Introduction

In the international cooperation involving countries from the Global South, the Indian Ocean maritime space is among the most strategic areas due to the presence of several endogenous and exogenous actors that are also heterogeneous in nature. The purpose of this article is to provide an analysis of cooperation in the maritime security governance in the Indian Ocean for Madagascar and its partners.

I. The strategic importance of Indian ocean region

The strategic importance of the Indian Ocean is underlined by the straits and international canals that unite the Atlantic, the Pacific oceans and the Mediterranean Sea by inland waterways. The nodal points for the commercial navigation of the Indian Ocean are, among others, the straits of Malacca (South East Asia), Hormuz (in the Persian Gulf) and Babel-Mandeb (between the Persian Gulf and the Red sea), the Suez Canal (connecting the Red sea to the Mediterranean Sea), the Mozambique Channel (between Mozambique and

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Views expressed are personal.

Madagascar). These strategic passages are required for trade flows from the Indian Ocean to Europe, North America, Asia and the Middle East. Around 30 per cent of global trade passes through the Gulf of Aden and Strait of Malacca.

The international straits and passage regime are governed by the international law of the sea, particularly the United Nations convention on the law of the sea (UNCLOS). The straits are subject to the laws on innocent passage, allowing States to trade freely. As a result, the control of these points are very important for States, which lead them to deploy maritime and land forces in key areas, deterrent forces and, to conclude security and defense agreements in order to extend their influence.

The Indian Ocean is also a heterogeneous space because there is diversity in politics, economics, religion, ethnicity, demography and military matters. The level of development of countries bordering this ocean is very disparate. The Indian Ocean comprises 25 continental rim countries, 6 island States, and some islands-territories under French and British administration. The Western part of the Indian Ocean is also generally characterized by the presence of the least developed countries, the North by the oil-exporting countries, and the East by the emerging countries.

Officially, seven countries hold nuclear weapons technology (United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, India and Pakistan). Other States claim or are suspected of possessing it as Israel, North Korea, Iran and Iraq. The Indian Ocean is declared a “peace zone” by the United Nations General Assembly in 1971. Unfortunately, this resolution is not unanimous among the major powers States, where the United States, France and the United Kingdom are opposed to this resolution. Their countries have their own interests as they have military facilities in the Indian Ocean: Diego Garcia military naval base for United States and United Kingdom, Armed Forces in the Southern and Western of the Indian Ocean for France in La Réunion. In addition, phenomena of regional nationalism are pushing bordering States to restrict access

to foreigners. Indeed, the “declaration making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace” (December 16th, 1971) asks the great powers to enter into consultation with coastal States to “stop the process of escalation and expansion of their military power”; some of these States even believe that the Indian Ocean should be free from any military presence of nuclear-armed powers.

The Indian Ocean is a set because despite the disparities existing in the region, this ocean forms an entity and several groups. The challenges faced by the region include irregular fishing, smuggling of natural resources, drug trafficking, illegal migration, marine pollution, maritime piracy, and armed robbery. For this reason, many countries have decided to put aside their development opportunities by joining forces and establishing common goals through international architecture such as the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

II. Role of international organization in promoting maritime security cooperation

A. The Indian Ocean Commission, keystone of cooperation

The Indian Ocean Commission, an intergovernmental organization, was created in 1982 in Mauritius. This institution, comprising Comoros, France, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles, was subsequently institutionalized by the Victoria Agreements in 1984, whose main objective is to contribute, by regional cooperation, for the development of member States.

As part of the implementation of the Eastern and Southern African – Indian Ocean Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the fight against maritime piracy established in Mauritius in 2010, the Maritime Security Promotion Program (Maritime Security) known as the “MASE program” established in the region and validated by a ministerial platform of 22 member States of the Community of East African States (EAC), the Common Market of Southern and Eastern Africa (COMESA), Intergovernmental Authority

for Development (IGAD) and IOC. The MASE program is funded by the European Union under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) for 37.5 million Euros. The program is effective for a period of seven years, from 2013 to 2020. Under this project, results four and five are led by IOC, including the running of the Regional Coordination of Operations Centre (RCOC) in Seychelles (Result four) and the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMFIC) hosted by Madagascar. Two regional agreements have already been signed: Regional Agreement for Exchange and Maritime Information Sharing, and the Regional Agreement on coordination of operations at sea were signed during the Ministerial Conference on Maritime Safety of the Indian Ocean Commission on April 26 to 29, 2018. Countries member of this program are supposed to designate International liaison officer (ILO) in each centre.

The contextual situation of the IOC has several peculiarities and challenges to overcome. IOC is a regional architecture that presents opportunities for cooperation, but also faces several challenges in this regard. With its five member States, finding a consensus to address the common and individual challenges of each member is easier within IOC compared to other regional organizations in the same sphere: SADC (15 members) and COMESA (19 members). In order to improve procedures for the operational response at sea, IOC countries developed few programs where are involved stakeholders in a multidimensional environment. A Table Top Exercise and a Maritime Pollution Exercise was organized respectively in August and October 2019. The IOC, therefore, is a key player in ensuring the security of the Indian ocean area.

B. The Indian Ocean Rim Association, a case of an intercontinental mutual efforts

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an association of Indian Ocean rim States whose main purpose is to promote economic cooperation, balanced growth and sustainable development of the region between its 22 member States. This group, created in 1997, is distinguished by its ambitions more and more prioritized towards

safety and maritime security. It is important to underline that nine States are “partners of the Dialogue” of the group; France aspires now to be a member State of the Association through the presence of Reunion Island in the region. In order to follow up all activities related to the maritime safety and security, a working group on this field has been set up, the last meeting of which was held in August 2019. The following three short-term objectives (2019-2021) have been identified by the participating States:

- Build the foundation for a collaborative IORA MSS framework;
- Establish an integrated policy approach on MSS, including through capacity enhancement and capacity building;
- Establish a coordinated regional vision for MSS in IORA to address existing and emerging issues

C. European Union support for maritime safety and security in west Africa: Crimario project case

Given to the complexity of the challenges in strengthening maritime safety in Africa and in the framework of the implementation of the Djibouti Code of Conduct, the European Union is supporting Crimario project. Its financing belongs to the European Union, for the period from 2015 to 2019, and up to 5.5 million Euros. For example, it supports several initiatives including information sharing and incident management (IORIS) and capacity building sessions. A new phase of the project, known as “Crimario II” (2020-2024), aims to offer different approaches of expertise in terms of cooperation in “maritime domain awareness” as well as in the application of the maritime law in the Indian Ocean.

III. India and Madagascar maritime cooperation

In historical view, India and Madagascar have always maintained close diplomatic relations. Sharing the same ocean, it is originally a neighborhood bond, rather than conventional bilateral relations. The relationship between the

two countries has grown considerably in recent years in many sectors of activity, particularly in education and teaching, trade, medicine, journalism, etc. From this perspective, India as an emerging country is becoming a key economic and strategic partner. Madagascar intends to broaden the horizons of its bilateral cooperation through the new emergence policy.

In addition, the need to align the objectives and programs of cooperation with the regional specificities was highlighted during the India-Africa summit in 2015. On this point, a joint effort in areas, such as the development of the blue ocean economy and the issue of maritime safety must be undertaken by participating countries. At the Indian Ocean level and as stated, Madagascar has contributed through the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre, which has a regional mandate.

The last official visit of the Indian President to Madagascar in March 2018 is a testament to the strong diplomatic ties that unite the two countries. During this visit a memorandum of understanding in defense cooperation have been signed between India and Madagascar.

In this matter, many official port call of Indian warships have already taken place in the some ports of Madagascar in recent years:

- Four Indian Navy warships « Mumbai, Deepak, Talwar and Teg » made a port call in Antsiranana port in 2014 ;
- In 2016, Indian coast-guard patrol vessel « Samarth » in Toamasina and Fregate « Trikand » in Antsiranana;
- Two Indian Navy warships (Mumbai and Trikand) was in Antsiranana in 2018 ;
- And recently, four warships of the Indian Navy (INS TIR, SHARDUL INS, INS SUJATA and ICGS SARATHI) will make an official stop in Antsiranana from 01 to 04 October 2019, during which, personnel of the Forces Malagasy Navals will benefit, at quay, instructions aboard one of the ships of the Indian Navy.

These frequent visits to Malagasy ports demonstrate the depth of Indo-Malagasy military

cooperation as well as the diplomatic relationship between the two countries. Currently, sailors of the Malagasy Naval Forces continue to attend schools and instruction centers of the Indian Navy in India.

Conclusion

East Africa still has a long way to go in strengthening maritime governance in security matters. Regional organizations are still handicapped and in need of support, whether between States Parties or with the support of other international organizations or countries. The Indian Ocean is a space to be valued and the cooperation is among the means to optimize and secure resources and all Indian-Oceanic peoples.

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India-Ethiopia Science and Technology Cooperation: Challenges and Opportunities



Zelalem Dagne*

Abstract: The main objective of this paper is to assess Ethiopian and Indian science and technology cooperation through the frame work of South-South cooperation. Among the wide scope of south-south cooperation science and technology (S&T) is the major one. As part of south-south, Ethiopia and India has many development partnership programme including fostering science and technology between two countries for mutual benefit. Ethiopia and India signed around four agreements in the field of science and technology, which are almost ratified and enter in to implementation. From this development partnership programme Ethiopia is beneficiary due to list development in the field of S&T. Human capacity building programme has a considerable share among other modalities of cooperation, however there are some challenges regarding exchange and ratification of the agreement between both parties.

Introduction

South-South cooperation (SSC) is about developing countries working together to find solutions to common development challenges. South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

The Ministry of Innovation and Technology established several bilateral and multilateral agreements and memorandum of understanding with many countries and international organisation in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation. India is one of the major development partners of Ethiopia in different sectors including Science, Technology

and Innovation. Ethiopia and India signed four agreements in the field of Science and Technology between the year 2011 and 2018.

Ethiopia and India have a long history in development partnership program, south-south cooperation framework is one of the driving factor to enhance their cooperation to the highest level. Their cooperation programme is almost in all sectors including science and technology. With some challenges there, cooperation moving forward for the benefit of the two countries, truly speaking the opportunity and its effect in the area is by far better than the challenges they faced.

Overview of South-South Cooperation and Science and Technology

South-South Cooperation (SSC) is about developing countries working together to find solutions to common development challenges. Linked by similarities in their development contexts and challenges, the countries of the South have been increasingly active in sharing knowledge, exchanging technologies and forming common agenda and collective actions. South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

In 1974, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 3251 (XXIX), endorsed the establishment of a special unit within the United Nations Development Programme - United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) - to promote technical cooperation among developing countries and to enhance local capacity in developing countries by supporting local capabilities, institutions, expertise and human resources and national systems, where appropriate, in contribution to national development priorities, at the request

of developing countries. South-south based STI capacity building for development and transfer of technology can bring mutual benefits to countries in the region. Countries are also co-operating in science, technology and innovation on a bilateral basis to develop infrastructure and diversify the economy.

Back ground of Ethiopian-Indian Science and Technology Cooperation

The Ministry of Innovation and Technology (formerly known as the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), Ministry of Communication & Information Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology) is an agency of the Government of Ethiopia. It was established as a commission in December 1975 by directive No.62/1975. The Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) was a governmental institution that was established for the first time in December 1975 by proclamation No.62/1975 as a commission. Following the change in government in 1991 and with the issuance of the new economic policy, the Commission was re-established in March 1994 by Proclamation No.91/94. The commission went into its 3rd phase of re-institution on 24 August 1995 by Proclamation No.7/1995, as an agency following the establishment of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. The ministry changed its title to Ministry of Innovation and Technology in October 2018. The ministry is the nodal agency to carry this forward.

The Ministry of Innovation and Technology established several bilateral and multilateral agreements and memorandum of understanding with many countries and international organisations in the field of Science Technology and Innovation. India is one of the major development partners of Ethiopia in different sectors including Science, innovation and Technology. Ethiopia and India signed four agreements in the field of Science and Technology between the year 2011 and 2018. Modalities of All these agreements focused on capacity building

in the field of science and technology, Joint research, exchange of scientists, establishment of joint laboratory etc. The major one is a general agreement that was signed between Ethiopia and India in the year 2011 and ratified by the house of people's representatives in 2012, this general agreement serves as the basis of other Memorandum of Understanding and Programme of Cooperation. There is also a memorandum of Understanding in academic and Research Collaboration between the Ministry of Science and Technology of the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia and Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, India that mainly aims academic and research collaboration in the area of mutual interest and exchange of academic information, scholarly information, material and publication as well as exchange of students and faculty.

Opportunity of Ethiopian-Indian Science and Technology Cooperation

Ethiopia-India relations have existed for almost two millennia. Modern diplomatic relations between India and Ethiopia were established at the level of legations in July 1948, after the independence of India. The two countries have enjoyed close and friendly relations with India supporting Ethiopian developmental efforts while Ethiopia has supported Indian interests such as its claim to a permanent seat in 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. The history of development partnership between Ethiopia and India is multi sectoral, science and technology is one of the area in which they formed cooperation. One of the major area in which Ethiopia exploited from India counterpart is the area of human resource capacity building, there are two universities accountable for ministry of Innovation and Technology namely Addis Ababa University and Adama science and technology university are major beneficiaries from this

cooperation. The above listed universities twin with Indian Institute of Technology Madras . The university of Madras offer more than two hundred second degree and fifty PHD for two science and technology university. What matter is important the agreement and the memorandum of understanding signed between two countries are open for future works and it will renew with in a certain period of time. So there will be a potential area for more implementation and effectiveness.

Challenges during the Ethiopia-India Science and Technology Cooperation

One of the major challenges during such cooperation is long process that takes to realize the signing of agreement and memorandum of understanding. Because there are many parties engaged during exchange of draft document and signing, among these parties ministry of foreign affairs is one, in order to make it formal using this channel is a must but there is longevity.

The other major challenge is ratification of the agreement by the house of peoples representatives, in the case of Ethiopia every agreement must pass through house of peoples representatives. It took sometimes more than a year.

After signing of the agreement or the memorandum of understanding both parties has no equal interest to implement the agreement or the Memorandum of understanding, due to this the implementation take some times. Due to lack of budget on the Ethiopian side exchange of scientist and academia cannot be realized.

Recommendation for the Upcoming Ethiopia-India Science and Technology cooperation

Ethiopian-Indian science and Technology cooperation is now at good level that both parties are working for the good of their countries. One of the objective of cooperation is aiming mutual benefit and non-conditionality between two countries as well as two ministries (Ministry

of innovation and Technology of the federal democratic republic of Ethiopia and Indian counterparts).

In order to enhance their cooperation and realise the benefit from the field of the area of cooperation must be wider than ever, beside both parties must sit together and make an evaluation and identify their strength and weakness for a better cooperation, in the future.

Summary

South-South cooperation (SSC) is about developing countries working together to find solutions to common development challenges. South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South and should continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.

As long as south-south cooperation is all encompassing science and technology, it is one of the areas of cooperation. We can name a plenty of south-south cooperation and its success history so we can say that south –south cooperation is a direct correlation with the field of science and technology.

The Ministry of Innovation and Technology established several bilateral and multilateral agreements and memorandum of understanding with many countries and international organisation with in the field of Science Technology and Innovation. India is one of the major development partners of Ethiopia in different sectors including Science, innovation and Technology.

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Nigeria's Foreign Policy and South-South Cooperation



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Mathew***

Abstract: This paper provides an assessment of Nigeria foreign policy from 1960 till date and shows how far the foreign policy of the country in different regimes have contributed to achieving the objectives of the south-south cooperation. The paper also attempts to define foreign policy and south-south cooperation

Foreign Policy and South-South Cooperation

The task of defining foreign policy is by no means an easy one to any scholar. This is because, nobody has really formulated a universally accepted definition of foreign policy so far. However, some working definitions have been proposed to define what foreign policy is all about. The International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences posited that foreign policy differs from other policy areas because it concerns national interest and more fundamental values. Professor Charles defines foreign policy as “the general principles by which a state governs its reaction to the International Environment”. Wright believes it as “the act by which a government ascertain the state’s rights, interests, obligations and duties in international relations and how it make decisions in order to protect those duties and discharge those responsibilities”. According to him, flexibility, adaptability and sensitivity to many continually changing factors is the essence of the art. William Wallace defines foreign policy as “either a nation’s policy towards its international milieu or a factor among others in the international system. Put differently, it is a reflection of the interaction between the domestic and external environment; a means of communicating with other actors in the international setting over which a country has little or no control”

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Prior to my participation in the RIS training course on South-South Cooperation under Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, ITEC program, I did some research on this topic and I realised it is totally from the North-South cooperation where most aid/assistance flows from are from the developed countries in the North to the developing nations in the South. The program changed my understanding of south-south cooperation and I learnt that South-South Cooperation is actually coming together of developing nations regardless of their resources and capacity to cooperate with one another and share experiences, resources, technologies, technical knowhow.

The idea is for the countries in the south to get together and cooperate so as to reduce dependence on the North. This course has helped participants across countries to understand the broad perspective of South-South Cooperation and why partnership among countries from the South is a key towards reducing reliance on the North which will continue to still play an important role in any case.

Evolution of Nigeria's Foreign Policy

The history of the nation's foreign policy dates back to 1957 when the nucleus of the Foreign Service division was created in the Prime Minister's office. With the attainment of independence in 1960, a separate Ministry of Foreign Affairs and commonwealth Relations to conduct the nation's foreign relations was established. The central focus of Nigeria's foreign policy is aptly captured in chapter II Section 19 (a)-(d) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As amended). For the sake of emphasis, the section read thus - Section 19 states inter alia.

The foreign policy objectives shall be -

- Promotion and protection of the national interest
- Promotion of African integration and support for African unity;

- Promotion of international co-operation for the consolidation of universal peace and mutual respect among all nations and elimination of discrimination in all its manifestation;
- Respect for international law and treaty obligations as well as the seeking of settlement of international disputes by negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and adjudication; and
- Promotion of a just world economic order. It needs to be emphasised that Nigeria's foreign Policy is geared towards the realisation of National interest.

Foreign Policy Trajectories of Successive Governments

The Balewa Administration (1957-1966)

Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa was Nigeria's first Prime Minister. He believed in central control for an effective foreign policy and thus he retained sole control of foreign affairs except for the period between July 1961 and December 1964 which Wachukwu served as Minister of External Affairs and Common Relations.

The principles articulated by Balewa covered a broad spectrum of Nigeria's external relations which represented Nigeria's positioning in world affairs/international arena. The most prominent principle was the primacy of universal moral principles in world affairs. This he affirmed on August 20, 1960, when he declared that "Nigeria would follow an independent policy consistent with the moral and democratic principles on which our (Nigeria) constitution is based. This abstract and religious principle consistently underpinned his government's thoughts and actions.

In line with the principle of non-interference, Balewa opposed the radical Pan-Africanism of Kwame Nkrumah and the Casablanca grouping of African States, who called for political union of African as a solution to the continent's innumerable socio-political and economic problems. In his words, "to undermine the authority of the properly chosen/elected leaders

of another state, with a view to imposing political union was the greatest threat to peace in Africa." He opposed African regionalism with emphasis on absolutely no territorialism.

During his regime, Balewa upheld to the principle of "non-alignment" or "positive neutralism" in conducting his relations with the power blocs. He declared that Nigeria would reserve its freedom of action at all times and would not blindly follow anyone. He further stressed that even though Nigeria shall never forget its old friends, it would not align itself with any particular bloc- which is the basis of the Non-Aligned Movement and the ideological parent of the South-South Cooperation which Nigeria as country fully subscribe to.

The Gowon Administration (1966-1975)

The Gowon administration witnessed two distinct periods. These were the period of political crisis from July 1966 to the end of the civil war in January 1970. The other period began from January 1972 to July 1975 when the administration was overthrown.

After the civil war, Nigeria reversed her foreign policy and Africa was moved to the top priority of the nation's foreign policy. Consequently, Nigeria emerged as a frontline state to fight for the liberation of the Southern Africa and opposed the reign white majority rule during the apartheid regime in South Africa. To help disentangle West Africa from neo-colonial stronghold, Nigeria spearheaded the creation of the Economic community of West African States (ECOWAS); based on its principle of promotion of international peace and security and at the same time assured its smaller West African neighbours that it has no territorial ambitions.

Mohammed/Obasanjo Administration

The administration took some bold and resolute steps on international issues affecting Nigeria and African interests. During this regime, independence became the core of Nigeria's foreign policy. Billy Dudley describes it as "a trend towards an independent assessment of

events, the formation of objective on the basis of such an assessment and the determination of action in the light of the objectives".

During this regime, he held to the basic principles Nigeria foreign policy. For instance, in pursuance of this approach, Obasanjo in his address to the Organization of African Union (O.A.U) submit in Kartoun in July 1978, indicated that Nigeria's primary concern was the independence of Africa and its freedom from external control or intervention, no matter the direction it came from. He said, "Africans totally reject, as an instrument of neo-colonialism, any collective security scheme for Africa fashioned and teleguided from outside Africa for economic, political and military interests of any super-power bloc".

Shehu Shagari Administration(1970)

The assumption of office of Alhaji Shehu Shagari on October 1, 1970 was heralded by a general mood of euphoria and expectation. It was hoped he would capitalise on the achievement of the previous administrations and take corrective measures. The 1979 Constitution provided the framework for the administration's policy directive. Section 14 of the constitution asserts that "Sovereignty belongs to the people of Nigeria from whom government derives all its powers and authority.

More poignantly on the foreign policy front, the constitution states that " the state shall promote African unity as well as total political, economic, social and cultural liberation of Africa and all forms of international cooperation conducive to the consolidation of universal peace and mutual respect and friendship among all peoples and states and shall combat racial discrimination in all its manifestations". These objectives of Nigeria's foreign policy are a direct reflection of principles which was consistent since the Balewa administration and were in line with the ideals of south-south cooperation.

The Buhari/Idiagbon Administration

The radicalisation of Nigeria foreign policy actually began during Murtala/Obasanjo era.

During this era, and hence can be considered as an offshoot of that regime. In upholding the principle of fighting against racism and apartheid during his regime, Nigeria retained the chairmanship of the United Nations anti-apartheid committee and continued to advance its objectives through the committee. The foreign policy process under the Buhari administration probably allowed greater scope for assessment and imagination than that of the Shagari administration.

The Babangida Administration

The Babangida administration commenced in August 1985 with the promise to pursue the same activist policy of the Obasanjo regime. On the occasion of the Patron's Dinner of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs on November 29, 1985, he promised another era of principled foreign policy which application implies dynamic continuity. On the international concerns, Babangida reiterated that Nigeria will continue its active membership in the Commonwealth of Nations. He also called for the conferment of veto power on at least one African member state of the United Nations.

Babangida executed its bold foreign policy objective in Liberia by pioneering the restoration of peace, though at great financial cost. This was a departure from the age-old international rule of non-interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation. Babangida justified this by arguing that the action was to prevent further carnage and total break-up of Liberia. In furtherance of this mission, Nigeria joined other members of ECOWAS to form a united force tagged ECOMOG. This is yet another great step by Nigeria to complement the effort of South-South Cooperation within its region by playing frontier role in peace keeping and security architecture of the West African region.

The administration of General Ibrahim Babangida considered foreign policy of Nigeria as an "issue-based phenomena which is based on certain objectives and goals which is a reflection of the country's national interest. It was on the basis that brought about the establishment of Technical Aid Cooperation (TAC) which is just one out of

many initiatives to promote, project and protect the set out goals in the competitive international environment by contributing in area of capacity building across some African countries as well as the Caribbean countries. The idea behind the establishment of Technical Aid Corps can be seen as Nigeria's government means of promoting the idea behind the south-south Cooperation

Africa as Centre Piece of Nigeria's Policy

The idea of Africa as the centre piece of Nigeria foreign policy is premised on the understanding that Nigeria's engagement in the international system will be looked at through the binoculars of Africa. As Hon. Aja Wachukwu averred on the imperative an Afrocentric policy, 'charity begins at home and therefore any Nigerian foreign policy that does not take into consideration the peculiar position of Africa is unrealistic'. This enunciation is the philosophical origins of Afrocentrism in Nigeria's foreign policy thought; it was however, the Adedeji Report that coined the concept: 'Africa as centre-piece'. The issues that gave practical expression to this African-centeredness were the remnants of colonialism on the continent, apartheid in South Africa, liberation wars, ideological and proxy conflicts among others. Outside these politically pressing factors, the issue of a shared racial universe, of cultural neighbourhood, of shared historical experiences and the ideals of pan-Africanism further lubricated the wheels of this foreign policy conceptualization. Indeed, in the pursuing an Africa-centered foreign policy premised on racial and socio-cultural affinity of Africans, Nigeria was carrying out an exercise in anthropological diplomacy. Under the framework of an Africa-centered foreign policy, Nigeria got involved deeply in the decolonization struggles in Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, and anti-apartheid struggles in South Africa and in the process earning for itself the appellation a 'frontline nation', even though she was geographically far removed from the theater of the struggles which was in the Southern African region. Nigeria is central to the formation of ECOWAS, has contained the breakdown of social order

in Liberia, Sierra Leone, etc, through its world acknowledged peacekeeping expertise, and has provided economic life wire to less economically resourceful countries.

Conclusion

Nigeria through her foreign policy objectives from 1960 till date uphold the basic principles of the south-south cooperation through various sacrifices in fight against apartheid regime by playing frontier roles in the southern African states, the bilateral and multilateral engagements with our neighbours to meet development challenges like insecurity through ECOMOG to bring about political stability in Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Gambia, the technical Aid Corps under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which helps in the area of capacity building across Africa and Caribbean countries, etc.. these with many more are ways in which Nigeria in its little capacity has been contributing towards the objectives and principles of south-south cooperation with the world especially within its region.

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Reshaping Caribbean Integration: Untapped Potential in South – South Cooperation & Possibilities of an Alternate Ideology



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Abstract: Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have unique opportunities and challenges in the context of their development agenda. Many of them have limited resources and those that are resource abundant are often not sufficiently endowed to be major global suppliers. Even in the context of service driven economies, these countries again lack the population size to be major global players. Other challenges which this paper will discuss are the existing approach within the Caribbean for Regional Development as, like many other SIDS, the Caribbean chose to pursue various forms of regional integration as a mode to address the challenges of national development.

Historical Context

European conquest of the West Indies which began in the late 15th century left a bloody trail of indigenous Tainos massacres across the Caribbean Isles. Having now secured control of the geographic space, notwithstanding the centuries of Inter-European power struggles for strategic control of Caribbean Islands, a common challenge that Europe faced was the immense labor shortage to exploit the potential of these new lands. Ironically the Tainos would have their knowledge of indigenous agricultural crops and products with them to the grave. In addressing the challenge of a labour shortfall however, a triangular movement in labour and goods began, starting with labour exports from Africa (Slave Trade) later from India and China (Indentureship) to the West Indies and the movement of wealth back to Europe. Fast forward to

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400 plus years during the 1950 post-war period, European powers divested most of the wealth depleted colonies that could be self-sustaining thereby signaling the end of European political control and presence in the Caribbean.

With that historical context in mind, these newly established sovereign island states had to meet the challenges of self-determination with each individual island facing individual and often unique challenges some of which are as a result of their colonial past. Resource constraints, ethnically and culturally diverse populations with low levels of integration, paucity of industrial grade infrastructure and high costs of inter-island connectivity and others fall within the broad canvas of hurdles to be overcome.

Collectivism shortly became the mantra for the development agenda for Caribbean nations. Numerous failed attempts however litter our political history. This began with the failed collective independence movement of the West Indian Federation which entailed a collective move toward regional independence of nearly a dozen Caribbean island colonies. With strong nationalist sentiments and perceived inequities in resource provision versus political control, Jamaica was the first to opt out of the federation in 1962. Trinidad's leader at the time and first Prime Minister Dr. Eric Williams famously responded "one from ten make naught" which brought on the collapse of the federation. It became evident that one political Caribbean entity through a federation of sub-states would be too difficult of a challenge for a scattering of Caribbean islands that were separated by the sea. The success of the federal models of countries such as India, USA, Mexico et al. could not be replicated here.

The Revised Order for Caribbean Development

Moving ahead to the next decade and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was established with the treaty of Chaguaramas in 1973. CARICOM was intended to be an economic (non-political) regional integration model for the Caribbean. CARICOM promised a framework for a more

unified Caribbean however it met with slow progress. It took nearly 30 years to establish the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas to establish the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME). "CARICOM rests on four main pillars: economic integration; foreign policy coordination; human and social development; and security."¹ The approach to targeting these four pillars was taken through the establishment of regional Agencies funded through the contributions of Member States. Currently there are regional agencies and affiliated organisations addressing matters of Education, Economic and Financial Issues, Agriculture, Security, Climate and Ecological Matters, Tourism, Language, Technology, Energy, Disaster Management, a region-wide High Court and a host smaller institutes for niche technical matters.

The notion is that Caribbean nations could integrate on a model similar to the European Union.

Prior to the formal establishment of the EU in 1993 via the Maastricht Treaty, European powers were laying the foundation for a model of economic and political integration with predecessors to the EU such as the European Economic Community and host of others. Caribbean nations having paid attention to these events idealized the European approach as a model for their own integration. The applicability of a model like the EU for harmonised regional development however has begun to receive an increasing level of scrutiny as the effectiveness of many of the CARICOM agencies began to be questioned.

A Comparative Analysis of the Success of this Model

Moving beyond the operational effectiveness of these institutions, one may wish to consider a more macro level view of the current regional model. Table 1 below may be considered.

Unlike indicators such as inflation rates or balance of trade which are expected to be cyclical. The aforementioned are but a select few of the development indicators which are targeted to

Table 1 - Basic Macro Level Data²

Performance Indicator	1990	2015	1990	2015
	EU Average	EU Average	CARICOM	CARICOM
Health - Life Expectancy	75	81	70	74
Education - Primary School Enrolment (Percentage of Gross)	101	101	104	99
Economic - GNI Per Capita	14,841	35,308	2,781	9,368

have often small but steady increases (or to be maintained) as a measure of development success. At a glance, one may wish to consider broadly that the EU performance on the health indicator improved over the 25 year period. Whilst CARICOM performance improved as well it was still unable to meet the EU starting point in 1990. Under a closer lens, if one has to look at Cuba whose life expectancy in 2015 stood at 80 which is closer to the EU average. Couple this with the level of cooperation Cuba has across the globe in the field of medicine, this begs the question as to whether it would not be feasible to have the largest Caribbean island both in size and population, join the CARICOM.

One famous Grenadian Economist and Lawyer Sir Lawrence A Joseph questioned “Is it the cold war strain between the United States and Cuba that is causing a lack-luster attitude by CARICOM states towards Cuba?”³ Could a non-aligned approach by CARICOM during the cold-war period afforded the group greater opportunities with Cuba and how different would the performance be on life expectancy. Looking to the future with the recent easing of restrictions between the US and Cuba, opportunities with Cuba are far under-developed. More importantly, one must ask what lessons must be learnt from operating outside of non-alignment.

The EU maintained its position on the education indicator however CARICOM dropped its position. In the field of Education, specifically primary education, there are some islands that have such a small geographic space that only few schools are required to service the entire island. Looking at countries such as India, Argentina or Tunisia, whose primary education enrolment

rates stood at 108, 111 and 115 respectively it may be entirely possible that southern nations would have acquired significant levels of experience in addressing the issue of universal primary education. These southern countries are meeting the significant challenges of large population sizes, numerous geographically remote areas and severe shortages in teachers yet perform well on international scales.

On the issue of economic progress which is quite broad and subject to innumerable variables, CARICOM like others has recognised the shifting dynamics of the global economy. This brings up the question of whether structural changes are required both at the national and regional levels for Caribbean nations. Whether the CARICOM Council on Trade and Economic Development (COTED) has done enough to brand itself as a strong sub-regional partner to the Global South is a subject for debate. What cannot be debated is that reducing levels of cooperation from the north has already begun to surface in light of the surging presence of major players of the south. CARICOM must therefore ask itself ‘what measures must be put in place to treat with this new dynamic’ if development of the region is to stay on its current trajectory.

Further analysis of the data with higher levels of academic rigor need to be applied in order to paint a true picture. What is known however is that the sentiment of the Caribbean people is one of concern. CARICOM may have hedged most bets on the conventional western powers and ignored the then potential of the now major players in the South.

Conclusion

In reflecting on its success over the past three decades, CARICOM may need to consider a shifting from macro level indicators of effectiveness which often point to operational bottlenecks, inefficiencies and slowly obtained political consensus as the center of blame. Coupled with this, is the poor level of competitiveness that has been nurtured in the Caribbean. "The region's historically privileged trade relationships with Europe and the United States, have not helped CARICOM prepare for trade liberalization with the world. CARICOM's insistence on a lengthy transition to full trade liberalization could delay the policy reforms it considers central to the success of the CSME. Contradictions such as these are inherent in a diverse region attempting to unify economic policies of 15 countries."⁴

One may therefore wish to consider that the ideological perspectives on development within region needs to be revisited given the low levels of current progress. Focusing on the similarities within the islands has brought undeniable success in creating a unified Caribbean identity. It is possible however that these quasi regionalist/nationalistic sentiments of "One Caribbean" may have outlived its usefulness in terms of the development agenda.

Perhaps an alternative ideology where a focus on the unique facets of each island now ought to be explored. With that in mind, possibly a model for cooperative development that is demand driven may be appropriate in materialising this ideology. Demand driven approaches can possibly represent a shift away from the principle of commonality and allow for an individualistic

model to surface in a manner that is still inherently cooperative. This undoubtedly begs the question as to whether the South-South modes of development cooperation which are demand driven can offer opportunities for success in the region.

In order to analyse this approach effectively in a manner that will not prematurely deter the sceptics, one may wish to combine the evidence of the slow progress under the existing model with a comparative analysis of the fast pace of success of the rest of the global south.

Alternatively, if the exploration of such alternative ideologies proves to be devoid of any academic interest, the Caribbean may have to concede that no potential exists for regional wide success outside of West Indies Cricket. A success which in itself has proved to be cyclical at best.

Endnotes

1. See: <https://caricom.org/about-caricom/who-we-are>
2. World Bank Data - Available at: <https://data.worldbank.org/>
3. Sir Lawrence A Joseph 2013. Available at: <http://www.nowgrenada.com/2013/09/how-soon-will-cuba-be-given-the-option-to-join-caricom/>
4. J. F. Hornbeck 2007, CARICOM: Challenges and opportunities for Caribbean Economic Integration



Role of Universities for South-South Cooperation in Bhutan



Tshering Choden*

Abstract: This paper explores how the South-South Cooperation model in Bhutan can operate beyond the government-to-government mode to a people-to-people connect through universities. The paper highlights the crucial role universities in Bhutan can play to address developmental challenges through promoting south-south cooperation and learning from best practices from the Global South. It identifies how non-government actors like universities can engineer a new path for sustainable development and change.

Introduction

Bhutan identified with the concept of ‘Gross National Happiness’ is not bereft of challenges. It has challenges unique to its context in terms of its size and population. With a size of only 38,394 sq. km and a population of less than 800,000, the country lacks economies of scale in many sectors. Moreover, as Bhutan graduates from the Least Developed Country (LDC) to developing country status by 2023, it sets to lose the much-needed trade preferences and foreign assistance. Further, it would limit the flow of much-deserved technical and financial assistance to development of rural Bhutan which could affect the overall growth and development of the country.

At the moment, Indian assistance in the form of grants to Bhutan is crucial as it develops the much-needed infrastructural facilities. India has been the principal development partner of Bhutan as it set to institute systems in place since the initiation of the First Five Year Plans from 1961. As laid out in the plans prepared from the Planning Commission of Bhutan called the Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC), the Government of India fully funded the first Two Five Year Plans of Bhutan to the tune of INR107.2 million and INR202.2 million

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respectively. In the current Twelfth Five Year Plan (2018-2023), Bhutan's objective is to create a 'Just, Harmonious and Sustainable Society through enhanced decentralization. However, the country's graduation from LDC could inhibit foreign assistance and Bhutan is concerned about the support beyond 2023.

Indian assistance to Bhutan has come to education sector through provision of scholarships on various schemes to all types of students: undergraduate, post graduate and also specific tailor-made programmes under schemes such as ITEC, SAARC, Sainik School Scholarship, Foreign Diplomats training. In addition, there is also a scheme to depute faculty from reputed institutions to come to Bhutanese tertiary colleges to address special expertise in specific fields and focus subjects through the Colombo Plan modality.

Planning for development in Bhutan is a staggered process initiated at the Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC). Once the proposals at the grassroot level is finalised at the Gewog (sub-district) level, plans are submitted to the Dzongkhag (district) and then proposed at the national level and implemented and facilitated at GNHC. The success of Bhutan's Five Year Plans can be attributed to India's assistance and its realization in Bhutan under the guidance of Bhutan's enlightened leadership through its wise monarchs, working closely to uplift its people. The bestowal of democracy to the people of Bhutan from the throne of His Majesty the King of Bhutan and the institutionalization of parliamentary democracy in 2008 made Bhutan one of the world's youngest democracies.

Having reached at this juncture, the onus is on how can Bhutan chart its way through 2023 and move towards the future. The South-South cooperation between India and Bhutan has been the core nexus on which Bhutan's Five-Year Plans were instituted. Stemming from its origins of being humble neighbour to a global power, India has made strides in developing itself into a major economy in the world. This entails how India and Bhutan, the world's largest and smallest democracy, can work together respecting

each other's sovereignty and values. These are questions that are frequently asked as India prepares its way to becoming a global power.

Going forward, the South-South Cooperation (SSC) model will have to be intensified in Bhutan as it tries to embrace technical cooperation with countries of the Global South, acquire skills and know-how, address development challenges and learn from best practices. The SSC model in Bhutan has to go beyond being government-to-government initiatives to people-to-people connect.

Opportunities for Promoting SSC in Universities

South-south cooperation between India and Bhutan can come through the universities. Bhutan has three universities and the Royal University of Bhutan is the largest in the country. The think tank in the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB) known as the Institute of Gross National Happiness (iGNHaS), could collaborate on opportunities to network and learn SSC models and find solutions to complex challenges of the developing countries through organizing conferences and seminars. Such academic discourses can be explored and through discussions help advise policy and formulate decisions. The university can be a forum to bring together parliamentarians, planners and policy makers and citizens to engage in discussion and harness plans and operation models in the light of GNH values and ethos, which will lead to political, economic and social security of Bhutan.

The university as a nexus can provide platforms to understand debt and help avoid debt traps through multi-sectoral approaches and understanding at local levels. Through transdisciplinary research and engagement, all actors engaged in the initiative can visualize the composite picture and not the sum of its parts. Besides discussing political, economic and social security issues, the university can go beyond to provide platforms for entrepreneurs and private sector engagement and initiate ideas to enable youth unemployment, skilling youth for relevant jobs and exploring alternative entrepreneurial

areas that unemployed youth could find their way into. The SSC model would help rope in countries from the Global South and learn from best models within the SSC context. The 16th Labour Force Survey Report of Bhutan shows unemployment figure in Bhutan at 3.4 per cent and it requires out-of-the-box solutions for the problem of growing unemployment.

His Majesty the King of Bhutan's Address to the Convocation at the Royal University of Bhutan on 24 May 2019 stressed Bhutan's need to "leverage technology for education; job creation; good governance; effective and timely delivery of services, [sic] private sector development and growth [sic] and emerging new developments such as AI, Quantum Computing, Blockchain, Machine Learning, Big Data, IOT, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality, etc." Coinciding with Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan on 18 August 2019, the Royal University of Bhutan signed as many as six Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with reputed institutions in India and urged students to innovate and inspire. His Speech resonated Bhutan's need to move forward. This shows new opportunities available to Bhutan and how it can prepare for inclusive development by closing gaps and networking with institutions in India. The university can provide this knowledge sharing platform and can connect India and Bhutan to work together and explore opportunities. This would pave the way for Bhutan's readiness for the Fourth Industrial Revolution as the youth are engaged in the process.

As the university must always stay relevant to its times, it has to constantly innovate and find news ways to engage different players through multi-sectoral ways with multiple models. The universities in Bhutan therefore must strive to link with universities in the South in knowledge creation and knowledge sharing. The Royal University of Bhutan is a distributed model with its ten¹ constituent colleges spread across the map of Bhutan and are divided by their specific focus areas. The activities and initiatives outlined may be carried out by the university think-tank, the iGNHaS or by the colleges in their respective

college campus, e.g. at the College of Natural Resources, finding competent solutions to link farmers directly to the market, mitigate post harvest losses, develop innovate storage solutions and efficient delivery of produce through use of cost-effective transportation. It would directly assist farmers and create knowledge that is relevant at ground level. Through mitigation and research studies by bringing together farmers, innovation farming entrepreneurs, agriculture extension officers, and policy makers together with similar groups from developing countries, the knowledge generated will be meaningful and can directly assist the end users of such knowledge.

At the government level, technical and funding assistance from ITEC can be sought to help initiatives of SSC in generating relevant knowledge in fields of application and such initiatives can be carried out by the universities. Since many of the activities outlined require dedicated support and funding, the ITEC in Bhutan could allocate fund for such activities that bring people to people connect and are able to work together to create knowledge, share creation, network and establish linkages. A certain part of the fund could be committed to joint research by researchers among SSC partners to bring about impactful, relevant and innovative changes to harmonise lives and societies in the SSC nexus as argued by Chaturvedi (2016, p.50) that "...development partnership should offer opportunities for growth and economic expansion through human capacity building and the strengthening of institutions."

Way Forward

South-South cooperation requires a holistic approach for effective implementation and assessment. Although government support would continue to be the vital component of SSC, there is a need to enhance the contributions of other non-government and civil society actors. In that paradigm, the role of universities would be critical. By inculcating proper skills and fostering discussion through seminars and conferences, universities would become

important component of SSC execution. ITEC model in Bhutan can be made more relevant to the people and the university could be a platform for operationalisation of such a model. The university does not stay as an ivory tower within the society but assumes the role of an engineer facilitating change and bringing differences to the lives of the people in Bhutan. With ITEC being a demand-driven programme, it is hoped that such a proposal that is directly in tune with Bhutan's initiative need to be pursued.

Endnote

1. College of Language and Culture Studies, College of Natural Resources, College of Science and Technology, Gedu College of Business Studies, Gyalpoishing College of Information Technology, Jigme Namgyel Engineering College, Paro College of Education, Samtse College of Education, Sherubtse College, and Yonphula Centenary College.

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Women Empowerment in Afghanistan: Contribution of India-Afghanistan Cooperation



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Abstract: This study examines some of the issues and changes respective to women's empowerment, capacity building, leadership and access to decision-making that have taken place in Afghanistan over the past decade and its link up with the role of India's support through the South-South Cooperation.

Despite of women advancement in some areas politics, education, business, and other spheres of life, Afghan women are largely absent from senior position and are marginalized in terms of power and resources hence, the purpose of the article is to explore raising women power and the roots of gendered inequality in leadership and economic power and reveal the obstacles women need to overcome in their career advancement and their stories of success.

In order to do so, we need to focus on two central points: (i) what are the enabling factors for women's capacity building, leadership and access to decision-making and (ii) what do we know about whether and how women empowerment, capacity building, leadership and presence in decision-making roles within these processes actually result in greater gender equality for Afghan women? It looks at the role that international actors including India have played in this regard and identifies lessons learnt for future engagement.

One of the main challenges of accomplishing south-south and triangular cooperation that advances gender equality is the lack of technical capacity, awareness and institutional will among stakeholders who are not working on gender equality, social inclusion and protection issues directly. To address this gap it requires strong and sustained actions by women's organizations and everybody else, including policy makers and development practitioners including the South Cooperation, who want to change one of the biggest and most tenacious injustices in the world.

Introduction

The status of women in Afghanistan has been of deep concern since they were stripped of their fundamental rights under Taliban rule and faces unique and severe challenges in addressing gender

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Views expressed are personal.

issues. Today, the government of Afghanistan is working to promote opportunities for Afghan girls and women through collaboration with a broad range of international development partners, including donor agencies and civil societies, and tribal and religious to provides growing support for girls to access education and programs that increase women's economic participation, access to justice and build the capacity of the Ministry of Women's Affairs to be an effective advocate for policy reform and provision of services to women.

Although Afghan women still face significant challenges, there have been some notable achievements, including a national constitution that guarantees women's equal rights, the adoption of the National Plan of Advancement of Women of Afghanistan 2008-2018, and the growth of civil society organizations working to advance women's rights and deliver much-needed services for women. There has also been significant progress in getting girls, who were banned from attending school under the Taliban, enrolled in public schools. Today, more than two million girls attend school, representing 35 percent of the total K-12 student population, and women's university enrollment is also increasing. Four hundred women contested the 2010 parliamentary elections and for the first time, women served as election observers in all 34 provinces in Afghanistan and in this regard the donor agencies had played a great role where they along with government of Afghanistan had worked to build a more balanced society in Afghanistan in a variety of ways and their holistic approach involves entire communities and ensuring long-lasting change for women.

India's Cooperation in Women Empowerment in Afghanistan

Likewise India has played a major role in in women empowerment of Afghanistan and have been supporting in accelerating women participation in the process of economic development by promoting entrepreneurship & professional excellence. In December 2017, India

provided military training to 20 Afghan women to serve in the combat role. Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) an Indian NGO funded by USAID is supporting Afghan women in a big way in generating a productive livelihood and to be self-reliant is a crucial example in providing training to more than 3,000 Afghan women in areas such as sewing and food processing etc. More than 3000 Afghan women imparted training skills in various fields through SEWA since 2008 (Shanti, 2018).

Though India has provided over USD 2 billion of development assistance (in 2017 prices) to Afghanistan since 2001, its development partnership with Afghanistan dates back decades earlier and was built on centuries of common history prior to India's 1947 independence. By the 1970s Afghanistan had become India's largest development partner within India's aid program, known at that time as the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program. Moreover, the Global South-South Development Expo provided a vibrant platform for discussions and exchanges on a range of issues within Afghanistan including gender issues where UN Women is also deepening south-south and triangular cooperation in its programming, operational support, including support to Least Developed Countries take gender-responsive budgeting, for example a case in point is Afghanistan, where the national security and defense budget is seen as the biggest priority Using the south-south cooperation approach, UN Women facilitated the exchange of knowledge and good practices on gender-responsive budgeting (GRB). The discourse on GRB opened doors for Afghan women in the unlikely area of security sector. The conversations led, for the first time, to the idea of building the capacity of women as entrepreneurs and workers, so that instead of outsourcing the uniforms for the Afghan Security personnel including army, they would be made by Afghan women and purchased from Afghan women, paving the way for their economic empowerment (Kabir, 2016).

Capacity Building: India-Afghanistan Cooperation

Capacity building reflects the realization that people of a country are bestowed with the ability to realize their full capacity and growth. Capacity building is not limited to only a single area or sector. Capacity building, a pillar to ensure the 'quality and effectiveness of South-South Cooperation' can be understood as an effort to make people competent in administration, finance and management skills.

Capacity building further contributes towards the empowerment of marginalized sections, particularly women. Indian NGO's such as SEWA in collaboration with the Ministry of Women Affairs (Afghanistan) have made strides towards the skill and capacity building of women, particularly in Afghanistan, through training programs that aim to ensure economic security and poverty alleviation. The ITEC forms the flagship government body of India's development partnership for capacity development efforts under the Development Partnership Administration (DPA). Along with its sister program SCAAP, ITEC works at a regional and inter-regional level, partnering with over 161 countries and forty-seven empaneled institutions to conduct around 280 courses annually (Clifton, 2013). ITEC administers most of the efforts made towards skill and knowledge sharing, and has been conducting capacity building programs aimed at training personnel from developing countries. The ITEC has expanded its scope from training to providing scholarships to students, government and private personnel to boost capacity building. Indian neighbors particularly Bhutan, Afghanistan and Nepal and African countries have been the major beneficiaries of ITEC programs. The ITEC has provided scholarships in courses ranging from environment and sustainability to telecommunication, rural development, language (English), etc. ITEC partners with multilateral organizations and Indian NGOs (SEWA and Barefoot College) along with bilateral partnerships with countries to boost capacity building efforts. The focus areas for ITEC along with scholarships are transfer of technology and the development

of projects such as the Pan-African e-Network project. ITEC continues to provide extensive opportunities for human resource development and personnel training. India is working on a development model that has engaged with stakeholders including government, civil society, non-governmental organizations, academia, and private individuals. However, the model should be in a position to stand through variables which are often program and country specific (Vazquez et. al, 2016). Countries, such as Thailand and Mexico who are greatly involved in volunteering programs for other countries, can stand as models to learn for boosting capacity development. In order to be effective in implementation, the capacity should be effectively applied. It is important to understand what capacities are relevant for development cooperation and whom it should mainly target. In this context, developing a monitoring framework for both the state and non-state actors could be explored in the ITEC. By simply, identifying and analyzing the independent feedback from the participants, ITEC could strengthen institutional responsiveness to the loopholes. Moreover, acknowledging the diversity among the South-South Countries, the E-Training online platform is a positive effort to overcome the geographical divides as well as ensure that the knowledge-sharing efforts of the past are accessible to future trainees. Such efforts allow for continuity, yet provide scope for change with continuous monitoring and evaluation. Outcome-based evaluation will further strengthen India's efforts in upholding the principles of mutual benefit and demand driven capacity development. Overall, capacity building as a goal in India's development cooperation has been through training and education programs with active engagement as one essential ingredient to ensure effective practical application and sustainability of efforts (Ghosh, 2013).

Findings

One of the main challenges of accomplishing south-south and triangular cooperation that advances gender equality is the lack of technical capacity, awareness and institutional will

among stakeholders who are not working on gender equality, social inclusion and protection issues directly. To address this gap, UN Gender equality and women and girls' empowerment is a challenging and politically as well as culturally sensitive issue. The most successful initiatives can be those that demonstrate women's own needs such as meaningful inclusion, laws and policies implementation and program based approach for sustainability; National and sub national level engagement of women in politics, peace process, rule of law, access to justice, education, health, security sector must be meaningful and inclusive; The progress women and girls have would not have been possible without the political will of Afghan government as well as the political, financial, technical and at time moral support of international community; UN Women is developing a strategy that identifies strategic entry points for integrating gender concerns and goals into south-south cooperation systematically. The strategy will also enable UN Women to globally support any government in specific areas of this work.

Recommendations

The future of gender equality is basically determined by the amount of strength and support that advocates of gender equality can mobilize. Global norms do not by themselves create a more gender-equal world, but they do constitute reference points which can be used in local struggles everywhere to create more equal and fair relations between women and men. If development organizations take gender

inequalities seriously, identify locally embedded actors and provide flexible, pragmatic support, they may significantly facilitate these struggles. As gender inequalities are lived and experienced in everyday life, it is also in those specific situations that they should be changed. This requires strong and sustained actions by women's organizations and everybody else, including policy makers and development practitioners including the South Cooperation, who want to change one of the biggest and most tenacious injustices in the world.

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PICA's Experience in Implementing SDGs within SSC: Challenges and Opportunities



Duha AIDweik*

Abstract: This paper studies the Palestinian experience in contributing to the South-South Cooperation by implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals through different development projects in multiple fields using the specialized know-how. This paper studies the experience through a metaphorical ideal channel, by sustaining a level of achievements from the numerous difficult challenges that PICA faces in its routine procedures.

And therefore, this paper aims at answering this question: How does the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency benefit from the challenges to come up with a unique way of participating in the world's strategy to achieve development.

Introduction

The experiences of South-South Cooperation (SSC) lead us to say that sharing experiences, sharing knowledge and building partnerships to come up with best practices and development solutions is an effective way to address development challenges. Thus, the Palestinian Agency for International Cooperation (PICA) is moving forward and strengthening the model of SSC, to continue to meet the challenges of development and sustainability. Looking to the future, PICA as an agency established against the backdrop of the adoption of the 2030 Development Agenda. The new development paradigm has an exceptional opportunity to overcome the constraints of the development process. As the Agency continues to expand its business, its collaborative and developmental solutions will have a proven impact on achieving the SDGs.

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Views expressed are personal.

Challenges PICA Encounters

Lack of adequate implementation, systematic follow-up or institutional support in the implementation of development projects is often the main challenge for many countries in the South. Therefore, to transform the comprehensive SSC strategy into reality, PICA as an International Cooperation Agency, as a newly established international cooperation agency, needs to harness a culture of continuous learning, innovative development solutions based on the exploitation of human capital (Ciommo, 2017). The matter of official delegations' movement to participate in abroad missions is also a major challenge, since, sometimes members of the delegation are prevented from traveling for reasons that are not disclosed. The control of the occupation by borders and crossings makes it difficult to benefit from and communicate with the expertise in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, finding funds for PICA's development missions is seen as an important challenge, as there is no consistent and sufficient source of funding for the Agency's programs and projects.

Although there is a modest government budget for these projects, they are not considered sufficient to reach a larger segment of the countries of the South.

Opportunities PICA Holds

PICA approaches to the implementations of the UN SDGs in a very simple and unique way, Palestine is not a funding state, and therefore PICA has to come up with a different yet effective ways of SDGs implementations. Thus, the comparative advantage of PICA is that it offers a unique set of skills, expertise and solutions that have proven effective in the most difficult circumstances. The uniqueness and experience of the Agency in the development work provide a number of effective and rapid solutions that have been tested and proven in the South (Islamic Development Bank, 2018). The agency combines a wide range of different specialized expertise with different backgrounds, to correspond with the Palestinian approach to participate in the international efforts

to achieve a sustainable developed world. Which represents PICA's way of contribution to these efforts by sharing knowledge and expertise.

Therefore, The Agency worked to benefit from the experiences of Palestinian human capital in knowledge sharing and implementation of development projects, which is used to work mainly in a complex and unstable environment enabling these experiences to understand the needs of the countries of the South and adapt quickly to the environment and problems of the countries of the South (Palestinian International Cooperation Agency, 2017).

The ability to work quickly and effectively by adapting and preparing for risks management during natural calamity gave the Palestinian technical experts more opportunities to participates in these international efforts. The reality of the development work environment in the State of Palestine has increased the capacity to work "anywhere". This has enabled the Agency to achieve unusually higher results and lower development project costs in difficult and risky environments.

In addition, the Agency is flexible in its work. Innovation is vital in environments where there is no particular way to implement development projects, and which do not accept traditional development solutions or those that are suitable for developed countries, the agency is used to work under difficult conditions, manage unpredictable risks and crises and develop solutions for everyday challenges.

Another factor that adds a competitive advantage to the work of the Palestinian Agency is to work through a network of Palestinian experts in their different locations in Palestine and in diaspora. Due to this Palestinian diaspora calamities and setbacks that have scattered the presence of the Palestinian people in various regions of the world, the Palestinian people are distributed to many parts of the world. This implies that the Palestinian experiences practically exist in many countries and operate within different and unequal environments, which gives PICA greater diversity in its human capital. Therefore, the Palestinian expertise consist of highly skilled,

experienced, with local and international cultural knowledge who speaks of different languages, with the ability to mobilize financial contributions from prestigious and venture capitalists.

PICA's experience in building partnerships for SDGs

Partnerships are the most important feature in the work of PICA. Based on PICA's core philosophy of resource sharing, even when resources are scarce, the Agency has been able to achieve a very wide number of partnerships at the local, regional and global levels.

This approach, lies within the principles of SSC and reflects the larger vision of global solidarity and partnership. Which is shown by an analysis of the PICA's experiences in achieving its developmental role through building partnerships and implementing development projects in the partner countries.

PICA's Experience in Implementing the SDGs

The PICA is working to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the implementation of development projects in a number of countries of the South. The aim is to express the Palestinian desire to harness the human and institutional resources of Palestine to the world, by sharing its experiences with the South, within the framework of the cooperation International Development plan. Therefore, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with the support of Palestinian embassies abroad, the Agency sends qualified Palestinians to provide professional and technical support and contribute to international development cooperation in developing countries. It is also involved in relief operations, humanitarian assistance and investment opportunities for the Palestinian private sector.

PICA has many initiatives, which have started to be implemented on the ground, whether in Africa, the Arab world, Latin America and other geographic regions whenever necessary.

In the humanitarian field, through rapid response and rescue team to disaster-affected countries by the Rapid Response and Intervention Team of the State of Palestine. The first of its initiatives was to lead a relief delegation of 19 doctors and nurses to assist the victims of the earthquake that struck Ecuador in mid-April, The agency also provided assistance to support the Republic of Indonesia after the tsunami that caused significant damage in the country in 2018, which led to the flight of thousands of victims from their homes after the disaster. The Agency sent the Palestinian Rapid Response and Rescue Team to the affected islands to provide medical support in this emergency. The Agency provided supplies and tools to help those affected by the disaster to minimize the damage as much as possible. These missions focused on humanitarian aid on the third Sustainable Development Goal of good health and well-being (Palestinian International Cooperation Agency, 2017).

Knowledge and technical sharing in the developmental fields, especially health and agriculture.

- In the health sector, The Palestinian Agency for International Cooperation has implemented a number of tasks and projects by executing Surgeries, through several programs. Either in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania through the dispatch of specialized Palestinian doctors and implementing trainings in many fields. In the same context, as part of the Prevention of Blindness project, in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank and governments and agencies of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Agency has launched a medical program in the African continent aimed at sending a delegation of 20 ophthalmologists to several African countries such as Ivory Coast. This program aims to provide free health care services to people with visual impairment or vision impairment due to cataracts in the Islamic world, especially in Africa. In the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, they expressed their desire to host the Director of the Agency's Orthopedic and Chiropractic Program to share his expertise and knowledge

in chiropractic surgeries. The specialized medical team in Lahore has become fully trained and capable of performing long term sensitive spinal cord surgeries for children.

- In Rwanda, PICA implemented the Clinical and Physical Care Delivery Program, as part of the “Solidarity through Development” approach. PICA implemented the program in cooperation with King Faisal Hospital in the Rwandan capital Kigali after an official invitation from the hospital to benefit from the Palestinian experiences. All these health projects are in line with SDG number three and Agenda 2030 for inclusive growth in Africa as well.
- In the agricultural sector, a number of projects have been executed to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the rehabilitation and operation of vital agricultural projects through technical assistance, knowledge transfer and creating new investment opportunities. Through the rehabilitation and operating two important agricultural projects, the projects include the development of greenhouse farms for vegetable production in Yaritagua and the operation of a poultry facility for egg production in Tigre, Anzoategui State. This has led to strengthening trade and economic relations between the two countries, demonstrating the importance of Palestinian human capital and resources in solving development challenges and also contributing to SSC and implementation of the 2030 Global Development Agenda. This was represented by supporting the achievement of the global development goals, especially the first goal NO poverty, Goal number two zero hunger, Goal number eight Decent work and economic growth, and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). (Palestinian International Cooperation Agency, 2017)
- Promoting investment abroad, which corresponds to the SDG number eight, decent work and economic growth. In this direction, the Agency relies on building partnerships with the Palestinian private sector. Building successful partnerships with the Palestinian private sector will enable the Agency to

better achieve its strategic priorities, and the Palestinian private sector, including businessmen and businesses, has proven effectiveness in solving complex problems and providing flexible business models.

Conclusion

Undoubtedly, the model of the State of Palestine in contributing to the international development process is very unique according to the current facts which are demonstrated by the occupation and plundering of resources and capabilities. However, there is always something to offer, by sharing knowledge, experience and human capital.

This paper has showed how Palestine suffers from multiple challenges by still fighting for the right to development alongside with fighting for the right to movement. But still, Palestine managed to be an important contributor to the international efforts in establishing development mechanisms and strategies. The state of Palestine realizes very well its capabilities that it's not a leading country, Palestine's natural resources are scarce, but Palestine has a strong foundation of diverse expertise. Therefore, Palestine aims at sharing rather than giving, and that's how Palestine reflects the concept of SSC, sharing with countries of the south by covering each other gaps and helping each other fulfill their development assignments, is the direction for a sustainable development world.

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International Cooperation of Laos in Banking



Thephakone Thepvongxay*

Abstract: This paper provides a brief account of Laos's cooperation in banking sector at bilateral, regional and international levels. Despite significant achievements on many fronts, Laos need to benefit from SSC-based cooperation initiatives both within ASEAN and with other countries in the world.

Introduction

Lao PDR is an active member of ASEAN and one of the important economies in the Southeast Asian region. Besides ASEAN, Laos has played equally important role in economic integration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS). Laos is part of several regional and sub-regional connectivity projects in Asia including Asian Highways and Extension of Trilateral Highways (TH). As part of the ASEAN regional financial cooperation Laos has initiated measures to achieve financial integration with other ASEAN member countries. Besides integration with ASEAN countries, Laos has underscored the importance of domestic financial sector development which also provides enabling conditions for development of banking and non-banking segments of Laos' financial system.

Cooperation in Banking Sector

Laos has pursued cooperation in financial sectors particularly banking sector in three formats- Bilateral, regional (ASEAN) and with International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Although financial sector cooperation covers entire gamut of issues of banking, capital market and foreign exchange market, some of the initiatives taken by Laos in banking sector are discussed below.

Central Bank of Laos, Lao PDR

Views expressed are personal.

Bilateral Cooperation

At bilateral level, the Central Bank of Laos have signed MoUs with a number of neighbouring countries such as Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, China, and with some other countries such as Japan, Korea and Russia. Laos also has joint cooperation with Vietnam and China. These MoUs cover measures for cooperation in four main areas including (1) Share and Exchange the information on Banking Sector, (2) Technical Assistances for Capacity Building on Workshop or Seminar, (3) Annual Sport Friendship for share and exchange the culture, and (4) Scholarship for Official.

Central Bank of Laos has established cooperation with GIZ, Germany for capacity building on financial inclusion such as the village banks for rural areas. Specially, Central Bank of Laos works with the China Development Bank (CDB) on US\$300 million Loan for development and support of the small and mediums enterprises (SMEs) in the country and rebuild infrastructure. This cooperation is necessary for the SMEs to support in the endeavour to promote trade and investment.

ASEAN Cooperation

At the ASEAN level, Laos is committed to develop the domestic banking sector and undertake necessary steps for mutual cooperation with other ASEAN countries. In this regard, the Central Bank of Laos has initiated mechanisms for cooperation with the ASEAN countries such as Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippine, Brunei, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Myanmar. The major thrust of this cooperation is financial integration in which banking occupies a central place. Laos is currently part of negotiations on 9 such protocols for regional cooperation.

International Financial Institutions

Like other countries in the world, Laos also works closely with the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) such as IMF, World Bank and other multilateral development banks. Besides availing the lender of last resort financing and

liquidity supports from these institutions, Laos subscribes to the standards for banking supervision and regulation such as Basel-III norms. In particular, the Central Bank of Laos works closely with International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB). The main fields of cooperation are (1) Technical Assistances for Capacity Building on Workshop or Seminar, and (2) Grant for Development Banking System in country.

Strength and Weakness in Banking Sector Cooperation

Laos has sincerely participated in all international frameworks of cooperation in banking. Laos underscores the importance of every Partnership in this regard. Laos's commitment to partnership at international and regional level has been robust. However, there are several areas of overlap in banking sector cooperation that Laos faces at different levels. It becomes difficult for implementation of many such commitments. There are no proper mechanisms for monitoring and assessment of cooperation in banking. Lack of human resources, shortage of technical and foreign language skills and legal issues in the country are not conducive for cooperation in banking and other areas of financial cooperation. Being a small country, Laos also faces the problem of lesser opportunities for partnerships in this sector.

SSC for Banking Sector Cooperation

While Laos would rely on unilateral actions and regional cooperation to promote banking sector cooperation in the country, it is critical to recognise the beneficial impacts of cooperation among like-minded countries. For developing countries and LDCs, south-south cooperation is an efficient means of pooling resources and sharing technical expertise and skills. Since banking sector is the lifeline of the economy and vital for financial intermediation and financial inclusion, Laos may undertake SSC projects initiatives in banking and related areas of financial sector cooperation.



Role of South- South Cooperation in Agriculture, Trade, Investment in Afghanistan



**Niaz Mohammad
Niazmand***

Abstract: The article attempts to examine the nature of interaction that exists among India, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan (IATU) and the need to give an institutional basis to such a relationship spanning across Central and South Asia. Using some of the existing theoretical frameworks of regional south- south cooperation, the study argues that even though such an institutional relationship looks futuristic, it has much relevance in the present context due to its functional necessity. Some of the factors such as a 'common geo-culture', 'geo-strategic compulsions', and 'economic necessities' are providing the basis for the emergence of such kind of south - south cooperation among these four states. And all those issues that we discussed is the result of the south -south cooperation.

Introduction

Afghanistan is a landlocked country located in Southern Asia that borders China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The geography of Afghanistan is arid and mountainous; the Hindu Kush Mountains run northeast to southwest and divide the northern provinces from the rest of the country. The government system is an Islamic Republic; the chief of state and head of government is the president. Afghanistan has a controlled economic system

in which the central government directs the economy regarding the production and distribution of goods. Afghanistan is a member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Over the past thirteen years, Afghanistan has become a center of international cooperation. More than fifty countries, along with many international and regional organizations, have been partnering with the Afghan government to secure and develop Afghanistan. These countries and organizations

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Views expressed are personal.

represent both the Global South (developing & least developed countries) and the Global North (developed countries), in an unprecedented environment of international partnership to support the stabilization and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The convergence of South and North countries in Afghanistan speaks to the fact that the world has become increasingly interdependent, considering that international security and development imperatives are inextricably intertwined. Afghanistan's recent history best illustrates this interconnected security and development landscape internationally.

As a South country, Afghanistan was used by North countries to fight their ideological Cold War against the former Soviet Union in the 1980s. Once the Cold War ended following the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan in 1989, the country no longer mattered to the West. In the mind of Western countries, Afghanistan was too distant from them geographically and culturally, and it was now up to Afghanistan and its own region to address post-Cold War security and the development needs of the country.

In the 1990s, this negligence by the North of a devastated Afghanistan with a failed state provided an enabling environment for transnational illicit activities that crossed borders of South and North countries alike. And on 9/11, the spillover effects of a neglected Afghanistan eventually reached the shores of the United States with far-reaching negative implications for global security and economy.

In the wake of the tragedy of 9/11, the major countries of North and South descended on Afghanistan for cooperation and assistance. Indeed, they grasped the realities of a changing world where seeking one's security in the insecurity of others was no longer a rational policy choice in their best, long-term interest. Even though many countries have adjusted to a win-win paradigm in international affairs, there are still a number of countries that remain obsessed with and stuck in a zero-sum mentality, continuing to seek their short-term security in the insecurity of other states.

Agriculture: Supporting Afghanistan's Livestock Sector through South-South Cooperation

In Afghanistan, livestock plays a key role in shaping both incomes and diets of local households. Around 75 percent of Afghan families depend on agriculture and livestock. This strong dependence makes access to quality feed fundamental to achieve a satisfying level of animal productivity, health, and welfare.

In the past, the lack of proper animal feed testing facility in Afghanistan required FAO to ship animal feed samples to other countries for analysis. These activities resulted in higher expenses and delayed processing times of up to a month, which affected the smooth implementation of the projects. Further challenges were caused by the use of improper storage containers for transportation or unnecessary delays that affected the tests by deteriorating the quality of the feed samples.

Upon the request from the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and with FAO's support through the South-South Cooperation Framework, experts from Thailand conducted an extensive needs assessment of the newly established animal feed quality control laboratory at the MAIL in Kabul.

A two-week mission comprised of two experts was carried out in June 2019 from the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) of the Royal Government of Thailand. The scope of the mission was to take stock of the existing laboratory equipment, assess the capacity of the Afghan laboratory technicians and conduct required technical training to around ten staff.

"We are very satisfied with the result of the training. Previously, we were unable to run the available equipment, however after the training, we know how to use and run them. At the beginning of the training, there were some shortcomings from our side since we were not fully equipped with the required knowledge and skill sets. However, this training opportunity really helped us develop our capacity since we

could learn a lot and get the best out of this opportunity. We still need some more equipment to strengthen our laboratory, and we hope that FAO would facilitate similar training activities in future as well,” said Farid Karimi, Head of the laboratory.

“The laboratory is well equipped. However, there is still some equipment needed to run the laboratory properly, and the technicians need to develop the required skills on advanced technology as well”, said Udorn Srisaeng, animal feed lab expert from Thailand. “I am very happy to be here and transfer my technical knowledge to my Afghan counterparts,” said Nuttanart Khotprom, the other laboratory expert from Thailand.

Strengthening the capacity of this newly established laboratory is essential for the Government of Afghanistan, as it plays an important role in overseeing the activities of the private sector that are involved in the production and supply of animal feed.

“Developing the capacity of Afghan laboratory experts with support of Thai counterparts was an excellent initiative that was developed through South-South and Triangular Cooperation expertise. (FAO)

Trade and Investment: Strengthening Economic Bonds Between India and Afghanistan

In an effort to strengthen commercial and economic ties between Afghanistan and India through trade and investment, the Governments of India and Afghanistan, along with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), opened the first “Passage to Prosperity: India-Afghanistan Trade and Investment Show”. The event brings together more than 200 representatives from Afghan companies and more than 800 Indian participants to forge new business connections and discuss potential investment opportunities.

The trade and investment show is designed for Afghan companies to showcase the best of Afghanistan’s Silk Road heritage, including an

array of businesses offering fresh and dried fruit and nuts, spices, textiles, marble, gemstones, and carpets. In addition, businesses with innovative investment opportunities in clean energy, finance, infrastructure, pharmaceuticals and health services, and education will be at the exhibition. During the three-day exhibition, participating Indian private sector businesses and organizations are expected to sign more than 40 letters of intent with Afghan partners to build new economic and private sector relationships.

Highlighting the importance of the bilateral engagements between both the countries, Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati, Hon’ble Minister for Civil Aviation mentioned that both the nations need to consolidate their economic relations in consonance with their political, strategic, and most importantly historic relations”. (USAID)

Connectivity between Central and South Asia

“Central and South Asia Central Asia is among the energy richest regions of the world. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have large hydropower energy wastage, generating transit fees for Afghanistan and enhancing its growth prospects, in addition to addressing domestic electricity shortage in South Asia. The project provides access to clean energy and creates jobs, and will also bring approximately US\$45 million in annual transit fees to Afghanistan, essential to bring political and economic security to the country”. (Atabeva, 2019)

TAPI

“Turkmenistan-Afghanistan - Pakistan- India (TAPI) Pipeline, agreed in 2015, will connect the partner countries with a natural gas pipeline. The TAPI Project aims to export up to 33 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas per year through a proposed approximately 1,800 kilometer (km) pipeline from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India. India seems to be finally looking at the proposed \$15-billion TAPI (Turkmenistan Afghanistan-Pakistan-India) Pipeline, also called Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline with more interest now than ever before.

Additionally, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is investing heavily in the project from the Saudi Development Fund. TAPI has the potential to become a source of affordable and reliable energy, ensuring energy security regionally." (Atabeva, 2019).

Conclusion

It's obvious that unless Afghanistan is assisted in addressing the shared challenge of insecurity facing South Asia, the country and the region can hardly prosper together, for development can only take place in an environment of peace. This is a lesson that the Europeans learned the hard way, after the First and Second World Wars. Asia must learn from the Europeans and the many integrated mechanisms of cooperation, including the European Union, they have developed to ensure effective security and development cooperation with one another. These mechanisms underpin Europe's sustainable peace and prosperity.

In terms of development aid effectiveness, Afghanistan has mixed experience with the North and South countries in the donor community. Both sides have certain advantages and certain disadvantages. India and the United States stand out as two good examples. As a developing country itself, India has significant expertise and experience in poverty reduction and development with relevant application in Afghanistan. Similarly, India's approach to aid implementation is demand-driven, based on the specific needs of the Afghan government, in line with its development priorities.

However, India lacks the kind of aid resources the U.S. as a developed country has at its disposal, while the U.S. lacks India's relevant development expertise and experience in the Afghan context. Consequently, the U.S. government has relied on private contractors, which often waste aid resources and have proven counterproductive to the Afghan-U.S. shared objective of helping Afghanistan become self-reliant.

While Afghanistan strongly supports South-South development cooperation, Afghans believe that in a globalized world where interdependencies between the Global South and the Global North continue to increase only, we must begin thinking

in terms of North-South-South cooperation. How does such necessary cooperation work in practice? Afghanistan's experience is instructive.

We propose a modality of North-South-South cooperation where developed countries closely partner with the developing world to assist least developed and war-torn countries like Afghanistan. This is win-win for everyone, with the targeted beneficiaries benefiting the most in terms of aid effectiveness. Just an example, for the cost of flying ten Afghan professionals all the way to the U.S. or Europe for training, more than 100 Afghans can be trained much more cost-effectively in India or Indonesia.

Indeed, such cooperation has already begun. And a number of institutions of the Afghan government have benefited from technical training workshops and seminars in India, funded by developed countries of the North. Still, there is much more potential for the expansion of South-South development cooperation in contexts like Afghanistan. The Afghan government looks forward to working with its South and south nation-partners to identify areas of cooperation where their interests converge and to make the best of each other's aid resources and technical capabilities to secure the future of Afghanistan in a more peaceful and prosperous world.

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The Brazilian Approach to Cooperation and Facilitation of Investments Agreements – A South-South Perspective



Pabline Araujo Reis

“We cannot be an island of prosperity surrounded by a sea of poverty and social injustice”

–Lula da Silva

Abstract: The international investment protection regime, based essentially in the traditional model of bilateral investment treaties (BIT), allows investors to initiate direct arbitration against the host States. In Brazil’s point of view, this represents a limitation on the political spaces of the States and the imposition of unequal costs on developing countries, which are the largest recipients of foreign investment. Based on this perception and driven by its new role as both an recipient and an increasingly active participant in contributing to foreign investments, Brazil has developed a new model of agreement aimed to protect the investor without threatening the sovereignty of the State. The most innovative aspect of the new approach is the focus on cooperation rather than on litigation, as this article shall present.

The Brazilian and Indian SSC Approaches

From the Brazilian point of view, South-South cooperation can be understood as the horizontal exchange of knowledge and experiences originating from cooperating developing countries¹ (Brazilian Cooperation Agency). It is based on the sharing of experiences learned by countries that face the same kind of challenges in their development process. South

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The views expressed in this article are those of the author’s and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Brazilian Government.

South Cooperation focus on the development of capabilities and on knowledge generation and expansion to promote local autonomy and quality structural changes.

The importance attached to South South Cooperation (SSC) as an external relations instrument has increased significantly in Brazil over the last twenty years, especially from 2003 to 2015, when South South relations became a priority for Brazilian foreign policy. The move towards the South had a very pragmatic rather than ideological reason: acting together as a group with other developing countries eases the pressure from powerful countries, counterbalancing their power and giving developing countries some bargaining space. The same rationality rests on Brazil's preference for multilateral arrangements.

Cooperation among people for the progress of mankind, rather than a political choice, is an obligation under the Brazilian Constitution. Brazil's international relations also rely on the constitutional principles of national independence, prevalence of human rights, non-intervention, equality among States, defense of peace, peaceful settlement of conflicts, repudiation of terrorism and racism and granting of political asylum.

In this sense, Brazil has been cooperating with Latin American and the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East and some Asian countries. Special attention is devoted to Latin America and the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP). The cooperation projects with these southern countries are mainly focused on areas such as agriculture, education, justice, health, environment, IT, urban development, biofuels and professional training (Cerqueira and Santos).

Like Brazil, India attaches great importance to relations with the global South. For India, South South Cooperation is a commitment to development in the partner country, based on the principles of non-conditionality, mutual benefit, respect for sovereignty, national ownership, horizontality and demand driven actions²

Although the basic principles of South South Cooperation are shared, the modalities of actions and the methodologies differ from

country to country. From the Indian perspective, the modalities can be categorized in capacity building, grants, technology, concessional finance and trade and investments, forming the modern development compact approach³.

Cooperation on Trade and Investments

The modality Trade and Investments, under the development compact approach, relates to duty free trade preference, trade permits, trade facilitation, business facilitation, trade promotion and trade services, regulatory capacity, investment funds, development of supply chains, regional and sub-regional trade agreements and tax preference do FDI, among others (Chaturvedi, 2015)

Brazilian cooperation efforts have been embracing foreign trade and investments in various ways. For instance, Brazil has signed a large number of commercial agreements with developing countries as an individual country (i.e. Suriname, Venezuela, Mexico) or with its MERCOSUR partners (i.e. Egypt, India, Palestine, Cuba, Colombia, SACU).

MERCOSUR itself represents a major integration effort among Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Created in 1991, the South American bloc is today a central instrument for cooperation and development in the region.

Brazil is making progress with its BRICS partners, in the implementation of the BRICS Action Agenda on Economic and Trade. Likewise, the BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) is putting efforts into promoting collaboration in areas as trade, investments, e-commerce, MSMEs, regulation and intellectual property rights.

The Brazilian Model of Investment Agreements

With regard to investments, Brazil has made a major contribution to debate on the reforming of the current international investment protection

regime, unable to meet the needs of developing countries, which are mainly investment import States.

In 2015, Brazil submitted to its southern partners a proposal for a new model of investment agreements. The proposal came from Brazil's perception that the Bilateral Investment Treaties (BIT) - which aim to regulate the treatment an investor receives in a foreign country - are based on specific investor protection clauses, as the investor-state dispute settlement that allows foreign investors to initiate international arbitration against recipient States.

In fact, BITs carry heavy costs and represent limits on political space, especially for developing countries. According to UNCTAD, 41 per cent of the 647 dispute settlements cases against 98 states concluded by July 2019 were against Latin American countries (USCTAD, 2019). The burden imposed on the developing countries by lack of transparency on court decisions and imposition of heavy penalties on the States represents an obstacle for investment attraction.

It is worth mentioning that most of the traditional BIT was signed between developed countries and developing countries, on a North-South basis, resulting in arrangements that reflect the unfair balance of bargain power between countries of unequal levels of development. It is noteworthy that BIT between North countries are almost nonexistent.

In fact, Brazil had signed fourteen BITs during the 1990 decade. However, only six were sent to the Congress, and none of them was ratified, as a result of strong political opposition to their terms. Brazil became the only major economy with no agreement regarding foreign investment protection (Fernandes and Fiorati, 2015).

Nevertheless, in the early 2010s, Brazilian companies were profoundly increasing their investments abroad, especially in Latin America and Africa. The growth of this flow urged the creation of a risk mitigation and investment facilitation mechanism that could contemplate both Brazil's position as a recipient and an exporter of investments, while taking into account

the domestic needs and the priority given by Brazilian foreign policy to the global south.

In response to this demand, in 2012 the Brazilian Chamber of Foreign Trade (Camex) established a strategic technical group to elaborate a proposal to foster investments and trade. The group came up with the first model of a Cooperation and Facilitation Investments Agreement (CFIA).

The model was developed with the support of major international organisations of the investments field and was based on benchmarking studies and extensive consultations to the Brazilian private sector, which at the time had already some experience as investment exporters. Thus, the Brazilian proposition offered a new approach, embracing both the interests of states and investors, in a more balanced manner and without threatening State sovereignty (Morosini and Bandin, 2015)

From the investor perspective, it offered transparency, non-discrimination, most favored nation and national treatments clauses, while maintaining the same protection offered by the BITs, as clear expropriation rules.

As for the States, the CFIA respects their development strategies and their regulatory policies. The preamble of the text incorporates legislative autonomy and public policy space, focusing on reciprocal benefits for the parties. In addition, the text precludes dispute settlement initiated directly by the investor against the State.

The CFIA aims to prevent disputes to arise. In this regard, it creates a Joint Committee composed by government members, where the parties can share investment opportunities, common agendas and cooperation strategies to foster investments and prevent disputes.

It also proposes a focal point, or Ombudsman, responsible for centralising foreign investors questions and concerns regarding investments. The idea was inspired by the Foreign Investment Ombudsman created by the Korean Investment Act to provide government assistance to investors.

The main innovation brought by the model is the focus on cooperation rather than litigation.

Indeed, the model ratifies the need of establishing a partnership to ensure broad mutual and reciprocal benefits for the parties. A specific section of the CFIA is dedicated to cooperation. The section requires the Joint Committee to develop working cooperation agendas comprising areas of mutual interest, always reflecting the development strategies of each part. Additional protocols can be attached to the Agreements, giving room for a gradual construction of cooperation initiatives and turning the CFIA into living documents.

The working agendas on Annex 1 of the CFIA between Brazil and Angola (ACFI Brazil-Angola, 2015), for instance, include programs on money transfers, visa procedures, technical and environmental regulation, sectorial legislation and institutional cooperation. With the working agendas, the Agreements are dynamic instruments of cooperation.

Conclusion

Incentives for cooperation between developing countries have gained strength in recent years as the aid flows from developed countries were reduced. The strengthening of SSC has also resulted from the growing realisation that common problems require shared solutions, thus the exchange of experiences and knowledge works as an important tool for promoting national development.

Developing countries have found in South-South cooperation a way to obtain mutual benefits through solidarity and respecting the principles of unconditionality, mutual benefit, respect for sovereignty, national property, horizontality and demand-driven actions.

The Brazilian CFIA model arose in this context as an option for Southern countries for their strategies on investment promotion and attraction in response to the current international regime, which represents an unbalanced balance of power in favor of the North.

The network of CFIA signed by Brazil is in continuous expansion. The first ones were signed on March 30th and April 1st, 2015 with Mozambique and Angola, and later that year with

Mexico. To date⁴, thirteen agreements have been signed with sixteen countries (Angola, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Guyana, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay). In 2019 alone, three new agreements were signed, the last being the CFIA Brazil-Ecuador, signed on September 25, 2019.

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Blue Economy in Zanzibar: Policies and Priorities



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Abstract: Apart from addressing concerns such as resource scarcity and waste disposal, Zanzibar has massive potential for developing the blue economy and aim for holistic and sustainable development along with enhancing human welfare. As Zanzibar is an Island this paper elucidates the opportunities, best practices and challenges in promoting blue economy in Zanzibar. Given limits to national capacities, South-South cooperation is crucial to develop blue economy in Zanzibar and in Tanzania as a whole.

Introduction

Blue economy is viewed as the integration of ocean economy development with the principles of social inclusion, environmental sustainability and innovative, dynamic business models (IORA, 2016). There are many traditional and emerging sectors of blue economy covering agriculture, manufacturing and services which offer tremendous opportunities for value addition and job creation. With suitable technologies and regional partnerships, the blue resources in the Indian Ocean region can be efficiently harnessed (Mohanty, Dash, Gupta and Gaur, 2015). Being located in the Eastern Africa region, Tanzania is endowed with diverse ocean resources including fishing, minerals and tourism, and possesses enormous potential to contribute to regional cooperation for promoting blue economy with Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) framework. The principle objective is to develop blue economy in Zanzibar and utilize the enormous benefits offered by maritime resources.

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Marine Profile of Zanzibar

Zanzibar is located in the Indian Ocean Rim with a long coastline and vast ocean resources. The total population of Zanzibar was 1.3 million in 2012 with a density of 530 people per square kilometre. The future population of Zanzibar is estimated to increase to over 1.5 million by 2020, two millions by 2030 and over three million by 2040. This is effectively a doubling and will dramatically increase population density from the already high levels. A large proportion of employment and livelihoods of the local population is associated with weather-sensitive activities, in particular agriculture crop production. Some other sectors such as fisheries and tourism are also impacted by climate change. Along with population growth, growing pace of urbanisation would increase the pressure on land, which, in turn, would induce further conversion of agricultural land to other activities purposes e.g. housing, industry, etc. Given the constraints of land on the islands, and coastal risks, early planning is critical to the development of blue economy as well as overall development of the islands.

Zanzibar is a semi-autonomous part of the United Republic of Tanzania (URT) which comprises of two major islands - Unguja and Pemba - and a number of smaller islets. The two islands have important differences in their terrain, topography, land cover and resources. The total surface area of Zanzibar is 2,550 sq. km divided over Unguja with 1464 sq. km and Pemba with 985 sq. km. The highest points in the islands reach just about 120 and 95 metres respectively. Zanzibar enjoys a tropical climate with mild temperatures with an average annual high of 30.3 degree Celsius and low of 23.5 degree Celsius.

The islands in Zanzibar have relatively high levels of precipitation with long rains in March to May, and shorter rains in November to December. Unguja has a flat to gentle undulating terrain with large areas of coral rag scrub, and relatively large underground water aquifers. While the west and northwest areas are relatively high, large parts of the south and east are low-lying coral rag areas. In contrast, Pemba has a more rolling and hilly

terrain with many steep slopes and more surface water. While the inner terrain of both islands is relatively high (20 to 100 metres above the sea level), they both have large areas near to the shore that are low lying (ZNEAP, 2012). Many of the surrounding islets are small and low lying, and have no access to fresh water. The islands are also the site of extensive coral reefs, which surround by shoreline of both islands and many islets. The islands also have important forests, including mangroves. These marine and terrestrial areas support many livelihoods and provide critical ecosystem services, being the location for key endemic island flora and fauna.

Thrust on Blue Economy for Meeting SDGs

Like other countries of the world, Tanzania - has adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which covers 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 underlying targets, including SDG 14 which specifically emphasises conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources is therefore not only important for sustainable economic growth, food security and poverty alleviation but also for achieving the SDGs. Being important from economic, social and environmental perspectives, coastal area in Zanzibar is indeed a national asset that requires special attention. As a small developing island, Zanzibar is particularly at high risks of climate change. Large areas of both islands of Unguja and Pemba, and nearly all the smaller islets, are low lying and thus vulnerable to sea level rise. This is a critical concern for Zanzibar where, in line with the global trends, sea level is expected to rise, with projected increases of 0.2 to 1.0 meters over the next century.

The increase in sea level will have potential effects for many low lying areas of the islands, including salinization of shallow coastal aquifers, inundation of low lying agricultural fields, and breaching of dykes. Yet, despite these challenges, the islands have undertaken several initiatives

to build the foundations for tackling climate change and developing a sustainable society. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, through the Second Vice President's Office is spearheading the implementation of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy to build a climate resilient and sustainable Zanzibar by 2030. Furthermore, the United Republic of Tanzania has prioritized blue economy as a sector to drive the achievement of 2030 Development Agenda. On 28 January 2019, the United Republic of Tanzania through the Vice President's Office initiated the National Technical Committee on Blue Economy with the principal objective of bringing together all the key national stakeholders for the purpose of inter-institutional consultations, sharing of experiences, and for addressing the national commitments towards blue economy and ocean governance in line with the recommendations from the national delegation which was mandated to steer development and guide policy development and implementation on matters of blue economy.

Key Sectors of Blue Economy in Zanzibar

All the sectors of blue economy are important to the socio-economic development of Zanzibar and Tanzania in general. However, there are certain sectors which are vital from the angle of local entrepreneurship and employment generation. The three sectors that possess huge potential for value addition and job creation are fisheries, seaweed production and coastal tourism are briefly discussed below.

Fisheries

Fisheries contribute to national economy of the country both in terms of income and employment. Fisheries in Zanzibar are mostly artisanal with a small semi-industrial component. Most of the fishing activities are currently taking place within internal and territorial waters (12 nautical miles). The estimated size of fishing grounds for Zanzibar artisanal fishermen is about 6,720 square kilometers of which 4,000 square kilometers (59 per cent) are around Unguja and 2,720 square

kilometers (40.5 per cent) are around Pemba. Official estimates of per capita fish consumption in Zanzibar are around 17 kilograms which is slightly higher than the world per capita supply of 16.2 kilograms. Zanzibar exports fish averaging 1,806 metric tons per year. Moreover, fishery is a very promising sector with high returns. However, increasing sea-level, sea temperature, ocean acidification and other sources of marine pollution are affecting fisheries and ecosystem services, including fisheries in terms of biological stock and spatial distribution.

Seaweed Production

Seaweed farming is a well-established industry in Zanzibar. It has created more than 25,000 jobs for the indigenous people especially women. Zanzibar is the third largest exporter of seaweed in the world, after the Philippines and Indonesia. There are two main seaweed species cultured in Zanzibar. *Eucheuma spinosum* is dominant specie as it grows throughout the year and in almost all areas of Zanzibar. Another specie *Eucheuma cotton* available in Zanzibar which grows in some areas of the Zanzibar oceans and in some months of a year (usually during the cool periods). However, this industry is now facing the threat of climate change due to increasing sea temperature and higher peak temperature events affecting yield and quality.

Coastal Tourism

Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in Zanzibar and has attracted more than 68 per cent of investment projects approved by Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA). The sector boasts a wide variety of tourism options ranging from the historical and cultural sites of Old Stone Town, to beach and leisure activities. It is a very promising sector with high returns. With more emphasis on eco-tourism, opportunities exist in hotels/resorts specifically chain hotels, sports tourism, conference tourism. Some other potential fields of tourist attraction that are directly or indirectly linked to coastal tourism are health tourism, heritage tourism, marinas, special cuisine restaurants, sports activities, amusement and recreation activities.

Importance of South-South Cooperation for Blue Economy

Zanzibar has taken several policy measures to develop its blue economy. However, national policies may not be adequate for certain resources and activities of blue economy in high and deep seas. It would require collaboration and cooperation among countries in the specific region in order to ensure better compliance and share knowledge and expertise. Lack of national capacity to ensure the security of our declared maritime zone thus has resulted in vast illegal capture and exploitation of our marine resources. The adverse impacts of climate change must be recognized and addressed by all the coastal nations. Acting on the damage on our environment, biodiversity, human health, crops, fisheries, agriculture, tourism, water, cities and settlements, economic services and activities, natural resources and physical infrastructure is fundamentally critical. We must cease working in isolation and start collaborating to tackle these challenges. Climate Change knows no boundaries. Feasibility studies are to be conducted to quantify opportunities of blue economy and maximize returns from investments in different sectors of blue economy. Lack of experts and limited knowledge hampers proper management of marine economy and its sustainability. In that sense, south-south cooperation provides an ideal framework for cooperation among coastal nations in Eastern Africa region involving Tanzania and others to efficiently harness blue economy resources in a coordinated fashion.

Regional Cooperation in IORA

Along with south-south development cooperation initiatives, regional cooperation among the Indian Ocean rim countries would be catalyst to development of blue economy in Zanzibar. Fisheries and blue economy have been important priority sectors for the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). Several studies have indicated gains from mutual cooperation in

technology development, sharing of knowledge & expertise, capacity building and training and joint execution of projects in various sectors of blue economy in the Indian Ocean region. The regional organizations in the region such as Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) would be instrumental in fostering cooperation among the countries. Tanzania being a member of IORA can benefit enormously from the collection action adopted by IORA on blue economy.

Conclusion

Zanzibar in Tanzania is a fertile area for development of blue economy. For integrated and holistic development of blue economy in Zanzibar, it is important to maintain the capacity of marine ecosystems with an aim to provide food, nutrition, livelihoods and other life support services to the people. Zanzibar has undertaken several policies to promote blue economy and ensure compliance to conservation and management norms. With appropriate policies, relevant knowledge and management actions using the appropriate tools and concepts such as Marine Spatial Planning Zanzibar can enhance the contribution of blue economy to national economic growth and development of Tanzania. Blue economy should not be merely perceived as a way to preserve the marine ecosystems rather it opens avenues for sustainable business, and blue economy could be a trigger for Tanzania's transition from low income to a middle income country.

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South – South Cooperation through Skill Development: A Case Study from Thailand



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Abstract: Thailand has been providing skill development training to many countries in the region especially to its neighboring countries, in order to uplift the capacity of the workforce. Taking in the concept of south-south cooperation, the article discusses the skill development activities that are provided by the Department of Skill Development, Ministry of Labour, Kingdom of Thailand, through International Institute for Skill Development (IISD). Key message is that skill development activities that have been given out to all partner countries are in capacity building scheme when considering the idea of Development Compact. The article also reflects key principles of south-south cooperation which are demand-driven cooperation, mutual benefits, and non-conditionality. It also suggests that, in the long run, Thailand needs to put more efforts on research and development in order to strengthen its capacity in new technological skills. Triangular cooperation can also be considered at this point to allow all partner countries to share and learn together.

Introduction

As being one of the fastest growing economies in the world (OECD, 2019), Southeast Asia has been facing many challenges regarding labour issues. Skilled labour shortage is currently at the forefront of those issues, because of which the regional economy is struggling to maintain its competitiveness in Asia, and by extension at the global level (Aring, 2015; Menon, 2019; Takenaka & Suan, 2019). Over the past decades, there have been a number of megaprojects in the region especially in the mainland of Indo-china Peninsular; such as, the Belt-Road Initiatives, Strengthening of Special Economic Zones, ASEAN Highway No.3, and Eastern Economic Corridor, which are

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all related to cross-border infrastructures and connectivity. These megaprojects are run by both the government of the initiating countries and by bilateral or multilateral cooperation between the related countries. However, countries in mainland ASEAN have failed in producing sufficient domestic skilled workforce to engage in the emerging industrial sectors to carry out particular type of jobs in these megaprojects (ILO, 2014; Song & Tang, 2016) which in the long run will also lead to the loss of regional productivity. As a result, Thailand, being geographically located at the heart of the Indo-china Peninsular, has come up with the idea of workforce capacity building programmes which aim at assisting its neighboring countries and other countries in the region to produce skilled workforce. Through the International Institute for Skill Development, there have been more than 3,000 skills trainers and officials have been trained since 2017.

Background

The Kingdom of Thailand has the population of 66 million people, 58 per cent of which are in the labour force. Recent studies indicate Thailand, similar to its counterparts in the region, has been affected by skills shortage (Menon, 2019). In addition, as a result of declining total fertility rate and higher life expectancy at birth, the country is now become one of the aging societies in ASEAN, having 18.4 per cent of its population aged 60 and above, lagging behind Singapore which has the highest of 21.3 per cent. Meanwhile, other countries in mainland ASEAN have less proportion of older citizens, particularly Lao PDR and Cambodia which have the proportion of 6.6 and 7.4 per cent respectively (UN, 2017). Given the circumstances, Thailand could no longer be the only country in mainland ASEAN to promote productivity by its few skilled workers. Alternatively, there have been joint efforts in the area of skill development that brings together instructors and trainers from countries; such as, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam, to learn technical skills that they perceive to be beneficial to their country and could extend the knowledge to the workers and students in their individual countries.

Geographically situated in the centre of Southeast Asia and Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), Thailand has realised its position in the region and its mandate in international cooperation through skill development activities. The Department of Skill Development, Ministry of Labour, which is the main organisation in the country that is responsible for provision of skill training and national skill standard development, established the International Institute for Skill Development (IISD) in 2004 to provide skill and technical training for instructors and skill trainers from countries in the GMS region, namely Lao PDR, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam, and China (only Yunnan province). IISD has been receiving the participants from these targeted countries ever since. The Institute is situated in Chiang Saen district, Chiang Rai province, in the northern region of the country which provides a perfect location for all partner countries in terms of travel distance.

Skill Development Activities Management

As Thai nationals are the first priority for most skill development programmes, provided by Office for Skill Development and Institution for Skill Development nationwide, IISD is the only institute under the Department of Skill Development to provide skill training programmes for trainers from other countries in the region.

The management of the Institute is relatively simple. There is one director who has the roles and responsibilities in the administration process and guiding all training programmes to be in line with the policy given by both from the central unit of the Department and the needs raised by its partner countries. The Institute has approximately 30 staff, 10 of which are instructors and the rest are the administrative staff and technical officers. Despite a limited number of training instructors, IISD has overcome this constraint by drawing internal instructors of the Department from other training institute or seeking cooperation with public sector to engage in the training programmes as external instructors. Every year

Department of Skill Development invites all partner countries to attend a one-day meeting to gather the needs for skill development and area of implementation for the next year. Then they set up a plan and training calendar to be agreed by all parties. In terms of financing, a considerable amount of budget has been allocated to IISD to carry out skill development activities according to the plan that has been set earlier in the year before. Most of the expenditure mainly goes to training materials and compensation to external instructors. IISD normally substitutes the training fees and provides free accommodation to participants, while other costs are born by the organisations of the sending countries. For the process of training, IISD sends invitation letters to the partner countries in accordance with the period of training agreed by all and the recipients nominate their participants 15 days prior to the commencement of training programme. Training activities include both theoretical knowledge lecture and practice. In recent years, skill development programmes are densely in the field of logistics and tourism sector which reflect the needs for regional infrastructure and logistics initiatives; for example, warehouse management, forklift operator, road traffic management, etc. Various types of course are available for these skill areas namely training of trainers, curriculum development, and skill standard development and assessment methods.

To a large extent, the process of implementation of IISD explicitly reflects some of the key principles of south-south cooperation which are demand-driven cooperation, mutual benefits, and non-conditionality (Chaturvedi, 2016; UNOSSC, 2019). This can be seen through the annual meeting among all partner countries to articulate their needs for skill training activities. Additionally, Thailand, as a provider, has given out the assistance to the recipients through skill development programmes without any condition or benefits of its own. Besides, it rather focuses on strengthening the capacity of the workforce in the region which will benefit all countries.

Overall Achievements

IISD normally carries out a survey after the training is complete. As part of key performance index of the Institute, the results of the survey have to be reported to the Department of Skill Development to assess the overall performances of the regional training institute. The survey is also a tool to assess the effectiveness and satisfaction of participants of the whole programme through both quantitative and qualitative methods.

According to current results of the survey conducted from 2018 to 2019, around 90 per cent of participants are satisfied with the programmes they have taken. There have been also positive feedbacks in terms of the volume of the impact that they could bring back and transfer the technical knowledge to the workforce in their country. Some respondents further indicated that the programmes could help improve country's competitiveness by having sufficient skilled workforce to supply particular development projects in their country.

Considering the concept of Development Compact (Chaturvedi, 2016) which consists of six categories, it can be seen that these skill development activities fall into the dimension of capacity building which aims at providing scholarship, training programme, exchange of experts, and deploying volunteers. Based on demand of all partner countries, this modality has achieved its primary objectives of skills and knowledge transfer to the receiving countries which will help enhance the capacity of human capital in the region as a whole.

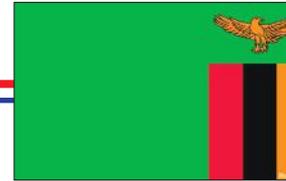
Conclusion

Skill development is one of the key areas of cooperation that Thailand has put its effort for South-South Cooperation which is at the forefront of current foreign policy. Furthermore, Thailand has been providing a wide range of skill training activities that derive from the needs of the recipient countries and which Thailand is specialised in. Mutual benefits and inclusive growth are the ultimate goal that Thailand aims to achieve

through this cooperation and by extension the achievement of the SDGs of the partner countries especially on goal 4 on quality education and goal 8 on decent work and economic growth. However, a challenge lies ahead. As Thailand still remains a developing country that has limited capacity in terms of developing its own technology, it also needs to learn from other countries as well as invest more on research and development at the national level which in the long run will help accumulate knowledge and experiences that it will be ready to share with all its partners and the world. Therefore, there is a need for joint efforts with other countries to participate in such cooperation. At this point, triangular cooperation can also be considered as an alternative method between global north and global south to allow all parties to learn from one another.

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Improving Access to Clean Energy in Zambia: Role of South-South Cooperation



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Abstract: Global demand for energy continues to rise, led by developing countries, reflecting an expanding global economy, rapid industrialisation, urbanisation, population growth, and improved energy access. The United Nations sustainable development goal (SDG) (7) recites: “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”. To ensure this access, new alternative sources should be explored and included in the energy mix. To meet the rising demand for energy, Zambia should consider utilising the capacity of its South-South partners such as India, and acquire appropriate technology and build energy infrastructure through the various modalities of South-South cooperation.

Introduction

Energy is one of the key enablers of economic growth and development. Global demand for energy continues to rise, led by developing countries, reflecting an expanding global economy, rapid industrialisation, urbanisation, population growth, and improved energy access (Chalwe, 2019). According to the International Energy Agency report of 2016, about 65 percent of the population (680 million people) in sub-Saharan Africa lacked access to electricity and a further 81 percent of the population relied on traditional biomass as an energy source (International Energy Agency [IEA], 2016). In the light of the above statistics, improving access to clean and affordable energy should therefore be a core policy objective in most African countries including Zambia. The reliable provision of electricity and other modern fuels could be a precondition for the improvement of productivity in key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing and/or mining. In

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addition, access to energy influences the use of modern domestic appliances and services, such as cooling or heating, and thereby resulting in improved standard of living (Mutanga, Quitzow & Steckel, 2018). To ensure this access, new alternative sources should be explored to ensure the energy mix is well balanced and insulated from the effects and impacts of climate change on energy supply. The alternative sources may include renewable sources such as biomass, Solar, wind and geothermal.

Sustainable Development Goal (7) at a glance.

In September 2015 the United Nations Assembly established a set of Goals known as the Agenda 2030 comprising 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) whose aim was to fight poverty and promote human development. The focus of SDG (7) recites: “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”. Furthermore, to allow monitoring the steps towards the goals, including SDGs (7), a system of targets and indicators had also been set. However, one major problem with Goal (7) just as the other goals is that responsibility for ensuring progress has been set at the country level, and monitoring is also largely national. It can be argued that this could prove TO BE a more difficult task especially for low income countries (the least developed countries, LDCs) where governments do not have sufficient resources to reach the goals by themselves, and where monitoring systems are either weak or none existence (Ranci, 2017). Though international cooperation is included in the system of targets and indicators of SDGs, official development aid is the main variable, directly related to the goals, which can be measured and for which responsibility is assigned. However, development aid as argued by most scholars may not be the best mode of delivering development to LDCs in attaining the sustainable development goals. Further, it can be argued that this vacuum could best be filled by South-South Cooperation (SSC).

Energy status in Zambia

Demand for energy in Zambia has been rising due to robust investment which has occurred in the past decade, particularly in mining, manufacturing and agriculture sectors. The increase in energy demand could also be attributed to demographic and socio-economic factors. The annual increase in energy demand is estimated at six (6) percent translating into 150-200 Megawatts of power (Zambia Development Agency [ZDA], 2014). Further, the change in climatic conditions and the resultant weather patterns have greatly contributed to the problem of energy deficit. These conditions include the late onset of rain and intermittent rainfall pattern experienced in the past and more recently during the 2018 to 2019 rain season during which the country experienced hydrological drought. According to the World Bank news article (World Bank, 2019), available on its website, recent droughts in southern Africa have greatly reduced the electrical output of Zambia’s hydropower plants, resulting in many Zambians going without power. Consequently, power shortages and forced rationing have impacted the national economy, causing the government to mandate the procurement of 600 megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) power in order to achieve a target increase in electricity generation to 6,000 MW by 2030. Backed by its year-round sunshine and geographical location, Zambia is well positioned to integrate solar power into its energy mix currently dominated by climate-vulnerable hydropower.

As already highlighted, Zambia’s electricity supply is predominantly based on hydropower which accounts for not less than 80 percent of the national installed capacity. Though Zambia’s hydropower resource potential is estimated at over 6000 megawatts, this potential has not been fully exploited with the installed capacity estimated slightly above 2700 megawatts (Energy Regulation Board [ERB], 2016). There is however, a desire to shift to other renewable energy sources such as biomass, solar, wind and geothermal which have a very minimum contribution to the current energy mix in Zambia and most importantly due their resilience to climate change.

The low access to electrical energy in Zambia, offers great potential for private sector and public private partnership (PPP) investment in the energy sector (Ministry of Energy [MoE], 2017). The Zambian government is also alive to the fact that providing clean and affordable energy goes beyond the choice of energy generation technologies, but also to a large extent on how they are distributed and integrated within the energy system. Goel and Sharma (2017) postulates that, in order to ensure large scale distribution of energy, there is need to implement decentralised systems, such as renewable-based mini-grid and off-grid systems, which have proved to be cost-effective alternatives to grid extension as a strategy for rural electrification.

South-South Cooperation initiatives on energy in Zambia

In order to ensure access to clean energy and move towards the attainment of SDG (7), Zambia has embarked on ambitious projects to combat the current energy deficit. Among the key projects are those being implemented with its key partners from the south and these projects provide practical evidence of SSC between Zambia and its partners in the south. Two of the most important projects are highlighted below:

120 MW Itezhi-Tezhi- Hydro Power Project

Itezhi-Tezhi hydro electricity generation project is a Public private partnership project which was implemented by ZESCO Limited, government owned entity in Zambia and Tata Power through an equity investment in Itezhi-Tezhi Power Corporation Ltd in Zambia. The companies invested in the power plant with the capacity of 120 MW hydropower station on the Itezhi-Tezhi dam along the Kafue River. The project's total cost was estimated at US\$ 239m, with a debt to equity ratio of 70:30. The Project was financed by the EXIM bank in India, the African Development Bank, FMO - the Dutch development bank, Proparco, and the Development Bank of Southern Africa provided credit for the project (Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency [MIGA], 2016).

The Tata Power Company Limited and ZESCO Limited, Zambia's national power utility company are 50-50 equity owners in the project.

- ZESCO Limited and Masen Group 450 MW Renewable Energy Project

On 22nd February 2017, the Government of Morocco and the Government of Republic of Zambia brought together MASEN Group of Morocco and ZESCO Limited to collaborate in the area of renewable energy development. A Memorandum of Understanding for development and exploitation of Solar, Wind, Hydropower and Geothermal was signed to this effect. The agreement for the development of renewable energy power plants aims to develop 450MW of electricity generation. These include 200MW of Solar, 150MW of Wind Power, 50MW of Hydropower and 50MW Geothermal.

Conclusion

In order to set the targets of SDG (7) into motion, Zambia should consider utilising the capacity of its South-South partners such as India, and acquire appropriate technology and build energy infrastructure through the various modalities of South- South cooperation such as capacity building, technology, and lines of credit. The targets under goal (7) include, universal access, environmental sustainability as identified with the requirement for renewable energy sources inclusion to the total energy mix, and further, sustainability as identified with a rapidly increasing efficiency in all forms of energy use. Over reliance on hydro has worsened the energy situation in the country due to the hydrological drought effects the country experienced and the need for renewable energy sources could not be over emphasised. Renewable energy sources such as Solar, biomass, wind and geothermal should make part of the national energy mix and cover rural areas which are usually detached from the main grids. The aim should be promotion of access to clean and affordable energy for all, without leaving anyone behind.

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The Platform of Student and Academic Mobility : An Instrument for South-South Cooperation



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Abstract: The following paper describes the International Development Cooperation (IDC) approach in the Pacific Alliance (PA), the most recent mechanism of regional integration in Latin America. In a more specific way, it aims to propose the Platform of Student and Academic Mobility (PSAM-PA) as an instrument of South South Cooperation (SSC).

In order to do so, first we have to identify how is the component of IDC integrated on the PA and secondly, to analyse as to how is SSC made instrumental through the PSAM-PA and which set of actors participate and how.

Introduction

The study of the process of regional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean it is divided into three stages. During the first stage the countries of the region promoted, on the one hand, import substitution and on the other, to a lesser extent, agreements of economic integration. In the second stage, known as the new regionalism, the proliferation of free trade agreements based on the ideas contained in the Washington Consensus was observed. In contrast, during the third stage, known as post-liberal regionalism, it is identified that regional integration mechanisms emerged with characteristics very different from the previous stages, since new schemes emerged to promote and foster political, economic and social coordination, as well as innovative schemes around cooperation. [Balassa (1961), Haas (1971), Gomez and Sanahuja (1999)]

Given the contextualisation above, it is identified that the Pacific Alliance represents the most current and innovative

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Views expressed are personal.

regional integration exercise in Latin America and the Caribbean. Created in 2011 by Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, it in a complementary way promotes economic integration, considering SSC as an instrument to integrate new issues to the agenda, as well as strategic actors that propitiate and contribute to deeper integration.

How does the pacific alliance integrate the component of international cooperation for development?

The institutional scaffolding of the Pacific Alliance consists of two types of elements; Structural and Programmatic. First, as regards the structural part, it is identified that the Lima Declaration (2011) represents the founding document of the Pacific Alliance, which established the formation of an area of deep integration, in which it is intended to “progress progressively towards the objective of achieving the free movement of goods, services, capitals and people”.

Additionally, in structural terms, the Declaration of Paranal (2012) represents the document that establishes in an articulated way the institutional scaffolding and determines the powers of the Council of Ministers, primacy of consensus as the official form for decision-making, periodicity and rotation of the Presidency pro tempore, the relationship with third parties, with observer countries, the way in which new states parties can join, as well as the relevant mechanism for dispute resolution.

It is important to note that, in terms of innovation, the Pacific Alliance does not have a permanent headquarters or secretariat physically established unlike other integration mechanisms in Latin America. Another factor worth noting is the optimization of the use of resources, since two presidential meetings have been held through video conferences.

The structural level of the Pacific Alliance is pyramidal. In the first level, presidential summits are identified as the highest level for decision-making whereas in the second level, the Council



of Ministers is established who is responsible to carry out the relevant negotiations prior to the summits. The High Level Group (GAN) is placed in an operational space representing the space in which the dialogue takes place and different types of negotiation. In reference to present study, as a base of the pyramid, is the Technical Cooperation Group (GTC) who is responsible for the implementation and instrumentation of the decisions made at the first level and is where the programmatic aspects for the implementation are inserted of cooperation actions. As can be seen in Table No. 1, the international development cooperation component is inserted in the base of the institutional scaffolding. It is made up of 22 Technical Cooperation Groups.

The Technical Cooperation Groups represent the space in which the topics established in the agenda are implemented and operationalized. The main objective of the GTC is to promote cooperation among member countries, as well as with third parties, in strategic areas. From the moment of its creation, a framework was set up consisting of concrete projects related to four areas of shared interest among member countries: Environment and Climate Change, Science, Technology and Innovation, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Social Development.

How are south-south cooperation actions instrumented and executed in the pacific alliance?

Once the structure, institutional scaffolding and the main programmatic aspects of the Pacific Alliance have been reviewed, it is identified on the one hand that the International Development

Cooperation component is specifically integrated within the Technical Cooperation Group. On the other hand and in terms of instrumentation of cooperation, the Student Alliance and Academic Mobility Platform of the Pacific Alliance (PASM-PA) is identified as the main instrument of South-South Cooperation within the regional integration mechanism.

The PASM-PA aims to contribute to the formation of high-level human capital, through granting of scholarships reciprocally among member countries, to promote and encourage the student and academic exchange of undergraduate students, doctoral students, university teachers and researchers (Pacific Alliance, 2015). The idea of creating a SSC instrument that promotes the movement of people between the four countries that make up the Pacific Alliance represents a useful strategy to address and influence the strategic issues of the cooperation agenda to encourage deep regional integration (García, 2015).

It is important to highlight that, the consensus for the creation of the PMEAP-AP among the member countries was first achieved, because it was identified that the four countries had experiences in implementing academic cooperation actions for the formation of human capital and secondly, because the functionality that would establish as strategic areas of the Pacific Alliance was observed as areas of study.

Although Mexico was the one who proposed the creation of a scholarship program, Chile was the one who shared the methodology for its operationalisation, according to its vast technical experience in the field. The Chilean initiative of

operationalisation derived in the establishment of the common elements for the call as assigned economic amounts, benefits for the fellows, the number of scholarships to be offered, as well as the modalities, the strategic areas of study. Once the common elements of the call were agreed, each country incorporated elements based on their own guidelines. In practical terms, it can be seen how each country of the Pacific Alliance contributed to formulating the implementation of the PMEAP-AP regarding its technical capabilities.

Although the PMEAP-AP has a General Regulation, there is an agreement to make annual and biannual internal reports on the management and development of the project in order to be able to report to the Technical Cooperation Group (GTC) and the High Level Group (GAN) of the Pacific Alliance, on the progress and development of the Platform, who serve as reviewers of the cooperation projects (Barreto, 2016).

Since its creation and implementation of the operation and development of the programmatic aspects of the PMEAP-AP, it represents a continuous process in the incorporation of functional elements and mechanisms that, on the one hand, facilitate decision-making between the countries involved, and on the other hand, they do not generate additional commitments for the counterparts (García, 2015). Further, it is important to highlight that, through the Paracas Declaration (2015), it was instructed through a presidential mandate in the section on cooperation to “Institutionalize permanently the student and academic mobility platform as a program that has contributed to the formation of high-level human capital and the internationalisation of higher education in the region”. Thus, the PMEAP-AP, since 2015 ceased

Table 2. Structure of the Focal Points

CHILE	MÉXICO	COLOMBIA	PERÚ
AGCID	AMEXCID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICETEX (National Institute for Student Exchange) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PRONABEC (National Scholarship Program)
Chilean Agency of International Development Cooperation	Mexican Agency of International Development Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Agency of the Presidency of the Republic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Peruvian Agency of International Development Cooperation

to be a project and became both a permanent program of the Pacific Alliance and an instrument of SSC. It should be noted that to date it represents the only cooperation project to reach that level of institutionalisation within the framework of the regional integration mechanism.

In terms of instrumentation, it is important to point out the main actors involved in the execution of the cooperation. First, there are the focal points of the member countries, secondly, the Higher Education Institutions incorporated to the PMEAP-AP are identified and thirdly, the fellows who participate through different modalities in the programme.

According to this synergy of work, most of the meetings of the focal points are conducted via the Internet, a modality that uses information technologies and, in turn, addresses the need to establish official communications in real time. On the other hand, this modality avoids the wastage of financial resources since the mobilisation of technical resources is not necessary.

The scholarship program revolves around the granting and positioning of 100 annual scholarships reciprocally among the countries that make up the Pacific Alliance, the total number of scholarship is 400 per year. The distribution of the scholarships is divided into 75 for undergraduate students and 25 for doctoral students, teachers and researchers from each member country.

On the one hand, the scholarship represents an incentive for HEIs to reinforce their internationalisation strategy through student and academic mobility, since it offers the opportunity to carry out both academic exchanges, such as research stays, participate in a research project or teach of the modality in which this is carried

out (General Regulation of the PMEAP-AP, 2013).

In the process of selecting scholars, three important aspects stand out. First, that the decentralisation strategy is a functional tool for the placement of scholars of the Pacific Alliance throughout the countries that comprise it.

Second, the cross-cutting gender equity policy. Although the majority of applicants are women, in some cases positive discrimination is used. The equitable participation of both men and women represents one of the aspects that characterize the participation of students in the PMEAP-AP.

Thirdly, it was observed that the coverage of the strategic areas of study is a strategy of alignment with the principles that promote and encourage deep integration. (Gere, 2015).

Conclusion:

The Pacific Alliance represents an innovative regional integration mechanism, whose execution of cooperation actions are framed in the South-South modality within the context of post-liberal regionalism in Latin America. In contrast to other integration mechanisms in force at the time of its creation, the Pacific Alliance stands out for the inclusion of elements that can be characterised as novel, although one of the main conditions for its formation was that the member countries had free treaties trade with each other, it is observed that parallel to the interest of promoting economic integration, the issue of human mobility and cooperation stand out within the structural and programmatic aspects.

On the other hand, the part that aligns with the Pacific Alliance scholarship programme, specifically aligns with Goal No. 9 of the SDGs

Table 3. Strategic study areas of the Pacific Alliance

STUDY AREAS	
Business	Political Sciences
Finance	Tourism
International Relations and Commerce	Engineering
Public Administration	Environmental Studies
Economy	Innovation, Science and Technology

in which it was established that by 2020 it is necessary to: “substantially increase the number of scholarships available for developing countries ... so that their students can enroll in higher education programmes, including vocational training programs and technical, scientific, engineering and information and communications technology programs, in developed countries and other developing countries” (UNDP, 2015).

According to specialists in Academic Cooperation, Allende and Morones (2006) and Beerkens (2002), there are five conditions that allow the PMEAP to be identified as an instrument of South-South Cooperation because:

- It represents an institutionalised scholarship program, that is, it represents a permanent mechanism within the framework of a regional integration process.
- The program is part of a foreign policy strategy with the objective of forming high-level human capital in strategic areas.
- Since there is a formal establishment of joint actions between focal points, mobility offices and international relations by HEIs, as explained when addressing the synergy of the PMEAP, the involvement of a multifactorial body of actors is observed.
- The South-South modality is the main characteristic of the cooperation actions through which the program is executed.
- The program considers research visits by doctoral students as well as for professors and researchers.

Undoubtedly, the most forceful action of SSC is the scholarship programme executed by the PMEAP, this argument is verified by observing that it is the only cooperation program that achieved its institutionalisation after three years of execution, in the framework of the regional integration mechanism.

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Excursions and interactions



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