

# Global South and Perspectives on Development Partnerships



**RIS**

Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



**ITEC Capacity Building Programme on  
Development Partnership: Learning South-South Cooperation  
12-23 January 2023, New Delhi**

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*This report is a compilation of articles submitted by the participants of ITEC Programme titled Development Partnership: Learning South-South Cooperation. Usual disclaimers apply.*

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# PREFACE



## **Professor Sachin Chaturvedi**

Director General, RIS

South-South Cooperation has always been an important integral part of the RIS work programme. Since 2015, the institute has been conducting the programme on Learning South-South Cooperation (LSSC) under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) of the Ministry of External Affairs. In these years, around 180 participants from more than 50 countries spread across the developing regions of Latin America, Africa and Asia have attended these programmes. It is noteworthy that the ITEC programme, initiated in 1964, is completing its 60 years of journey this year.

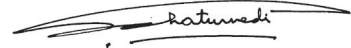
India has taken over the G20 Presidency at a critical juncture where it has to address spill-over effects of COVID-19 and the ongoing geo-political and geo-economic crises. India is making all-out efforts to go beyond short-term crisis management and focus on longer-term issues of structural transformation in global governance towards inclusive, resilient and sustainable outcomes under its G20 Presidency. Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi's message of healing, harmony and hope for the G20 would shape the activities and deliverables of the Indian G20 Presidency. The theme of the Indian G20 Presidency, "One Earth, One Family, One Future" with an emphasis on "Lifestyle for Environment" or LiFE, has set the mandate for achieving a coherent agenda of sustainable development, climate action and climate justice. The philosophy of Vasudev Kutumbakam, or the world is one family, gives the Indian Presidency immense opportunities for building consensus in a fractured world.

This LSSC programme is the sixth in the series with 28 participants from 22 countries, representing diverse sections from their respective societies bringing in diplomats, government officials, researchers, academics and development practitioners. The present report is a compilation of the reflections by the participants of this programme held at RIS between 12th and 23rd January, 2023. 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 of the participants in this report are considered to be an effective learning outcome of this programme.

The report is divided into two parts. The first part concentrates on some of the general issues related to SSC and the second part delves into country-specific experiences. The report highlights the spirit of solidarity – the main driving force of cooperation among the Southern countries. It is expected that this compilation will contribute immensely to the understanding of the issues in SSC and would provide different perspectives on development cooperation.

I would like to thank all the participants in the course for their hard work and the RIS faculty for their engagement in the preparation and production of this report. I am particularly thankful to Mr Atul Kaushik and Dr Sushil Kumar for leading and coordinating the programme and for their inputs in bringing out the report.

I thank my colleagues from administration and publications, Mr Mahesh Arora, Mr H.K. Mallick, Ms. Ivy Roy Sarkar, Mr Tish Malhotra, Mr Sachin Singhal, and Mr Sanjeev Karna for bringing out this Report in a short time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sachin Chaturvedi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sachin Chaturvedi



Part I  
SOUTH SOUTH  
COOPERATION AND  
GLOBAL ISSUES



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# South-South Cooperation, Tool for Holistic Transfer of Knowledge and Best Practices for Development – A Review of Non-Conditionalities to Boost Local Economies

Mcezekiel Edem Aheto\*

**Abstract:** The Global South wields a great potential to transform economies of partners as well as deepen bilateral ties for future prospects across several economic sectors. The adoption and implementation of South-South Cooperation as a development partnership approach in transferring knowledge, skills and technological capacities need to be holistic in every sense in ensuring that the recipient partners do not face the challenge of re-inventing the wheel or piloting a given project or programme with funds or technical support provided by the donor/grantor without taking local needs and conditions into account. It is against this backdrop that the principle of ‘non-conditionality’ should be reviewed in order to make a conscious effort in spreading development to the peripheries and boosting local economies. This approach will decongest the population as well as move away from the saturated development interventions of the centre (central business districts) and re-direct resources to local economies, i.e. local government authorities, towards the re-distribution of economic growth and improved standard of living.

**Keywords:** South-South Cooperation Non-conditionality Localisation

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\*Zongo And Inner Cities Development Secretariat

## Introduction

This paper seeks to propose a review of the principle of non-conditionality with respect to SSC towards the attainment of improved local economy or enhanced local content in every sense. The use of local content at its basic meaning makes reference to the use of raw, indigenous, home grown, and artisanal logistics, products or services that are found or provided within a given local area and administration. Categorically, the best places to find these resources are mostly the rural areas, communities or villages. Hence by facilitating economic growth in these areas or ensuring the development and use of their locally produced and available resources, it encourages development partners to ensure that interventions are directed to the appropriate areas for the attainment of local development. The paper captures thoughts of some established authors, development experts, Think Tanks and personal views that mainly span observations made by the author of some systems of governance of West African Countries and a few other Developing Countries of the South.

## South-South Cooperation and Governance in Developing Countries

South-South Cooperation (SSC) relies on a comprehensive understanding where the instruments of partnership may be used in unison with the objective of coherence across policy measures and with the aspiration of influencing development in totality. SSC has been primarily implemented through project-based approaches rather than programmatic and prescriptive approaches. The objective underlying such projects is collective 'self-reliance' in the South that can be interpreted as the core mission intrinsic to SSC. In order to meet the above objectives, the multiple modalities and their convergence has been particularly effective. This paradigm of development cooperation has been termed as 'Development

Compact'. Overall, such approaches are broadly expected to adhere to the principles of SSC such as demand driven, **non-conditionality**, sovereignty, national ownership, horizontality among others<sup>1</sup>.

The SSC by all standards is an effective tool for sharing both knowledge and best practices with development partners in achieving the long-term goal of self-reliance. That notwithstanding, it appears most of the concentration is based more on the transfer of skills through capacity building and training but not on the insistence of applying best practices shared with the developing partners.

The World Bank Policy Press Release of 30 January 2017 on the topic, "Improving Governance Is Key to Ensuring Equitable Growth in Developing Countries" emphasized the fact that a new World Bank policy report urges developing countries and international development agencies to rethink their approach to governance, as a key to overcoming challenges related to security, growth, and equity.

Also, the World Development Report: *Governance and the Law* (2017) explores how unequal distribution of power in a society interferes with policies' effectiveness. Power asymmetries help explain, for example, why model anti-corruption laws and agencies often fail to curb corruption, why decentralization does not always improve municipal services, or why well-crafted fiscal policies may not reduce volatility and generate long-term savings.

The report notes that when policies and technical solutions fail to achieve intended outcomes, institutions often take the blame. However, it finds that countries and donors need to think more broadly to improve governance so that policies succeed.<sup>2</sup> It defines better governance as the process through which state and non-state groups interact to design and implement policies, working within a set of formal and informal rules that are shaped by power.

Most governments of developing countries run a system of governance that mostly

ensures that the local governments are tightly knitted to the strings of authority of the central governments. Though most systems of governance are decentralized both for federal states and unitary states, the decentralized establishments mainly tasked with implementation, mostly experience interference from the central bodies whose only aim is to provide policy direction and supervision of the intended programme or project. The devolution of power to the local government authorities is not absolute and this instance goes an extra mile to influence development interventions that are meant for some particular local economies as the selection of the area may be left to which Member of Parliament or Metropolitan, Municipal or District Assembly Chief Executive (MMDCE) does a good job at lobbying for it. From a personal observation, it has been noticed that most of these development interventions end up in the core or main capital and its surroundings for proximity of supervision by the central authorities, i.e. Ministries and Regional Coordinating Councils and leads to a saturation of interventions within the Central Business Districts (CBD) and its environs while in effect, the peripheries, outskirts and rural areas that deserve these interventions more, are left out.

### **Review of the Principle of Non-Conditionality**

According to the Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), from the structuralist perspective, imposing conditionality does little to influence the growth prospects of a programme country. According to structuralists, a certain level of inflation is a natural phenomenon in developing countries, which tend to experience long-term supply bottlenecks. Since the structuralist framework sees a convergence between inflation and development as a long-term policy objective, it imposes no strict adherence to conditionality. Though this approach is too simplified to address short-term imbalances in the economy, it has long-

term implications for allowing macroeconomic stability to go hand-in-hand with economic growth. Therefore, India's current practice-development cooperation programmes without conditionality-is very much consistent with the structuralist approach<sup>3</sup>.

This to an extent seeks to achieve a long-term objective with respect to macroeconomic stability. On the contrary, with the existence of possible bottlenecks in the system of governance, it would be necessary to crack the whip by applying some mild conditionalities in the bid to ensure localisation and respect the other principles of sovereignty, equality, national ownership, horizontality among others. The review of the principle of non-conditionality is likely to positively influence the sense of knowledge sharing and partnership as conditions that may be enforced create bottlenecks within the system of governance in the developing country partner. The conditions may be limited to providing parameters such as the population size of the given locality (e.g. a population size between 1000–3,000 people), high illiteracy rates, mainly farmers or low-income workers, just to mention but few.

The engagement in trade cooperation differs from one emerging country to another, and further demonstrates assumptions closer to the structuralist position than the monetarist one. For example, China finances infrastructure projects in recipient countries but uses barter-trade in settling loans with these countries. Instead of recovering loan elements in monetary terms, China prefers to accept equivalent amounts in goods such as minerals<sup>4</sup>.

According to Sengupta, the development compact must be based on the principles of 'mutuality of obligation' and 'reciprocity of conditionality'. Under the development compact, developed countries and international organisations will provide assistance necessary for the successful implementation of development plans in poor countries, while in return developing countries will cooperate in the process through bold reform programmes.

In the absence of appropriate capacity within a developing country, the developed countries will be obligated to provide whatever assistance is necessary for developing countries to achieve their targets. The development compact envisages a reciprocal obligation between developing countries and bilateral donors, international organisations and the UN system; hence it will be a country-specific arrangement, instead of a traditional 'one-size-fits all' solution applied across the board to take care of all problems of developing countries<sup>5</sup>.

The given parameters may restrict the influence of bottlenecks of the given interventions and accord the donor or provider the opportunity to select which area amongst the list suggested by the recipient country to direct the project or programme towards. In essence, this will ensure that development is fairly distributed and the peripheries and local economies receive a fair share of a holistic economic boost.

### **Localisation - Boost to the Local Economy**

Among the various development strategies, localisation is emerging as the new normal. More and more efforts are being made to ensure growth with local contents and local hands with local livelihood security with as less carbon footprint as possible. This has given a greater flexibility for the national governments to choose policy options from successful experiences and strategies. Specific experiences from emerging economies - be that China or India, and even earlier the newly industrialised countries (NICs), stand for that endogeneity. Efforts are on to identify the most appropriate modality in this regard<sup>6</sup>. (Chaturvedi, 2016)

The UNDP Human Development Report of 2003 further explained the proposition, defining the development compact as an arrangement based on a system of shared responsibility, where all countries could orientate their efforts towards helping poor countries achieve their development goals. The compact allows

poor countries to pitch for higher assistance and improved market access, while provider countries can demand better governance and accountability in return<sup>7</sup>.

As more efforts are being made by partners in SSC to ensure growth with local content, it would not be a breach of agreement with respect to ensuring that some forms of conditions are applied to redistribute economic growth from the centre (i.e. central government areas and urban economies) to the local authority or rural areas. This in the long term would help address some economic challenges such as high unemployment rates in the urban areas, as ready labour (skilled and unskilled) will be motivated to find employment in the peripheries or rural areas. In the same stead it will bring infrastructural and socio-economic developments to the local economies i.e. good roads, improved health facilities, advanced educational establishments etc.

In addition this will help the central government to focus on formulating policies that will decongest the capital and urban areas to ensure that the high risk of health concerns, clustered developments/ slums, high unemployment rates, security and crime are controlled and managed.

### **Conclusion**

In his paper titled "Development Compact," Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi(2016) expressed the opinion that the specified set of modalities for the compact might evolve over time. In a same vein, this paper has faith in the SSC's guiding principles while being flexible enough to adapt to new realities brought about by factors like shifting economic conditions, new international industrial and fiscal policies, or acts of God. In summary, to attain conscious holistic development and increased local economic growth, the application of some conditionalities is key to ensuring that there is a controlled wave of development that will be easily monitored and experienced by the development partner and the locals, respectively. This new wave will

be result oriented in ensuring that the pressures of the centre are dissolved by attending to the needs of the peripheries. There will hence be a ripple effect of growth from the local economies towards the centre.

## Recommendations

Developed partners should provide parameters/ characteristics that captures/ defines a local economic area that should benefit from a given development intervention.

Developing countries should be made to submit a list of communities that fit the parameters as prescribed above, for selection of the Donor/Provider.

### Endnotes

- 1 (RIS, 2019- *Five Modalities of Development Compact - Shaping South-South Cooperation. New Delhi*).
  - 2 This analysis points to the fact that engaging partners for South-South cooperation should not be business as usual. Efforts should be made were necessary to enhance economic growth and development even if it requires the admonishing of partners to adjust their systems slightly for a smooth run of a developmental intervention. This will lead to the collective good in the long term.
- FIDC Policy Brief of March 2016 on the Indian Development Cooperation: A theoretical and Institutional Framework  
FIDC supra  
Sachin Chaturvedi, The Development Compact: A

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Ibid iii

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# SIDS in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation-Role of South-South Cooperation

Nundini Pertaub\*

**Abstract:** The objective of this paper is to illustrate the problems faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) caused by global warming and climate change. It will highlight the inherent vulnerabilities of SIDS and showcase why climate change is considered an existential threat to them. It will outline some of the actions taken by SIDS in collaboration with their partners and with other South-South countries as well as through triangular cooperation to combat climate change, build resiliency and implement their climate change strategies, including renewable energy projects. Finally, the paper concludes that climate change is a global phenomenon that will require a global holistic solution.

**Keywords:** Vulnerabilities, Climate Strategy, Cooperation

## Introduction

Small Islands States (SIDS) are the most vulnerable group of countries dealing with climate change. Many people see climate change as an existential threat. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are unprepared to deal with the effects of climate change, a global phenomenon. However, SIDS have been proactive in its fight, serving as advocate to highlight the danger of global warming and demanding that the world acts in a cohesive and coherent manner to address the challenges. The paper

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\*Ministry of Foreign Affairs regional Integration and International Trade

will showcase the problems faced by SIDS, which can also be applied across the globe and highlight some of the actions taken through various mechanisms and through South-South cooperation to address the issue.

## Vulnerabilities of SIDS

Climate change is affecting the world in a variety of ways. With global warming, there has been an increase in the frequency and intensity of cyclones and hurricanes, severe droughts and floods. Recently, the Caribbeans have been the stage of a series of hurricanes that have caused massive infrastructural destruction, economic devastation and deaths. There was hurricane Sandy in 2012 which hit the USA and caused damage worth USD 68.7 billion. In 2017, three hurricanes struck the Caribbean islands and the Southeastern coast of the USA, namely: Harvey (causing USD 125 billion in damages), Irma (USD 77.2 billion in damages), Maria (USD 96.1 billion in damages and vast areas without electricity, clean water and food for months) and Dorian in 2019, which battered several islands in the Caribbean causing an estimated USD 4.6 billion damage, and which left parts of the Bahamas inhabitable more than a year after its passage (Loop News, 2020).

Considering that 90 percent of SIDS occur in the tropics, the aforementioned is significant (Climate Change Secretariat, 2005). Another impact of climate change is the rise of the sea-level, which leads to the destruction of infrastructure, the loss of habitat and livelihoods and causes the salination of soil and water. As a result, food security is affected directly, as farmlands become more saline and non-arable (Worldwide, 2023). Furthermore, rising sea levels cause coastal erosion including the loss of beaches and damage to coastal infrastructure (roads, buildings, and other essential services), adding to the burden of the state to provide adequate infrastructure for the developmental needs of the country (Kibria, 2014).

Islands rely heavily on tourism, which mostly benefits small island developing states (SIDS)

because to the islands' many beaches. Tourism creates jobs and brings income and foreign exchange earnings to small island states, often accounting for more than thirty percent of their Gross Domestic Product (Organisation, 2023). Thus, SIDS are vulnerable to environmental shocks as well as external shocks such as the COVID pandemic, and other geopolitical events that impact them disproportionately and can bring about economies to collapse, given their limited economic base. An additional constraint for SIDS is their dependence on imports since very often they are net food importing countries and have limited or no natural resources (UN Office of the High Representative for LDCs, 2023).

To compound matters, their remoteness from their trade partners makes the imports and the related cost of living in the countries very high or lose competitive advantage as their cost of exports is high too due to connectivity issues. Given that they lack economic alternatives, SIDS are particularly vulnerable to biodiversity loss and climate change (UN Office of the High Representative for LDCs, 2023).

## Mauritius and Its Climate Strategy

Mauritius has been experiencing an increase in air temperature by up to 1.39 degree Celsius. It is estimated that the sea level rises by an average of 5.6mm per year. According to analysts, in the last decade, the sea level has increased by 8 mm per year, comparatively, in the decade earlier (between 1987 to 2020) the long-term mean rise was 4.7 mm per year. The sea level rise impacts the beaches that are sustaining the tourism industry, a major pillar of the Mauritian economy. It is estimated that over the next 50 years, half of the beaches will be lost to the point of supporting no visitors (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021).

Other impacts of climate change are acute flash floods that have led to damage of infrastructure and property. In its report to the OHCHR on climate change and its impact on Mauritius, the Government of Mauritius states that "Mauritius is highly vulnerable (...) with key sectors such

as agriculture, coastal zone, fisheries, marine environment and water being at risk” (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021).

Furthermore, it is projected that there will be a reduction in rainfall which may lead to a decline of agricultural production by fifteen to twenty-five percent by 2050. With the increase in temperature, sugar yield is expected to decline by one- half to two- thirds. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021)

In a bid to mitigate the impacts of climate change, the Government of Mauritius has instituted a series of measures and legislations, namely: The Climate Change Act, the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Act, the Environment Protection Act, the Energy Efficiency Act; the Mauritius Renewable Energy Agency Act; the Board of Agriculture and Natural Resources Act. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021)

The Government has also adopted measures to implement its obligations pertaining to climate-related multilateral agreements. Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015, an equivalent of USD 70 million has been mobilised in support of its climate agenda. Before the COVID pandemic, the State spent about two percent of its GDP (around USD 265 million) on the environment and climate-change-related policies (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021)

Mauritius was the first country to ratify the Paris Agreement in 2016. In its first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted ahead of the COP21, it pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2030 relative to the business as usual scenario. Mauritius has also revised its NDC with more ambitious targets and has now pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent by 2030, relative to the business as usual scenario (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021). The reviewed NDC for Mauritius has been approved by Cabinet on 1 October 2021 and was submitted to the secretariat of the UNFCCC on 5 October 2021 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021).

The Government strategy also includes the promotion of renewable energy technologies

such as the solar water heaters and photovoltaic, tax exemptions of Electric Integration Vehicles, and the implementation of alternative and green mode of mass transport system, the development of a “circular economy” in the waste sector, coastal rehabilitation works, rainwater harvesting schemes, land drainage management, and disaster risk reduction.

From its own national budget and private sector contribution, the government has pledged to cover 35 percent of the overall financial requirements of USD 6.5 billion in unconditional assistance. The remaining 65 per cent share amounting to USD 4.2 billion will rest on support from international sources and donors agencies (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021).

The government estimates that funding required to implement the NDC targets will amount to some USD 6.5 billion, including USD 2 billion for mitigation activities and USD 4.5 billion for adaptation actions. It is to be noted that of that amount, the Government estimates that USD 2.3 billion will be from unconditional sources, i.e. will be sourced from government and the private sector, and the rest will be from international sources and donor agencies and will have conditions attached to it (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021).

Despite their best efforts, Mauritius and other SIDS are, therefore, dependent on partners and on South-South and triangular cooperation to implement their strategies for mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

## **Mauritius’ Partnerships in the Field of Environment and Renewable Energy**

- Mauritius designed and presented a project aimed at achieving the production of thirty-five percent of renewable energy by 2025, entitled “Accelerating the Transformational Shift to a Low-Carbon Economy” with the support of the UNDP, to the Green Climate Fund in 2015. The project was approved and Mauritius received a grant of USD 28

million for the implementation of the same (Board, 2022).

- Mauritius and the EU have longstanding cooperation in a number of fields. In the Mauritius/EU Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027, a number of projects related to environmental protection and climate change resilience were identified and a budget of EUR 5.5 million was earmarked for it (EU, 2023).
- In 2018, Mauritius and the EU held a High-Level Policy Dialogue on Climate Change. The EU announced EUR 3 million to support research and agriculture to resist climate change. Additional areas of cooperation included the improvement of coastal zones resilience, the implementation of an effective national disaster risk reduction strategy, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by promoting low carbon strategies and an increase in native forest cover (EU, European Union External Action, 2018).
- In October 2021, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a Record of Discussions on the Conservation and Restoration of the Coastal Ecosystem and Sustainable Economic and Social Development. The project supports the establishment of ecosystem monitoring by Government agencies and local NGOs (JICA, 2021).

### **India's Assistance to Mauritius in the Field of Renewable Energy**

In 2017, a Line of Credit was signed between the State Bank of Mauritius and the EXIM Bank, for a number of projects, including the construction of an eight-megawatt photovoltaic farm in Henrietta, Mauritius (Prasad, 2021).

### **Triangular Cooperation, South-South Cooperation and India**

India has set up a Development Partnership Fund under the aegis of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation in 2017. The fund is supported and led by India and is managed by the UNOSSC and implemented with the UN

agencies (Cooperation, 2023).

The Fund lays special emphasis on assistance to SIDS and its first programme was on early warning systems for SIDS.

In 2017, a global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was announced at the UN Climate Action Summit by the Indian government, which would allow the states, with the assistance of UN agencies, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms to work together and strengthen resilience of infrastructure (Kumar, 2021).

The Indian Government has continued support for mechanisms to combat the effects of climate change, with a particular focus on SIDS. Hence in 2021, at the COP26, India together with the UK, Australia, Jamaica, Mauritius and Fiji launched the “Infrastructure for Resilient Island States” (IRIS). The aim of the mechanism is to allow SIDS to mobilize technology, finance and information for building resilient, sustainable and inclusive infrastructure that will mitigate the impact of climate change (IRIS.CDRI.World, 2023).

The IRIS is the first initiative to be funded by the Infrastructure Resilience Accelerated Fund, which was launched at the COP27. The Government of India launched the fund in partnership with other stakeholders. The multi-donor trust fund will be supported by the UNDP and the UNDRR. About USD50 million have already been announced for the Fund (Web, 2022). Currently the IRIS has announced its first “Call for Proposals”.

Furthermore, the Indian Space Research Organisation would build assist SIDS in getting timely information about, inter-alia, cyclones. (Kumar, Climate Vulnerabilities of SIDS and Potential for South South Cooperation, 2021)

The Indian Government also joined hands with France to set up the International Solar Alliance. The aim of the alliance is to assist member states in their energy transition and ensure energy security (Kumar, Climate Vulnerabilities of SIDS and Potential for South South Cooperation, 2021).

On a bilateral level, India through the

Barefoot College has been training rural women in SIDS to set up solar panels (International, 2023).

## **SIDS and Their Representation in the International System**

Given their small sizes and relative lack of visibility in the international system, a group of thirty-nine low lying coastal states and small island states came together some 30 years ago and created the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), a platform to give voice to their concerns and influence the debate on climate change. Eleven of those member states are least developed countries. By combining their voices, they have brought to light the dire plight of 28 per cent of the developing countries and 20 per cent of the United Nations members, and showcase what awaits the rest of the world, if nothing gets done (AOSIS, 2023).

SIDS representation on key platforms has been noted. Thus currently, forty-one SIDS are Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), twenty-nine have signed the Kyoto Protocol under which they have undertaken to reduce greenhouse emissions and greenhouse gases as per agreed individual targets.

## **SIDS-SIDS Cooperation**

One aspect of South-South cooperation that is noteworthy is how developing countries have come together to push for their agenda and interests in the international system. In regard to climate change, Professor Eberherd Weber observed that its exponentially widens the gap between classes and developed and developing countries. However, he notes that one way that developing countries have come together to support one another in the international system is by organizing themselves in like-minded coalitions that allows them to amplify their voices and concerns in various fora, such as the United Nations and the UNFCCC. Thus, SIDS have been instrumental in pushing for

the Paris Agreement and have been lobbying for member states to commit to keeping global temperature below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. Furthermore, at the COP26, the AOSIS lobbied for the member states to commit to funding climate change finance for up to USD 100 million per year, starting in 2020. Developing countries have also been asking for compensation for losses and damages caused by the rising sea level, as a separate funding source (Weber, October -December 2021).

That SIDS as a whole contribute to less than 0.76 percent of global emissions is a known fact, yet they are the ones that are most under threat of climate change. It is also true that they are the least able to shield themselves from these impacts.

On a regional level, many SIDS have been collaborating with one another to share information and best practices. For instance, the Caribbean Planning for Adaption to Climate Change (CPACC) in the nineties gave way to the Climate Change Center of the CARICOM. As for the PSIDS, they have set up a South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme to promote cooperation on matters pertaining to sustainable development (Kumar, Climate Vulnerabilities of SIDS and Potential for South South Cooperation, 2021).

## **Conclusion**

It is clear that fighting climate change remains an uphill battle and SIDS will continue to bear the brunt of its consequences for a long time to come. In this context, the need for advocacy and holistic and global action remains crucial. It is only through cooperation with all partners, including through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, concrete action to limit greenhouse gas emissions, increase the use of renewable energy and sustainable modes of development that we may stop global warming and leave behind a healthier planet for future generations.

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# Why the Global South is not Yet Developed?

Deng Mayom Buol\*

**Abstract:** Attempting a response to the question ‘why the global south has not yet developed’, is a complex exercise in the sense that the term development itself not a self-descriptive term. It encompasses socio-political and economic advancements. In this case, the issue of why the global South is continuing to backslide on these parameters can be examined by asking what do we really mean by lack of development. Does it mean that most governments in the global South are still corrupt and unreceptive to democratic accountability, or does it mean, most states are still struggling with food insecurity while they produce most of the raw materials for the industrial world? Does it mean, many countries in the Global South are still resorting to the use of force to settle political disputes instead of adhering to procedural rules of governance based on the constitutional rule of law? The response to these questions also depends on what we describe as the ‘Global South’ and the conditions of its environment.

**Keywords:** Global South, International Cooperation

## Introduction

First, the notion of the Global South implies the developing countries which are primarily located in the southern hemisphere notably Africa, Central America, Latin America, most parts of Asia and the Middle East (Acharya, and Buzan, 2009, Ayooob, 1995). Based on these geographical setting, the term Global South means less developed, non-Western countries, most of whom are also described as the Third World. In this part of the world,

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most countries continue to face an uphill battle to dig their way out from a colonial legacy as well as internal socio-political, cultural and economic upheavals, most of which have contributed to wars that hindered their robust economic growth, and instead confined them to socio-economic impoverishment. The impact of several issues, ranging from corruption, bad policies, utilization of foreign aid, and lack of infrastructure, and, most importantly, political conflicts. The extant system of global politics and trade does not favour the Global South (Barkawi, and Laffey, 2006). These internal issues as well as global political and trade issues determine their destiny. In this sense, development means a state of growth in both socio-political and economic sense that addresses these challenges.

Hence, in the above sense, development is 'Good change' according to Chambers (1997), but this is not as straightforward as it sounds. For example, who, in the authority, decides the positive side of changes. Thomas (2000) explains three ways the word 'development' is used. He sensed development to be linked with history, with 'Good Change' usually related to industrialisation and modernization on the basis of free markets. In the Global South, the political structures, meaning the state's control of the destiny of its people is shaped by the political history of colonialism and post-colonial political and economic struggles. Development, which is primarily the purview of the state, faces obstacles due to these conflicts. In an attempt to address these challenges, a South-South cooperation paradigm has gradually emerged to strengthen the mutual relationship between developing countries, anchored by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, ownership, equality, and interdependence policies.

## Postcolonial Challenges

These countries can forge a cordial relationship in an attempt to reduce the chronic problems

which have affected the global south for centuries: poverty, conflicts, both political and ethnic confrontation. This geopolitical narrative was labelled as demagoguery by the leaders of the global North, but was later challenged by the rise of the 'Asian Tigers', newly industrialising countries, led by Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Thailand. This group of countries exerted both political and economic advancement. Even though the majority of these tigers are not necessarily pure political democracy, they have development-oriented state control practices, such as in Singapore, while countries like South Korea adopted a capitalist economic reality of democratic accountability of businesses and consumers. This mixture of development-oriented authoritarian and democratic polity in Asia is what is missing in other parts of the global South, mostly in Africa and Latin America where it is either war-driven by a self-serving style of dictatorship or a pure kleptocracy. In this case, the answer as to why the global south is struggling lies in its socio-political setting and functions.

There is evidence that the global South is regarded as marginal in the global playing field based on the attitude of the global North, in addition to domestic problems which characterised the global South, such as intrastate armed conflicts and dictatorships where the leaders stay in power for life while sustaining indulging in corrupt practises (Brandt, 1983). However, in the aftermath of the Cold War, it is no longer the geographical categorization of the world that matters for the sluggishness of the global South. The historical impact of colonialism and one-sided global trade flows have a great influence on socio-economic and political stability in the global South. However, Latin America and Africa, in particular, have gone through different crises caused either by total ignorance or the threat of Malthusian calamity and uncertainty of the international order as a result of imperialism and economic dependence on the former colonial masters. It is



the combination of these myriad reasons which constitutes a formidable problem (Coussy and Vallin, 1996).

One of the consequences of this factor is the erosion of the traditional political authorities that have thrived and existed before colonization and thereafter the same way when egalitarian economics was replaced with slave trade that legitimized commerce in the nineteenth century that leads to a crisis of adaptation, not just for the system of economic production but the states themselves. The phrase global south cannot be discussed without revisiting the past histories and ravages brought about by imperialism where the enlightened European nations scrambled and apportioned Americas, Asia and Africa into their spheres of influence depending on the colonial masters' economic interest. This period was marked by the adventure of explorers, missionaries, anthropologists, and traders in the name of Vasco de Gama and Columbus, who is referred to as the founder of the Americas. After that, the colonial occupation, forced labour and slave trade and criminalization of the natives combined to disadvantage the global South socio-politically and economically. Thus, the history of colonialism had shaped the Global South, much of that is negative, impact including the insertion of pro-colonial governments which continued to uphold corrupt practices of the looting of resources.

## Repressive Governments

Based on the above background, this paper argues that much of African and Latin American problems rest on what went wrong in developing approaches to development after they gained independence. Underdevelopment in Africa and Latin America was brought about by the colonial impact of syphoning natural resources to feed the imperial countries. Underdevelopment in its broadest term is when resources are not fully utilised to satisfy the human wants, and the manifestation of this vice is characterised by unemployment, poverty and violence. However,

in the contemporary world, it goes beyond this pedestrian norm. The comparison of different economies over a period and across space both locally, regionally and internationally, and whether the utilisation of those resources has changed the lives of the targeted group socially and economically through investment and innovation is the key indicator of development. Strictly the European perspective of Africa was based on the exploitation of valuable resources to feed their local industries and leave little to the natives to scavenge on.

As a result, the disparity gap has been widening since capitalism was adopted by the colonial masters depriving the locals of the benefits of their natural resources, and to make it worse, the liberators later inherited this very same model in looting whatever residual resources were left behind. Inequality and elitism emerged after independence, notably in the sector of socioeconomic and political structures where the bourgeoisie inherited a system that was designed by the colonialists in achieving their selfish gains. In this case, prominent African scholars like Mahmood Mamdani argue that the starting point for almost every conflict in Africa lies in the generational inheritance of colonial legacy and despotic governments ruling in the disguises of new colonial masters. First, he argues, precolonial Africa did not have a single customary authority, but several. Each of these defined custom in its domain. Second, this single traditional authority was reorganised as despotic, in the post-colonial era, hence, they stand in contradiction of the mode of organisation of civil authority that can bring about development. He deplored the state system as 'functionalists with specificity' and the principle of a balance of power.

Moreover, thirdly, he posits how a customary authority was an authority that had the customary right to use force to coerce subjects to follow custom' (Mamdani, 2010). Mamdani attacks the conventional thought, arguing that the real crime of colonialism was to expropriate the indigenous. Hence, colonialism perpetrated

an even greater crime of politicising indigeneity; settlers versus the native. Jean-François Bayart, on the other hand, made a classic portrayal of the nature of African states as buried deep in the masses in the past and the savagery of the present status of political practices. Bayart's emphasis lies on the persistence of deeply entrenched patterns of statecraft, and, insofar as he recalled, the impact of despotic formal institutions on political and economic outcomes. Bayart emphasises the ordinariness of African governments, referring to them as 'ordinary and particularly ordinary in their politics'. He uses the context of 'The Politics of the Belly' to emphasise the role played by the state in assisting political deficiencies and corrupt practices. Bayart refers to the criminalisation of the state as state-supported criminal activities where leaders see the forms of political normality in violent competition for power, and the state clung to power through militancy as well as other forms of institutionalised fraud and the plundering of public resources (Bayart, 1993, p. 1). Bayart's main argument is that aspects of statehood are corrupt and all other elements therein are seen as signs of disruption and failure. In this context, African leaders seized power after colonialism to benefit the few in the realm of power. This scenario was the state of affairs in Mobutu's Zaire, Moi in Kenya and the political dynasty in Cuba. Even though most countries have dug themselves out of these shambles, of which Kenya is a good example, many countries remained fragile economically and continued relying on a rigid, authoritarian political system which rendered the public destitute and asserted the quasi-feudal land tenure and labour exploitation such as in Mexico and Peru. Various attempts to correct historical and current deficiencies has proven to be futile amidst political instability giving rise to revolutions often as a violent contest over access and distribution of resources and power. Other countries polarised along ethnic lines as we see in Rwanda (Diamond, 1999).

What becomes the key impediment to development in the global South is what theories regard as political militarization. The irony of this term is predicated on the state or leader's instincts to pursue consensual stay in power, often by complicated operationalisation of the state apparatus, such as the army, to suppress critics and opposition, or to muddy the processes of political change. There are a growing number of states in the global South, especially in Africa, where leaders overstay their terms, hence making totalitarianism a frequent phenomenon or sub-culture of Africa. Military opulence is oppressively confronting the voices yearning for democratic change. This phenomenon exists in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America where the state machinery is controlled by despots and used at will by the régime to harass critics, whereas the global North dwelled on ideas rooted in the socio-political longevity of the franchise of power. The strength of the military in the North is not used for ascending to power or to balance the power equations internally. The successes of the north lie in Locke's notion of the government as the contract between the Leviathan and sovereigns in a manner that the subject gives consent to the government to govern to make inclusive policies and pursue the objective to further societal and individual socio-political and economic wellbeing.

### **Can South-South Cooperation bring Solution?**

Empirically, centralization is one of the most evident intellectual deficiencies in the African continent because of the myth that has revolved around the belief that socio-economic and administrative benefits of a centralized system of governance outweighs the merits of decentralisation. In that context, the central authority would help in fostering unity, economic growth, and equitable distribution of resources and prevent the disintegration of the newly created nations. This, however,

is not the case because leaders continued to grab resources and curtail political franchise. It has been debated whether devolution would be an alternative to enhance emancipation and improve service delivery to the larger population at the grassroots. This idea is resisted as seen in Kenya in the fallout between Oginga Odinga and Jomo Kenyatta when the former called for the devolution of powers (Oginga, 1975). In recent years, the call for devolution has gained momentum in Africa. The 2010 Kenyan constitution, which ushers the devolution as the practice of governance, is a testimony.

However, it was not a walk in the park as clientelistic individuals gave dissenting voices on why people should not abolish the old structural apparatus for fear of a treacherous road ahead, but their clandestine machinations never yield fruits. Corruption is rampant in the continent; according to transparency international, it is estimated that about 75 million people in sub-Saharan Africa have paid a bribe to get things done. For example, in Liberia it has become a daily routine that as a patient wishing to see a doctor you must pay a bribe. In the past few years, corruption is deeply rooted in the governance system where civil servants use their position to extort or embezzle public funds for their personal use. In Kenya corruption has become a great concern to every citizen because it derailed development, a recent government report implicated senior officials in a series of scandals; devolution ministry mischievous contracts being awarded to cronies and relatives and nothing has been done either to bring culprits to book apart from babysitting in the kangaroo court or oversight committees that seem to be toothless. Thus, 'corruption creates poverty and exclusion, while corrupt individuals with political power enjoy a lavish life' (Ugaz).

This act deprives millions of citizens of their basic needs, as the governments failed to deliver the services such as education and access to sanitation. This precedent is recurrent

because common man does not have the power to question the cartels. The notion of free trade concessions is viewed as a developmental tool among the countries to eliminate poverty and improve the living standard in the third world with a hope of bridging the massive gap through trade liberalisation. Unfortunately, that seems not to be the case because the global north dominates trade from all aspects starting with technology, and production capacity while Global South continues to struggle with its numerous challenges ranging from bad governance to the lack of socioeconomic and political infrastructures. The contest starts and stagnant economies fuel the rate of underdevelopment, poverty and diseases. These issues usher the causes of violence and impoverishment that affect the social and political setting of the global South compared to their privileged counterparts in the north.

## Conclusion

One of the key importance for shifting from tyrannical government to responsive governance 'is concern with creating the conditions of ordered rule and collective decision' (Stoker 1998, p.18). In this case, the hypothesis of good governance is empirically refers to as a decision making that addresses shared problems. Hence, governance become a process for 'determining what should occur in the government or how public policy and government should to be carried out' (Kjaer 2004, p.11). Governance emphasise effective and efficient structures of governing to provide an optimal support to citizens in leading a safe and productive life in line with their desires (Heath et al.2004; Carter et al.2002). What this means though is not an ultimate rejection of the previous political processes, but instead, it is the move where state authorities cooperate with individuals, such as scholars and independent policy-makers as well as private corporate actors in public policy-making through a fair judgment and guided by the constitutionalism and constitutionality

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# South-South Cooperation for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

Muhabbat Malikova\*

**Abstract:** This article examines the impact of South-South cooperation in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Tajikistan, taking into account various South-South cooperation issues in the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030, which is the main document including the implementation of development goals.

**Keywords:** South-South cooperation, Tajikistan, SDGs

## Introduction

As we know, in 1978, the United Nations established the Unit for South-South cooperation to promote South-South trade and collaboration within its agencies and guided by the principles of respect for national ownership independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit. South-South cooperation is a tool used by governments, international organizations, academics, social partners, civil society and the private sector to collaborate and share knowledge, skills, expertise, and good practices in decent work and lifelong learning approaches that are both effective and sustainable. South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their strengthening of national

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and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals outlined in the the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Good Practices in South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development**

The first few years of the Decade of Action for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 have been fraught with unprecedented obstacles, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate issues, and the conflict in Ukraine. In these crucial times, South-South cooperation can be fundamental for moving forward in the recovery from losses and furthering the global commitment of leaving no one behind. At the core of South-South cooperation is the understanding that exchanging knowledge, skills, experiences and lessons learned between and among countries of the global South serves as a powerful catalyst for development.

Fulfilling its mandate and the commitments expressed in the BAPA+40 Outcome Document, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation works to record, systematize and facilitate access to development knowledge from and for the global South.

While COVID-19 and other recent crises have challenged our ambitious global agenda, it has also shown the importance of global solidarity. South-South and triangular cooperation can help us stay on the right track towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. We believe that by disseminating this actionable knowledge, the development stakeholders will likely to connect with the providers of the Good Practices to support their own efforts in adopting and scaling up innovative solutions and making strong collaborations that will advance the achievement of the SDGs. Through engagement in the discourse on South-South trade and investment opportunities, it becomes less challenging to promote regional policies and

economic frameworks that facilitate regional trade and investment for the achievement of the SDGs.

## **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Countries have committed to prioritise progress for those who are at the farthest end. The SDGs are designed to end poverty, hunger, AIDS, and discrimination against women and girls.

Realizing the SDGs will need the collective efforts of the whole global community, investing their time, energy, expertise, and resources. It should be noted that Tajikistan, taking into account national obligation, has developed its own National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030.

## **National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030**

National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030 (hereinafter - NDS-2030) was developed taking into consideration the Republic of Tajikistan's international commitments on the Agenda of the XXI century and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), approved at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2015. The main focus of SDGs is the concept of Sustainable human development. Therefore, the complete eradication of poverty, replacement of unsustainable development practices and promotion of sustainable consumption and

production patterns, and protection and sustainable use of natural resources to ensure further economic and social development are primary objectives and crucial conditions for sustainable human development. National consultations on SDGs Agenda revealed the main priorities of the country's development after 2015 and its economic ideology, basic principles, and a set of measures, specified in NDS-2030 that are intended to implement these priorities. These priorities include education, health care, employment, inequality, combating corruption, food security and nutrition, good governance, social welfare, prevention of potential conflicts energy security, environmental protection and management of demographic processes. Democratic governance in the country, the rule of law, the protection of rights and the expansion of human capacity will be the important priority issues. Strengthening social protection, ensuring access to safe food, improving water supply, sanitation and nutrition patterns, reducing all forms of social and gender inequality, as well as environmental sustainability will be considered as important areas in the performance of legislative, executive and judicial institutions. Ensuring country's sustainable development in the long term is impossible without the use of innovations in all social and economic aspects. The strategic benchmarks of this development must take into account the growth of investment and economic activity in the Central Asian region, the role of Central Asian countries in the region and the intensification of cooperation at large between countries in the framework of South-South cooperation. In the next decade, there comes a new technological, economic and political cycle of the world economy, which will slow the pace of global economic growth until the middle of the XXI century. We must be ready to adequately embrace this process and even today outline the areas of the future growth model and determine its qualitative features. The main factor of this growth model can only be the human capital and its main core components - education and

science - as the most important conditions for enhancing national security and encouraging national economic competitiveness.

The rich historical and cultural heritage of Tajikistan, its distinct nature with unique lakes, rare animals and plants, as well as the high mountains are important conditions for the development of tourism and increasing contribution of this sector to the country's GDP. Further development of hydropower capacity and implementation of regional transport and communication projects will allow Tajikistan to become a regional leader in the production and transiting of cheap and environmentally clean energy, and to expand the transit capabilities of the country, thereby making a worthy contribution to the sustainable development of developing Southern and Southern-Eastern countries of the Asian region, including Central Asian countries, as well as to intensify cooperation within the South-South corridor.

### **SDG implementation in Tajikistan**

We consider improving the quality, impact and effectiveness of all types of development cooperation is crucial to ensuring that are Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are achieved. Since the beginning of 2020, the whole world has been hit by a series of crises. The pandemic has negatively affected the world economy, public budget, foreign trade, industrial and service provider enterprises activity. An unstable global political state has created a lot of uncertainty and triggered a cost-of-living crisis in many countries through abnormal hikes in food and fuel prices. The current global developments should provide the backdrop for analyzing trends at the national level. We have worked in a tense global economic and financial situation in the last few years. Despite the challenges we faced, we have taken a number of immediate actions in close collaboration with the donor community and civil society to prevent the consequences of the crisis and protect our economic security.

Despite the negative impact of these factors,

the immediate actions undertaken by the Government of the country made it possible to ensure the stability of macroeconomic indicators and maintain positive trends in improving the living standards of the population.

The economy of Tajikistan grew by 4.5 per cent in 2020 and by 9.2 per cent in 2021. The GDP reached 82.5 billion Tajikistan Somoni (TJS) in 2020 and 98.2 billion TJS in 2021. During this period industrial production increased by 9.7 per cent in 2020 and by 22 per cent in 2021, agriculture by 6.6 per cent in 2020 and by 8.8 per cent in 2021, foreign trade by 0.8 per cent in 2020 and 9.5 per cent in 2021, including export by 19.8 per cent in 2020 and 52.6 per cent in 2021 that created a foundation for the country's economic growth. In particular, food production increased by 28.3 percent in 2020 and by 47 per cent in 2021, which facilitated a greater supply of local products in the domestic market.

Also, the country is grateful for the financial support provided by the international financial institution as grants and preferential loans in the amount of more than 384.3 billion USD directed towards the prevention and reduction of the economic and social impact of the COVID -19 pandemic on the country.

The government of the Republic of Tajikistan is committed to continue collaboration towards building back better from the crisis paying much attention to ensuring Sustainable Development Agenda, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2018, the Republic of Tajikistan, one of the pilot nations, presented the UN Headquarters with its National Progress Report on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to the Rapid Integrated Assessment, 78 per cent of SDGs targets are reflected in National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030.

## Green Energy to Tajikistan

Also, the Republic of Tajikistan has ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and set ambitious clean energy goals, including coal phase-out policies and renewable energy and

energy efficiency targets. Tajikistan is already a rather green country since 99.6 per cent of the power it produces is generated by hydro, renewable and green energy. Given its 16 trillion KWT of solar energy capacity as well as wind energy the Government of the Tajikistan will pay particular attention to sustainable economic development through the increased deployment of modern renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies to improve social and environmental sustainability.

## SDG 5 – Gender Equality

To ensure SDG 5 - Gender Equality, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has provided favorable conditions for the effective engagement of women and girls in social and economic spheres, including science and education, civil service, agriculture, industry, transport, energy, communications, construction and architecture, banking, law enforcement agencies and even Armed Forces of the country.

Currently, women and girls make up almost 68 per cent of the healthcare staff, more than 73 per cent of education workers, 27 per cent of scientists and more than 23 per cent of agriculture staff.

In this regard, and with a view to achieving the objectives of the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for the period up to 2030, which envisages increasing the number of Civil Servants by up to 30 per cent and the number of female leaders by up to 25 per cent. State programme on training selection and appointment of talented woman leaders for 2023-2030 has been adopted.

## Second Voluntary National Performance Review (VNR)

**A focused and long-lasting multi-stakeholder engagement forum has been formed to address the issue of SDG finance in order to guarantee continued SDG implementation.**

1. The strategy documents enable stakeholders to discuss the socio-



economic implications of COVID - 19 in the context of achieving the national SDG targets and agree on a meaningful policy response.

The Republic of Tajikistan is undertaking the second voluntary national review (VNR) which will be officially submitted in June 2023 at the high - level political forum (HLPF) that meets under the auspices of ECOSOC. The VNR seeks to strengthen policies and institutions to mobilize multi- stakeholder partnerships for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as facilitate the sharing, of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned in this process.

As mentioned, the COVID- 19 crisis was a major reversal for countries to realize Agenda 2030. The current conflict in Ukraine has further stalled recovery and is already having a spillover effect on global food and energy supplies, which have resulted in increased prices. Global financial markets have seen an increase in volatility. Access to financial capital is becoming even harder for developing countries as they continue to struggle with a narrow fiscal space amidst rising debts. There are also indications that official development assistance (ODA) may fall. In the current environment, national development will require governments to tap into different and innovative types of financing both domestic and international.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

The government of Tajikistan recognises the value of South-South cooperation, which it details in its national plan. This will facilitate the cooperation in all perspectives; it could be trade, development assistance, political support, technological transfer, and cultural exchange. Tajikistan believes in the promotion of South-

South cooperation. In this regard, we would like to suggest relevant proposals on strengthening the joint efforts to overcome mentioned crises to SDGs.

- Ensuring the simplification of trade procedures among the countries worldwide;
- Increasing green investment contributes in improvement of social and environmental sustainability, provide sustainable alternative livelihoods for people;
- Creating conditions for free competition in the domestic labour market;
- Providing incentives for businesses to create jobs and productive employment of labour resources;
- Ensuring the adequacy of vocational education to the needs of the labour market and the economy;
- Provide economic and social support for self - employed; and
- Diversify and improve the quality of labour migration processes

We must participate in enhancing global cooperation to recover our national economies from global crisis consequences and to achieve SDGs.

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# Sustainability initiative of South–South Cooperation and East Africa Countries

Ali Salum Haji\*

**Abstract:** This paper discusses the impact of South-South Cooperation in African Countries in the matter of development in sectors of education, digital economy and opportunity for health cooperation. As apart from examples of the positive effects of South-South and East-South collaboration on several aspects of African development, the studies illustrate the achievements of some East African nations. As we know that South-South Cooperation is a broad framework for collaboration and exchange among countries of the South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains.

**Keywords:** South-South Cooperation, East Africa, development assistance

## Introduction

The value of South-South Cooperation is that it encourages nations to find their own solutions to development issues rather than waiting for outside help. South-South cooperation has promoted a large number of knowledge and expertise exchanges through programmes, projects and initiatives that have helped solve specific problems in the countries of the Global South.

## South-South Cooperation in Education

The global development landscape has fundamentally changed allowing for new forms of partnership and cooperation to

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flourish. Traditionally aid flowed from the developed North to the developing South. Now developing countries are building economic and other cooperation relationships between each other at an unprecedented rate. South-South Cooperation represents the exchange of knowledge and resources between governments, organisations and individuals in developing countries or those from what is known as the Global South. This may be based on individual or shared development objectives. North-South-South Cooperation or Triangular Cooperation describes two or more developing countries collaborating with a third developed country which contributes knowledge, technology and resources.

### **Digital Economy, South-South Cooperation and Sustainable Development**

It is important that developing nations, and particularly extremely underdeveloped countries, should not be ignored in programmes that prioritise technological collaboration. So, what is and what will be the impact of the digital economy on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? Economic development is a cornerstone of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It may well be deeply facilitated by the developing world's burgeoning technology sector, particularly by small- and medium- sized enterprises engaging in the platform economy and digital trade. The digitalization of services, including via smart contract and blockchain, a distributed ledger technology, equally offers an opportunity for underprivileged populations to access and participate in the global (digital) economy

### **Opportunity for Health Cooperation in South-South Cooperation**

South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As we move

towards a post-pandemic reality and recovery, South-South cooperation will contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty, instability and development inequalities while promoting national development strategies.

The urgent need for solutions to COVID-19 has opened a window of opportunity for a South-South cooperation initiative in health and related areas. Within a regional health initiative, collective research and development efforts in medicine should be the top priority in the coming years. Any medicines or medical discoveries which are important for the survival of people need to be shared widely and its access made available to all, especially to the most vulnerable countries and communities.

### **Case Study of Tanzania**

ILO supports South-South Cooperation to promote decent work in the cotton sector in Tanzania. The ILO, Brazil and Tanzania teamed up to share experiences and best practices to enhance the national capacity to better respond to challenges in the cotton sector. South-South Cooperation initiative strengthens cooperation



*Dar es Salaam (ILO NEWS) - The International Labor Organization (ILO), Brazil and Tanzania organized a South-South Cooperation workshop to develop a project workplan on Decent work in the cotton sector in Tanzania from 14-18 November in Dar es Salaam.*

among the countries and paves the way for articulating several successful Brazilian experiences of eradication of child labor, productive inclusion and promotion of youth employment in the cotton production sector.

Factors impeding the cotton sector from achieving its full potential include decent work deficits...cotton growing is labour intensive and many cotton growers employ children in their farms thus, contributing to the high child labour rate in Tanzania currently at 28.8 per cent with nearly 92 of per cent them working in the agriculture sector. In Tanzania, the agricultural sector employs over 66 per cent of the labour force but its contribution to GDP declined from 50 per cent in 1987 to 28 per cent in 2010. A need therefore to invest in the sector to stimulate the creation of decent and quality jobs.

China and Tanzania in the agriculture sector: Tanzania through the platform of the Centre. Today, the center plays an active role as a platform for Chinese agricultural enterprises to “go global”, attracting more Chinese enterprises to invest in Tanzanian agriculture. The company itself also established “China Agricultural Products Tanzania Exhibition Centre” to help Chinese enterprises build African markets and establish an integrated service platform for Tanzanian agricultural development.

### **South-South Cooperation project between Uganda and China**

A highly successful South-South Cooperation (SSC) project between China and Uganda, supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), moved towards its latest stage today as a Chinese expert team prepared to deploy to Uganda to provide technical support for the implementation of Phase III, which is now being launched.

This new three-year phase comes after an agreement signed in June of this year, under which Uganda agreed to provide nearly USD10 million for the project It is one of the most significant contributions of its kind by a Least

Developed Country beneficiary nation for a SSC project to be implemented under the FAO-China SSC Programme. The first two phases – focused on crop and animal production – yielded dramatic results, including a quadrupling of rice production per hectare in the project areas, as well as increased milk production. This marked a break with years of low productivity, affecting the food security and livelihoods of more than 70 percent of Ugandans who depend on subsistence agriculture.



*Developing aquaculture value chains is one of the main focus areas of Phase III of the project*

### **Cultural Cooperation between India and Kenya**

Cultural cooperation Agreement was signed in 1981. Since 2016, under the sponsorship of ICCR, Indian artists are participating as adjudicators for the Kenya Music Festival. Mission distributed grants-in-aid from the Ministry of Culture of India to Kenyan organizations promoting Indian culture. To showcase our rich cultural heritage, South Indian Cultural Festival was organized in May 2019. International Day of Yoga was celebrated across ten counties in collaboration with County Governments. There are about a thousand Kenyan students currently studying in fifty Institutions throughout India. In 2018-2019, over 400 Kenyan nationals availed of training and scholarship programmes in various



*In response to Kenya's request to develop Kenya's film industry, India offered to consider deputation of Indian faculty to the School of Film Making in Nairobi. (Source: PTI Photo)*

fields under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme; India-Africa Forum Summit and Aid to Africa Programme. An MoU on establishment of an ICCR Chair on Indian studies between ICCR and University of Nairobi was signed in March 2015. Dr Seepana Prakasam served as the first ICCR Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Nairobi from Sept 2016-July 2017. Late Kenyan Nobel Peace laureate and environmentalist Prof. Wangari Maathai had been conferred the 2005 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding as well as the 2006 Indira Gandhi Award for Peace, Disarmament and Development.

In addition that India offers development assistance to Kenya in the form of loans and credit. This includes a loan of Rs. 50 million to the Government of Kenya in 1982 and Lines of Credit by EXIM Bank to Industrial Development Bank Capital Ltd. An Agreement on extension of a Line of Credit of US\$ 61.6 million by EXIM Bank of India to Kenya for utilization in the power transmission sector was signed during the visit of PM Raila Odinga to India in November 2010. A loan agreement to extend lines of credit of US\$ 15 million (as the first tranche out of US\$ 30 million) to IDB Capital Limited for the development of SMEs was signed in July 2016.

## Conclusion

The question of what constitutes SSC is central to bilateral cooperation agreements. For instance, should direct commerce between Kenyan and Ugandan enterprises be considered as SSC, or bilateral trade..UN agencies or other donors filled the shortfall, undermining the SSC spirit. In the past, higher education in East Africa was based on a reciprocal system, shared across three countries. Makerere University College in Uganda offered courses in education, medicine and forestry. Nairobi Royal College in Kenya focused on engineering, architecture and sciences. Dar es Salaam College in Tanzania offered courses in law and social sciences. Students from across the region could apply to any college. Fees and allowances were the same. The paper also highlights the importance of India's development cooperation with Kenya and India's development cooperation is under the framework of development cooperation (grant, concessional finance, capacity building, trade and technology). The also argue that South-South cooperation should be increased in the education sector.

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# South-South Cooperation in Health

Mwanajuma Mwinyijuma Salum\*

**Abstract:** South-South Cooperation plays various significant roles in the health sector through member partnerships. The aim of this paper is to examine the advantages of South-South Cooperation (SSC) for participating nations in the health sector. Cooperation among countries and horizontal partnerships optimize existing health capacities and encourage the sharing of knowledge and know-how between partners. Such cooperation can strengthen and accelerate health development at all levels and across all regions. At the national level, cooperation among countries can create momentum for change and contribute to national health policy dialogue. These results can be multiplied through intercountry exchanges.

## Introduction

The term “SSC” provides very little context for understanding why and how it is distinct from other types of development assistance. While it may be true that peoples with common histories of oppression are better able to identify and address their own population’s health problems without having to enter into the unequal power relationships inherent to North-South cooperation, this contention should not be taken at face value. In SSC, there are also self-interested motivations at play, as shown in China’s and Brazil’s aspirations to gain more prominence in world politics and influence inside multilateral institutions. These countries’ goals, like their extractive interests in Africa, need to be scrutinized when assessing the nature of SSC health projects.

## Role of South-South Cooperation in Health

Overall, it is found that neither the passively descriptive SSC nor global health diplomacy’s use of soft power are able to fully explain the many forms of contact, particularly solidarity-

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focused non-hegemonic cooperation, among previously dominated nations. Yet proletarian internationalism does not offer an adequate theoretical frame because it supposes solidarity around revolutionary struggles, which is not necessarily the case, as with Cuban medical solidarity. But humanitarian internationalism evokes liberalism's presumption of shared values. In addition to in-kind health cooperation Brazil's SSC efforts have also been part of the Workers' Party's National Health Plan, involving training and promoting universal health systems. In that sense, Brazil serves as an ambivalent, even contradictory, development model, purveying equity-oriented values in its domestic social policies (reducing poverty, expanding educational and health care access, promoting small business; all unraveling in the context of the global financial and commodities crisis and the domestic political crisis), simultaneous to the aggressive pursuit of transnational corporate interests in commodities, agriculture, and foreign investment within a global capitalist system

### **SSC Health in Cuba**

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. Over four thousand medical experts and technicians have worked in 144 countries as a result of Cuba's health cooperation, which spans 55 years and the health sector. Currently, more than 4,000 people are working together in 77 nations, with 20,000 of them being physicians who provide treatments in 30 African nations, 22 Latin American and Caribbean nations, eight Asian nations, three Oceanian nations, and one European nation. As shown by the schools of medicine established in fourteen countries and the 18,529 foreign professionals who have graduated from these institutions, Cuba has also contributed to the creation of human resources involved in the health sector, including teaching and training of health employees. These days,

tens of thousands of students are being trained by thousands of academics who work in eight institutions. At the same time, thousands of Sunderland graduate students and thousands of postgraduate students from hundreds of countries across all continents are presently enrolled in the many Medical Sciences vocations on the island of Cuba.

### **Contribution of India in the Health Sector SSC**

South-Southcooperation (SSC) in health comes with a built-in element of diplomacy and raises questions about the agendas of participating countries. This relates to India's contributions to actions in healthcare sector and their implications for India's aid architecture in general. India's participation in the multilateral dialogue comes during a period of intensified effort in the health sector, both within and outside the country. This effort has focused on low-cost, often bilateral, projects in the areas of its growing domestic strength: health infrastructure, human resources, capacity building and enhancement, and education. Indian health professionals and researchers have shared expertise with other developing countries, and Indian entrepreneurs have shared products and other resources, thus promoting health research and capacity building alongside economic development.

### **Role of China in Health Sector SSC**

Rapid worldwide growth has resulted in new public health concerns, while a number of rich nations have either withdrawn from or reshaped their aid portfolios, making this an exciting moment for China to become actively involved in global health. There is no question that global health challenges need more funding and innovative approaches. The Chinese leadership is intent on greater cooperation in this area, and programmers such as the China-UK Global Health Support Programme (GHSP), show the significance attached by other countries, UN agencies and the like to work with China as an emerging actor in development. The medium- to long-term outcomes of such collaborations and



China's increasing engagement in development and health will be strongly influenced by the willingness and capacity of Chinese institutions to learn from these new experiences and adapt their policies and practices, as well as by the willingness and capacity of 'incumbent' agencies to adapt.

## South-South Cooperation in COVID-19 Era

The United Nations has welcomed an upswing in South-South Cooperation which opens a new window for cooperation and, has enabled many Least developed countries (LDCs) to obtain urgently needed medications, vaccines and medical supplies during the pandemic. Cooperation among countries of the South cannot substitute for the actions required by the wider international community but can bring a degree of relief and support with recovery. To combat the crisis, LDCs are leveraging their own SSC structures to coordinate policy responses to contain the spread of the virus, and to access vaccines, personal protective equipment PPE, and diagnostic kits. Meanwhile, the South-led development banks have provided liquidity support to LDCs enabling them to address the health crisis and its socioeconomic fallouts.

The contribution of south-south cooperation towards economic growth given the fallout from lockdowns in COVID-19 era is important. As the threat to lives from COVID-19 became more apparent, countries began locking down their economies and putting together emergency support packages. The lack of effective systems to coordinate individual nation operations means that the economic damage to the world economy this year will be disastrous, despite these being on a scale rarely seen outside of conflict.

## Challenge of Africa in the Health Sector and the South-South Cooperation Solution

Recent public health events in Africa such as the recurrent outbreaks of endemic and emerging

infectious diseases like Ebola, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Zika, Dengue and Rift Valley fever in areas that hitherto never experienced such crises have put to test the capacity and knowledge to respond in the face of increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases and weak health systems. As such a call for a paradigm shift in development cooperation cannot be more apt at this time. Furthermore, the domestication of the SDGs, with the renewed opportunity to address the health system and public health challenges further buttresses the need for more effective development cooperation among countries of the south. While North-South Cooperation (NSC) remains the flagship for health development aid in Africa, it is often fraught with inappropriate technology, lack of understanding of the developing countries' context, and lack of equality in the partnership thus calling for increasing horizontal partnerships among countries of the global south. The foregoing underscores the need for better collaboration, experience sharing and capacity building among African countries given the similarities in their health and development contexts. In this case, based on the World Health Organization (WHO) principle that cooperation among countries can be an effective tool to strengthen and accelerate health development, share knowledge and experiences to improve health while also making the most of existing resources and capacities available within countries and across regions.

## Challenges Faced by South-South Cooperation in Health Sector

Tufts University professor Frank O'Donnell, who specialises in South-South Cooperation, mainly in its BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) region commented that, South-South cooperation has long been a point of emphasis in Indian foreign policy, and it is needed now more than ever before. The Global South faces multiple crises, including the impacts of climate change, the challenges of accessing and delivering effective COVID-19 vaccines and related public health equipment,".

Traditionally, India had been an active player in the South-South Cooperation until the early 1990s. Since then, it has made a conscious effort to work with the US and the Western world. Consequently, China has filled the vacuum through its engagement with countries in the Asia Pacific, Africa and Latin American regions.

But of late, India has again rediscovered the importance of South-South Cooperation and has been participating in various projects. Examples include the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, managed by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, which is working rapidly to support projects that respond to COVID-19 across Global South countries. And India, Brazil and

## Conclusions

South-South cooperation has to be perceived as an essential aspect of the developing countries continuing efforts to overcome the challenge of the health sector and to develop and build those capacities, individual and collective. Implementing new models of development cooperation has been on the increase and the use of horizontal development cooperation mechanisms such as South-South Cooperation (SSC) enhance aid effectiveness in the health sector of developing countries.

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Part II  
COUNTRY  
PERSPECTIVES



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# Connect in South –South Cooperation, the case of India and Tajikistan Relations

Shodi Saidzoda\*

**Abstract:** Regional Cooperation plays an important role to deepen partnerships within any given region. India and Tajikistan have both been supporting and facilitating Asian regional integration. The collective power of the Asian Regional Economic Communities and the South-South Cooperation (SSC) efforts promoted by India and Tajikistan 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 SADS, COMESA and IORA and two emerging economies namely India and Tajikistan.

**Keywords:** India, South-South Cooperation, Grants

## Introduction

During President Rahmon's 2012 trip to India, India and Tajikistan raised their bilateral ties to the status of a "Strategic Partnership," which included collaboration in a variety of fields like politics, economics, education, health, human resource development, defense, counterterrorism, science and technology, culture, and tourism. Aside from deals with private firms, the two countries have inked agreements/MoUs on (1) textiles (2) culture (3) education (4) sports (5) health (6) labor and (7) agriculture. This study's goal is to describe the relationship between Tajikistan and India from various angles (Diplomatic, Trade, Cultural, Development Assistance, and many more).

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## Diplomatic relations

On August 28, 1992, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of India resumed diplomatic relations. The first Indian ambassador to Tajikistan was appointed in 1993. The Republic of India opened its Embassy in Dushanbe in 1994; The Republic of Tajikistan opened its Embassy in Delhi in 2003. India will complete 30 years of diplomatic relations with Tajikistan on August 28, 2023. With mutual efforts in the political, economic-commercial, investment, social and health, cultural, humanitarian, military, and security spheres, as well as other areas of mutual interest, bilateral cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of India is developing.

One of the top priorities of the 30 years of mutual relations is the expansion of economic and trade cooperation with India. State, official, and working visits by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan to the Republic of India have taken place in 1993, 1995, 2001, 2006, 2012, and 2016 respectively. The agreement that was made on December 12, 1995, in Delhi, between the governments of Tajikistan and India regarding the Jointing Intergovernmental Commission on Commercial, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation provided the legal and regulatory framework for the establishment of an important framework for the consideration of all issues related to commercial, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. To date, 11 meetings of this Commission have been held, with the most recent meeting taking place on February 24 and 25, 2022 in Delhi. The turnover rate between the two nations reached 122 million in 2021. It has reached \$607,000, an increase of 308, 8% when compared to the same indicator in 2020.

India is the primary source of Tajikistan's imports of textiles, coffee, tea, medicines, jewelry equipment, and meat products. More than 1083 names of Indian medicines and medical products are registered in the state register, and more than 80 Indian companies are operating in Tajikistan at the moment.

Trade Relations between India and Tajikistan  
The weakest link in the relationship between India and Tajikistan is trade and economy, which is impacted by a lack of reliable land connectivity. Due to US sanctions on Iran and fluctuating relations between Turkmenistan and Tajikistan, the trade route between Iran and Turkmenistan is occasionally affected. M/S Somon Air, a private Tajik airline, began operations in December 2019 restoring direct air connectivity between Delhi and Dushanbe after nearly a year. Somon Air has decided to run a second weekly flight between Dushanbe and Delhi beginning in February 2020. The majority of the pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, cane or beet sugar, tea, handicrafts, and machinery that India sends to Tajikistan are exported there. About 25 per cent of Tajikistan's pharmaceutical market is occupied by Indian products. However, not all medical supplies are brought directly from India; some are brought to Tajikistan through Russia.

## India's Development Cooperation with Tajikistan : Human Capacity Building

The Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Program (ITEC) has been beneficial to Tajikistan ever since the Indian embassy opened in Dushanbe in 1994. The number of ITEC slots available to Tajikistan was increased from 150 to 200 in response to President Shri Ramnath Kovind's state visit to the country in October 2018. 25 Tajik citizens receive scholarships from the Indian Council of Cultural Research (ICCR) each year. Tajik candidates have used about 1425 ITEC slots and 360 ICCR scholarships thus far. The Eurasia Division provided funding for 60 additional slots during the fiscal year 2017-2018 for specialized remote sensing training for Tajik experts. Ten Tajiks signed up to study Hindi at Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, during the 2019-20. In 2019, the Foreign Service Institute in Delhi provided training to eight Tajik diplomats as part of the India-Central Asia

Dialogue Process. One Tajik diplomat received training through the PCFD program of the Foreign Service Institute in both 2018 and 2019.

## India's Development Partnership with Tajikistan

India has been Tajikistan's development cooperation partner ever since the country gained independence in 1991. The same is described in detail below. Assistance with Developmental Projects: (i) In 1995, India provided Ajanta Pharma with a \$5 million credit line for the construction of a pharmaceutical plant. During Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit in November 2003, the Indian government converted the principal amount and the USD 3.37 million in accrued interest into a grant. ii) In January 2005, M/s. HMT opened a fruit processing plant in Dushanbe with a grant of USD 0.6 million. iii) In 2006, an Information and Technology Centre (Bedil Centre) was established with a grant of \$0.6 million.

The project trained nearly all first-generation IT specialists in Tajikistan's government sector over a six-year hardware cycle. iv) On June 2, 2011, India inaugurated a Modern Engineering Workshop with a grant of approximately \$0.7 million. The project is proceeding smoothly. v) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) undertook the rehabilitation and modernization of the 1936 Varzob-1 Hydro Power Station in India. The installed capacity increased from 2x3.67 MW to 2x4.75 MW following the renovation. On December 28, 2012, the renovated Power Station was opened, and it is currently operating successfully. vi) In August 2016, a project to install computer labs in 37 Tajikistani schools, which was announced during Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit in July 2015, was completed and delivered for USD 6,02,701/-. vi) India has started the construction of phase I of an eight-lane highway project from Chortut village to the Ayni roundabout in Dushanbe at a cost of approximately USD 17.54 million as a result of

the USD 20 million grant that was announced during the Indian President's State Visit to Tajikistan in October 2018. vii) India provided Tajikistan with USD 2 million in March 2021 to assist in the organization of the *Shanghai Cooperation Organisation* SCO Head of State Summit in Dushanbe in September 2021, as announced during the official visit of the External Affairs Minister (EAM).

## Cultural & People-to-People Relation

Strong linguistic, cultural, and historical ties unite Tajikistan and India. Indian culture is very popular, and local television shows and movies that have been dubbed into Russian are frequently shown. To additionally develop and broaden these social linkages, Master Vivekananda Social Center in Dushanbe offers courses in Kathak and Tabla through educators conveyed by ICCR from India. Hindi language classes are also available at the center.

Cultural events that were supported by the ICCR were held in Dushanbe and other cities in 2016 and 2017. In 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020, a 20-member art and cultural troupe from Tajikistan participated in the Surajkund International Crafts Mela. A Tajik national traveled to India in 2019 as part of a program sponsored by the MEA to observe and participate in KumbhMela's cultural practices. In April 2019, Tajik journalists went to India as part of the India-Central Asia Dialogue process.

The Embassy of India has opened a few India Study Corners in prominent universities/institutions in Dushanbe, Khorog, Konibodom, and Panjikent with the assistance of funds provided by the Indian Ministry of Culture to friendship societies in Tajikistan. This was done in response to the growing demand in Tajikistan for studying Indian languages and yoga.

The Tajik State University has a Hindi-Urdu Chair, and ICCR has hired a professor at the university since January 2019.

In Tajikistan, yoga is extremely popular with the local population. Yoga classes with local

instructors are held regularly at the Indian Cultural Center. In addition to the cultural center, numerous private individuals and yoga centers in various Tajikistani towns observe the International Day of Yoga annually. In the “My Life My Yoga” video blogging competition in 2020, yoga enthusiasts from Tajikistan participated in two categories.

Tajikistan’s visa requirements are flexible in India. Within one or two days, visas are issued. The vast majority of Tajiks travel with e-visas for reasons related to tourism or medical care. Indian nationals can now apply for visas online in Tajikistan.

## Conclusion

Tajikistan and India have long had friendly and cordial relations. Bilateral connections have been strengthened as a result of high-level visits back and forth between the two nations. The Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation

Program (ITEC) has been beneficial to Tajikistan ever since the Indian embassy opened in Dushanbe in 1994. The number of ITEC slots available to Tajikistan was increased from 150 to 200. Strong linguistic, cultural, and historical ties unite Tajikistan and India. Indian culture is very popular, and local television shows and movies that have been dubbed into Russian are frequently shown. Tajikistan’s visa requirements are flexible in India. Within one or two days, visas are issued. The vast majority of Tajiks travel with e-visas for reasons related to tourism or medical care.

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# Morocco's Approach to South-South Cooperation: an Overview of Moroccan Experience in the African Continent

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**Abstract:** South-South cooperation is a strategic pillar of the Kingdom of Morocco's Foreign Policy. In fact, Morocco has included South-South cooperation in the preamble of its constitution, and Africa constitutes the heart of the Moroccan foreign policy. Under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Morocco is determined to further strengthen South-South cooperation through the establishment of strategic partnerships based on common values of freedom, democracy, solidarity, and mutual respect. It is also dedicated to the objectives of sustainable development and prosperity. The following paper aims to introduce the reader to Morocco's South-South cooperation policy by presenting some examples of the Kingdom's actions in the African continent.

**Key words:** Africa, South-SouthCooperation, AMCI, Morocco.

## Africa in South-South cooperation: A Strategic Pillar of Morocco's Foreign Policy

The growth rate of the African continent attracts the attention of the world. As a southern country, Morocco has always expressed its desire to have close relations under a win-win policy with the countries of its continent of origin (BAKKACHA & TOUHAMI, 2019).

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Deeply rooted in Africa, Morocco has always had close and deep ties with the countries of the South, especially those of sub-Saharan Africa. For centuries, Morocco has established cooperation relations with the countries of the African continent (UNDP, 2013).

Since its independence, Morocco gave great importance to the establishment of broad bilateral relations based on solidarity, mutual respect, preservation and promotion of common interests and ideals, while participating effectively and actively in efforts to resolve political, socio-economic and development issues at the regional, continental and international levels.

Strengthened by its secular, traditional, socio-cultural, spiritual and economic ties, particularly with a large number of African countries, Morocco has placed development issues at the heart of its foreign policy and is constantly working to create appropriate conditions to further strengthen its privileged relations. In order to structure the implementation of cooperation actions, Morocco and its partner countries from the African continent started establishing joint commissions to organise and manage bilateral cooperation in all the fields covered by the agreements, conventions and protocols signed between them in the 1970s. These commissions created a favourable climate for periodic bilateral consultations, the increase of trade and investment exchanges, the strengthening of cooperation and the exchange of experiences in the technical, cultural, social and human fields and dozens of new cooperation agreements have been signed and implemented through this mechanism in next decades.

Since his enthronement in 1999, His Majesty King Mohammed VI, who has pleaded for an active solidarity in favour of sub-Saharan Africa, has given a new dynamism to the South-South cooperation actions of Morocco based on the multiplication of field actions that aim for human development. The King has himself made more than 50 official visits to several African countries. During those Royal visits,

about a thousand cooperation agreements have been signed in several fields in the public, private and civil society sectors such as health, agriculture and agri-food industries, fisheries, education and training, water management and irrigation, basic infrastructure and urban development, information technology, banking financial management and banking etc. Thus has established South-South cooperation as the main axis of its foreign policy and is working, by various means, to strengthen this cooperation at the regional and interregional levels. To this end, the Kingdom of Morocco has developed an ecosystem for the promotion of South-South cooperation for the benefit of Africa that includes actors from all public, private and civil society sectors: ministerial departments, public institutions and government agencies, private sector, banking institutions, schools & universities, and NGOs and civil society.

### **AMCI: Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation**

One of the main actors within the ecosystem for promoting South-South cooperation is the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI), created in 1986 to contribute to the strengthening of Morocco's international cooperation, with a strong orientation towards the promotion of South-South Cooperation advocated by His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

AMCI's mission is to develop cooperation between people by contributing to the expansion and strengthening of cultural, scientific, economic and technical cooperation between Morocco and its partner countries. It acts in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Living Abroad in the implementation of actions carried out in partnership with the various Moroccan ministerial departments and the national partners concerned. The Agency's purpose is to be a major player in the implementation of Morocco's South-South cooperation, making use of the know-how and expertise the country developed in several fields to provide support

to developing countries, mainly in Africa.

Its actions are articulated around four main axes:

#### **Scientific and cultural cooperation**

- Training of foreign students in Morocco (university, technical and professional), exchange of researchers, granting of Moroccan scholarships to foreign students and accommodation for foreign students

#### **Technical cooperation and sharing of expertise**

- The organisation of short and medium-term internships for working professionals as well as sending Moroccan experts on missions abroad;

#### **Support for the implementation of sustainable human development projects**

- Assistance in the implementation of sustainable development projects in several areas: education, fisheries, health, agriculture and irrigation, drinking water and sanitation, rural and urban electrification ; and

#### **International humanitarian assistance through the management of humanitarian aid and donations**

- These emergency operations usually consist of donations of medicines, food, supplies and equipment.

### **Academic Cooperation: Sharing Moroccan Teaching Experience.**

AMCI contributes each year to the training of thousands of international talents, including a large majority of African students, in disciplines essential to the growth of countries of the South, especially Africa. For the academic year 2019/20, approximately 14,500 foreign students were enrolled in Moroccan public institutions of higher education, including 12,500 students from 47 African countries. AMCI grants a significant number of scholarships from the Kingdom of Morocco to international students in higher education. Thus, more than 12,000 foreign students have benefited from the Kingdom of Morocco's scholarships for the year 2019/20 through AMCI, and 85% of AMCI's

African students are scholarship holders.

#### **Technical Cooperation: Reinforcing the African Capacities**

Through AMCI, Morocco plays an important role in capacity building in Africa. Technical cooperation has grown considerably over the years. More than 10,000 public sector executives from partner countries have benefited from AMCI's training programs in several key development areas (diplomacy, customs, justice, water, electricity, agriculture, climate, etc.). These cooperation programmes aim at sharing Moroccan expertise through the principle of active solidarity with its partner countries.

The technical cooperation programmes set up by AMCI are the following:

- Organisation of short and medium-term training courses in Morocco for the benefit of active executives (professionals, managers, researchers and technicians);
- Organisation of visits and study trips to Morocco for international professionals; and
- Sending Moroccan experts abroad to provide capacity- building support, with the establishment of delocalised training courses.

The deployment of these technical cooperation programmes by AMCI can take different forms, either in the framework of bilateral cooperation or in the framework of triangular or multilateral cooperation, by associating with donor countries, cooperation agencies of partner countries, International and Regional Organisations or multilateral donors.

The actions implemented by AMCI within this framework are guided by the principle of Morocco's active solidarity with its partners in the South and by the concern for the effective implementation of the guidelines underlying Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC). Technical cooperation is experiencing a notable craze due to the increase in demand from partner countries seeking to imbibe Moroccan expertise and know-how in a multitude of fields and specialities in which the Kingdom is credited with proven

and appreciated expertise at the regional, continental and international levels. Morocco is deeply committed to take part in the African quest for development through strategies that encourage job creation, capacity building, fostering South-South cooperation, technology transfer and private sector development.

## Cooperation Projects: Overview of Morocco's Sustainable Human Development Projects

AMCI works in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccans Living Abroad, within the framework of its prerogatives, to implement sustainable human development projects in key areas of development in partner countries of the South, particularly in Africa.

### Strengthening maternal health infrastructure: Djibout.

- Project: Definition of a cooperation programme between Morocco, the Islamic Development Bank and Djibouti around a maternal health project.
- Assistance provided: Training and transfer of knowledge to 180 professionals in Djibouti's maternity wards in addition to the acquisition and installation of 45 cardiocographs; and
- Results: Human and technical capacity building in the field of clinical and electronic monitoring of high-risk pregnancies and childbirth in Djibouti's maternity wards by capitalising on the rich experience of the Ibn Sina Hospital (Rabat University Hospital), through its Centre for Reproductive Health (CRS).

### ISCAE Guinea: Guinea Conakry.

- Project: Creation of the Higher Institute of Commerce and Business Administration (Moroccan Business School) in Conakry.
- Assistance provided: Implementation of the project and provision of highly qualified Moroccan teachers.
- Results: Local training of several hundred Guinean and sub-regional executives.

### Drinking water sanitation: Burkina Faso.

- Project: Definition of a cooperation programme between Morocco, the Islamic Development Bank and Burkina Faso around the project of drinking water quality improvement.
- Assistance provided: Identification of technical partners from Morocco (ONEE) and Burkina (ONEA) who will work and propose the best biological solution to fight against the phenomenon of Eutrophication, through the introduction of silver carp fry in the ZIGA dam reservoir.
- Results: The technical teams of ONEE and ONEA are currently working together to combat eutrophication, through the introduction of silver carp fry in the ZIGA dam reservoir.

Emergency Humanitarian Operations: Assistance to Partner Countries.

Humanitarian action has always been a lever of the Kingdom of Morocco's active solidarity towards countries that are victims of natural disasters. AMCI coordinates, with the association of main national public bodies, the deployment of the Kingdom of Morocco's international humanitarian actions.

This action takes the form of emergency operations generally consisting of donations of medicines, paramedical equipment, food products, tents, blankets, hygiene products, equipment, etc.<sup>1</sup>

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Morocco has also sent supplies to other African countries during the COVID-19 pandemic to strengthen continental capacity to respond to the pandemic (Boulaksili, Hajel, Marzouki, & Hamiche, 2020).

Generally, the humanitarian actions taken by Morocco are instructed at the highest level of the State, given by the King to be implemented by the main public bodies.

## Conclusion

The Kingdom of Morocco has a strategic vision of bilateral, tripartite and multilateral cooperation with the African continent. This vision aims

essentially to contribute to the awakening, the strengthening and the emergence of the striving continent of Africa. Morocco is aware of the African potential, its strengths, its weaknesses and the hindrances to its development and has the ambition to contribute to its growth by sharing its expertise in many other areas. It

is also determined to work with its African partners and develop partnerships, visits, and projects and learn from the experience of its African partners.

### Endnote

<sup>1</sup> AMCI Website.

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# South-South Cooperation in agriculture: Cocoa Initiative Côte d'Ivoire - Ghana

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**Abstract:** For decades, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire have long been the global leaders in the cocoa production, accounting for over 60 per cent of total production. Recently, both Governments have agreed to strengthen cooperation in the Cocoa sector. Taking into account the burden of the problems such as the decreasing yields, diseases, low price on international markets, and low access of farmers to financing, the project called 'Cocoa Initiative Cote d'Ivoire-Ghana' is being implemented in a South-South Cooperation framework between these two West African countries in an effort to promote shared solutions. This paper aims to demonstrate the relevance of the South-South cooperation in agriculture by addressing the challenges, potential outcomes and objectives of such an endeavour.

**Keywords:** South-South Cooperation, Agriculture, Cocoa Trade market

## Introduction

South - South Cooperation is the concept most relevant for the nations of the world, especially for developing countries. This model of cooperation is activated between countries whose level of development is similar and facing common objectives. -South-South Cooperation has, to date, enabled significant advanced advantages in multiple areas such as agriculture, health, education, governance,

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scientific research. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, which are the world's two leading producers and exporters of agricultural speculation, are experiencing diverse but similar fortunes regarding the production and trade in the Cocoa market, both within the national sector and at the international level.

This paper, written in two parts, allows on the one hand to present the situation of the cocoa sector in various countries and the problems encountered by them, and on the other, introduces the Cocoa Initiative Côte d'Ivoire - Ghana, an emerging project whose the main objective is to pool the efforts of the two countries in order to improve the precarious situation of farmers' incomes in the cocoa industry.

### **The Cocoa Industry Worldwide: Country-Specific Data**

In Côte d'Ivoire, annual production increased from 900,000 tons in 1995 to 1,500,000 tons in 2011. This increase is related to an expansion of the area under cocoa cultivation which began in the 1970s when cocoa production shifted from the southeast to the southwest of Côte d'Ivoire. This development is the outcome of land scarcity in the traditional production area, a government policy to stimulate cocoa growing as an export crop, the availability of large virgin forest areas and a large-scale labour migration from the north.

The spectacular production increases in the 2013-2014 season, however, is mainly attributed to a 40 per cent increase in the farm gate price which prompted farmers to invest more time and inputs in their plantations. This rapid increase shows that there was a latent production capacity that could be mobilized quickly. According to FAOSTAT data, the harvested area was about 2.5 million hectares (ha) in 2012. The yield had remained 500-600 kilogram (kg) per hectares during the last 20 years. Although three and four hectares are indicated as the typical size of cocoa farms, there are no accurate numbers available

(Hatloy, 2012). Almost all Upper Amazon cocoa hybrids in the Southwestern part of the country are grown without shade. The major constraints facing the cocoa sector, apart from deforestation and land degradation, are the widespread occurrence of pests and diseases, early aging of unshaded trees, no access to credit and agricultural inputs, and lack of land ownership (A. C. Fountain, 2015, 2012). At present, the negative impact of the no-shade and low input use is manifesting itself in high tree mortality and declining yield. To improve this situation and to stop further deforestation, the department of agriculture has launched the Programme Quantité-Qualité-Croissance (2QC) 2014-2023 to improve and intensify the existing farmer's coffee and cocoa production systems. This envisages that by 2023 a cocoa area of 800,000 ha (including 150,000 ha affected by swollen shoot disease) has been replanted with improved planting material and that about 1,000,000 ha of cocoa has been rehabilitated by proper management and input use (d'Ivoire, 2014). In addition, the Cocoa Fertilizer Initiative has started a programme in 2012 to deliver fertilizers to 200,000 farmers by 2020.

In Ghana, cocoa production increased significantly from 300,000 tons in 1995 to 900,000 tons in 2014. According to Asante-Poku and Angelucci, the main factors that have contributed to the increase in Ghana's cocoa production are the support measures of the government-owned cocoa marketing board COCOBOD. The cocoa industry, which is partially liberalized with strong Government involvement as indicated by the regulatory role of Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), holds a unique position in Ghana's economy as one of the important sectors for international trade (A. Asante-Poku, 2013). Cocoa is a major foreign exchange earner and the industry has played a crucial role in the development of Ghana in agriculture, health, education and other services. The government ensures efficient and sustainable Cocoa cultivation, development of cocoa production and marketing technologies,



production of good quality cocoa beans and transportation of the beans from the buying centres to the ports for export. The Government tends to focus attention on the management of cocoa pests and diseases, the supply of planting materials, the resolution of land tenure concerns related to cocoa farming and challenges with cocoa marketing..

Such involvement of the state has resulted in increasing the farm gate price, the introduction of free pest and disease control programmes, the launch of packages of hybrid seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and fungicides, improved marketing facilities and the repair of roads in cocoa growing areas. An important factor is also the expansion of the cocoa growing area, especially in the Western Region. According to FAOSTAT, the harvested area increased from one million ha in 1995 to 1.6 million ha in 2010. This expansion has led to large-scale deforestation. Most cocoa plantations are small-two ha or less in size. . Because of inadequate management and input use, the planting of potentially high yielding hybrids has hardly increased and the average yield of the majority of the farmers has remained low, about 400 kg per ha (M. Paschall, 2012). Another reason for the low average yield in Ghana is the age of many cocoa fields. To deal with the age problem, COCOBOD has announced a National Cocoa Rehabilitation Programme providing 20 million cocoa seedlings to farmers for free in 2012 and a rehabilitation and replanting scheme which includes the replanting of 20 percent of the existing cocoa farms in 2014 (COCOBOD, 2015).

### **Common Issues in Cocoa National Market**

The cocoa industry suffers significant economic losses due to pests and illnesses. This is particularly so in West Africa with its very large number of small and often isolated cocoa farms in which adequate pest and disease control is lacking.

Cocoa T Swollen Shoot Virus Disease (CSSVD), West Africa Phytophthora Pod Rot

(PPR) or black pod disease, Mirids (*Distantiella theobroma* and *Sahlbergella singularise*) are the most important diseases that causes low yield in cocoa countries production in West Africa (Laven, 2012).

### **Solution Implemented in West African Cocoa Producing Countries**

Rehabilitation and replanting of cocoa fields through rehabilitation of mature cocoa fields, partial or complete replanting of old cocoa fields, the use of improved planting material, and the use of Upper Amazon hybrid cocoa that can grow without shade.

Strengthening the use of fertilizers in increasing the yield of farmers and Cocoa agroforestry has also been used as an alternative to a high-input approach’.

### **Prospects for Future Cocoa Production**

The International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) forecasts a 10 per cent increase in the world cocoa production and a 25 per cent increase in the cocoa price in the next decade. Based on this forecast the total cocoa production will be about 4,700,000 tons in 2022-2023, with a supply deficit of 100,000 tons. If West Africa wishes to maintain its present world market share, a 10 per cent increase in production is needed in the next decade. While in the past expansion of the cocoa, area contributed to an increase in production, at present more cocoa has to come from a higher yield per ha. On farm, trials have shown that with good maintenance and chemical inputs 50 to 100 percent higher yields are feasible (d’Ivoire, 2014) (COCOBOD, 2015). In practice however, farmers are unable to make these investments because they are trapped in a vicious cycle of inadequate financial means, low input use, high crop losses and low yields. Several factors affect this cycle. The most important one is the farm gate cocoa price. Past experiences show that an increase in price leads to higher yields. It prompts farmers to invest more time and money in their cocoa farms and to mobilise an apparently latent

production capacity. Other external production restricting factors are loan and credit facilities, a reliable input and output delivery system and appropriate technical advice. To relieve these constraints, various large-scale rehabilitation and replanting projects are ongoing in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana. It is thought that, if farmers will get a fair share of the expected higher world cocoa price and can benefit from the government support schemes, a 10 per cent higher cocoa output from West Africa can be realized in the next decade.

The role of cocoa certification in raising farmers' income and promoting ecologically sound cultivation methods is mentioned for the sake of completeness. So far, the cocoa industry has committed itself to use certification to achieve these objectives while organizations such as COCOBOD in Ghana do not consider it as the way forward. Certification efforts haven't made much of an effect thus far. Most farmers do not belong to farmer's organisations and cannot be reached while the price received by certified farmers is often not significantly different from that received by non-certified farmers. A positive point was that certification through its training programme was associated with much higher yields.

## Relevance of the South-South Cooperation initiative

Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, suppliers of more than 60 per cent of the world's cocoa and engaged in bilateral cooperation in the cocoa sector, signed the headquarters agreement of their new organization, the ICCIG, on Thursday, August 5 2021, at the Kempinsky Hotel in Accra, Ghana.

The function was attended by the Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. KOBENAN Kouassi Adjoumani, the Minister of Food and Agriculture of Ghana, the Honorable Doctor OWUSU Afriyie Akoto and his compatriot in charge of Foreign Affairs Mr. Shirley Ayokor BOTCHWAY.

The agreement, which establishes the headquarters of the Côte d'Ivoire Ghana Cocoa

Initiative (CIGCI), in Accra on the Ghanaian territory, is based on the hard work of experts from the Coffee-Cocoa Board of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana Cocoa board and their respective Managing Directors, KONE Brahima Yves for Côte d'Ivoire and the Honorable Joseph Boahen AIDO for Ghana.

According to the Director General of the Coffee-Cocoa Council, KONE Brahima Yves, the Cocoa Initiative, which essentially aims to improve the price for the producer, is the materialization of the will displayed by the President of The Republic of Côte d'Ivoire Alassane OUATTARA and his counterpart from Ghana Nana ADDO Dankwua Akufo ADDO.

This desire was expressed in March 2018 through the Abidjan declaration which at the same time instructed both the national organisations that lead the sector of Cocoa: the Council of Coffee-Cocoa of Côte d'Ivoire and the COCOBOD of Ghana. The initiative is a formal framework for bilateral cooperation in the cocoa sector in order to address the crucial issue of the precarious income of producers.

Practically, the initiative ought to ensure the effective payment of the Living Income Differential which is a premium of 400 US dollars per ton paid directly to the producer. Concretely, it corresponds to an increase to around 13 per cent, rather than the 6 per cent currently received by the countries. The cocoa business generates annually about 106 billion US dollars.

With headquarters agreement thus signed, the operating budget and the visual identity of the Ivory Coast Ghana Cocoa Initiative adopted, the Executive Secretary, the Ivorian PIERRE Arnaud Alex Assanvo and his team can therefore get to work.

### Conclusion

As discussed, South-South cooperation could alleviate problems faced by developing countries by generating profound changes in international relations and beneficial at the commercial level. The existing imbalanced market model for Cocoa is gradually changing into an equilibrium model where the primary producers and the

other stakeholder groups play a role that is roughly equal. Since the first announcements of the setting up of the cooperation framework at the end of the Abidjan conference, the very principle of this initiative has instilled certain modifications in the approach of the large groups operating in the Cocoa market. From now on, there is a balance of interests both of the producing countries and the large groups of operators for the determination of prices and the criteria for the sale of this commodity. From the above, cooperation at the operational level of the main players appears to be an effective solution to give the producers a place of choice and contribute to balancing the importance and role of each main stakeholder.

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# Armenia-India Collaboration: A Vivid Example of South-South Cooperation and Perspectives for Future

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**Abstract:** The cooperation between Armenia and India is multidimensional and multifold. It has a long history in the past; Armenians have lived in India and Indians in Armenia for many centuries. Currently, there are a bunch of opportunities for the development of collaboration between two independent countries. Under new realities, both Armenia and India accentuate the strategic priority of increasing the level of dialogue and enhancing the extent of partnership. In this context, a series of programmes and initiatives in different sectors have been implemented. Many others are in process.

**Key Words:** Armenia, India, Enhancement of Cooperation

## Introduction

The paper “The Development Compact: A Theoretical Construct for South-South Cooperation” (Chaturvedi 2016) discusses India’s Development Cooperation both since the country gained independence in 1947 and beyond this date. It argues that South-South Cooperation should be guided by the principles such as mutual gain, non-interference, collective growth opportunities and indeed an absence of conditionalities. The analysis is constructed based on the

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modern concept of a development compact which provides development assistance working at five different levels, viz. Capacity building, Trade and investment, Technology, LoCs, and Grants.

In this framework, capacity building means cooperation between developing countries in enhancing capacities and in human resource development. It is usually implemented through - training of people in host as well as partner country including through exchange with sector specificity, establishment of training institutes, capacity building centers in partner countries, provision of scholarships and implementation of exchange programmes.

The next dimension of cooperation is closely related to the expansion of trade between developing countries. This usually increases the expectation of each other and promotes peace and mutual prosperity. This process is primarily carried out via trade facilitation and trade promotion initiatives, trade finance by Southern partners and bilateral investment funds. Enhancing technological potential and enlarging the scientific knowledge base are considered the third area of engagement for the South which entails the implementation of Joint R&D projects and the establishment of technical institutes, technology demonstration centers, and testing facilities in partner countries. Concessional finance primarily falls under two categories: loans at a concessional rate of interest with or without a capacity building component as well as loans at the commercial rate of interest with different time periods. Last but not least, for specific purposes grants are provided to the partner countries to support the development and economic activities in partner countries.

In this paper, information about the development of collaboration between Armenia and India and its prospects is represented for serving as an example of South-South cooperation and illustrating the dynamics of the partnership between them. Special emphasis will be given to the demonstration of cooperation between two countries in the

modalities of capacity building, trade facilitation and promotion as well as technology.

## **Cooperation between Armenia and India in the framework of Three Modalities (Capacity building, Trade and Investment, Technology)**

### **Trade and Investment**

In 2022, Armenia and India celebrated 30 years of bilateral diplomatic relations. Armenia and India are ancient civilisations that have known each other for hundreds of thousands of years. Indeed, the familiarity and depth of reciprocal affection are remarkable taking into account the vast geographic distance existing between them. Over the last three decades, two countries established amicable cooperation which serves the interests of the people living in both countries. Currently, Armenia and India maintain active political dialogue. Productive cooperation mechanisms also function between two nations within multiple international organisations.

Diplomatic relations were established between Armenia and India in 1992. The Indian Embassy in Yerevan started operating in 1999. It is worth mentioning that Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, was chosen as the site of its first Embassy in the Caucasus. In addition, among the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Armenia is the only country with which India had diplomatic relations in 1995 (other than Russia). Over the last few years, the scope of bilateral collaboration has been extended to a large extent. Two countries express interest to increase cooperation to a new level. On October 13 2022, Subramanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India paid an official visit to the Republic of Armenia. It was the first time in the 30-year history of the country that the Minister of External Affairs of India had visited Armenia. This visit might be considered a historic one. Subramanyam Jaishankar, while in Armenia, expressed surprise that no Indian Foreign

Minister had ever made a trip to the country. . He assured that a great deal of attention is being paid to the possible connection between these two countries. He mentioned that the current attitude and history of ties are quite positive, but the two countries must make a tangible effort to advance the relations.

Both countries will have palpable benefits from deeper economic collaboration with each other. Armenia is a member of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU). EEU consists of five member states: Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia. In this context, Armenia serves as a gateway for India to enhance cooperation with EEU member countries. Particularly, it is noteworthy that India is working out the feasibility of signing a Free Trade Agreement with EEU. In addition, Armenia can provide a potential outpost for India in a contest for global supply chains in the Eurasian corridor from the Persian Gulf to Russia and Europe.

The trading volume between Armenia and India increased over the last few years. In 2021, it consisted of 181 million USD. It is noteworthy that in 2016 the trading volume was merely 21 million USD. Indian exports consist of foodstuffs (meat), electrical equipment, cut and polished diamonds, optical equipment, plastics, pharmaceuticals, other chemical goods and cars. Armenia's exports include non-ferrous metals, raw rubber, books, and textiles. There are a series of other fields for both countries to extend the partnership. Particularly, Armenia can be a valuable development partner for India in industries like manufacturing, agriculture, medicines, and technology. The partnership can serve as a substitute for the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative model.

Armenia can play an important role in the Indian-backed International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the Iranian-backed Black Sea-Persian Gulf Transport Corridor. Joining the INSTC will facilitate the access of Armenia to Indian markets. In addition, trade between Armenia and India

through Iran will significantly boost the volume of bilateral trade.

In order to achieve these goals, skillful and deft diplomacy is essential.

## Capacity building and Technology

Armenia and India have enlarged the extent of collaboration for capacity building in the field of ICT, high technologies and other sectors. In this context, Armenian-Indian Center for Excellence in Information and Communication Technologies was established on 7 November, 2011. It is a joint project of the Governments of Armenia and India implemented by the Enterprise Incubator Foundation (from Armenian side) and C-DAC center (from the Indian side). It operates on the premises of the Yerevan State University. The Armenian-Indian Center for Excellence in ICT provides a specialized infrastructure and high-performance facility for the delivery of IT-related trainings and R&D programmes that create new opportunities for the development of IT workforce skills in Armenia. The primary objectives of the project are ;

- Delivery of IT related trainings,
- Training of Trainers,
- Exchange of Programmes,
- Promotion of Joint R&D Projects.

The Center is the only high-tech institution in the region that is equipped with supercomputer, made in India (called Param). Over the years with the support of the Government of India, a number of schools in the regions of Armenia were provided with computers to advance the skills of children in the field of Information and Communication Technologies. During the last three decades more than 5000 Indians have studied at the Medical University of Armenia. In 2022, around 800 out of 2000 foreign students studying at the Yerevan State Medical University were Indians. Hindi Language Chair at the Yerevan State Linguistic University was founded in January, 2010. The number of people in Armenia who are interested in participating in the ITEC training programmes

has increased. The eight-session of the India-Armenia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological, Cultural and Educational Cooperation was held in Yerevan, in July, 2022. In the framework of this session, India and Armenia signed an MoU on High Impact Community Development Projects in Armenia with financial and technical assistance from India.

There is myriad other examples which starkly demonstrate that the cooperation between Armenia and India for building capacities and developing human capital has increased.

## Conclusion

Within a short period of time, Armenia and India have made a great leap forward to enlarge the framework of cooperation between the two countries. Relations between Armenia and India have constituted a strategic priority for both countries. This serves as a vivid example of South-South Cooperation for other countries as well. The strategic goal of both countries should be making Armenia a strategic partner of India in the Caucasus and the wider region and India as Armenia's strategic partner in Asia. The two countries are full of enthusiasm to further develop bilateral cooperation and bring the mentioned idea to life.

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# Development Cooperation for Higher Education in Kurdistan Region-Iraq

Rahida Tahir Azeez\*

**Abstract:** An integral part of a nation's plans for development is prioritizing the education of the next generation. Over the last several years, higher education in the Kurdistan region of Iraq has grown at a staggering rate. India has been providing skill development training to many countries in the region, particularly its neighboring countries, in order to increase workforce capacity and develop higher education.

**Keywords:** Higher education, quality, Kurdistan Region-Iraq

## Introduction

Strengthening the capacity of a society to educate new generations is one of the important components of national development plans and policies. Building and maintaining such a capacity often demands a constant flow of financial, human and technical resources, not always available in the countries in the most need. Bi-lateral and mufti-lateral donor agencies and international aid organizations play a central role as providers of assistance in education and higher education. Kurdistan region-Iraq is one of such countries that is heavily dependent upon external aid and international cooperation to provide, maintain and expand

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educational services. This paper will examine the high level of education in the Kurdistan area and explain why collaboration is necessary to further enhance the higher education system.

### Kurdistan Region-Iraq (K.R.I.)

Since the US-led coalition entered Iraq in 2003, international agencies and foreign governments have transformed Iraq into a unified federal democracy that is market-oriented and has the potential to become a regional economic powerhouse. The democratic process gained some ground when Iraq witnessed its first election in 2005, creating a shift in power among different political forces. After a long period of dictatorship under Saddam Hussein, the election indicated a positive development, more particularly for the K.R. (in the northern part of Iraq) than for other parts of the country. Kurdistan has successfully created its own autonomous regional government that functions at a sub-state level by having its own parliamentary democracy with a regional assembly. It largely focuses on building the foundation for economic growth, revitalizing the private sector, improving people's quality of life and reinforcing good governance and security. It has prioritized the transformation of the education system, developing a new higher education policy under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

### Higher Education in K.R.I.

While the Higher Education (H.E) system in the K.R.I. is still young, it is well regarded and plays an increasingly vital role in regional life. Until 1992, only one university existed in the K.R.I. and therefore the H.E. system is considered relatively new. Since then, the government's expansion policy has provided huge investment in the sector, focused on opening new Higher Education Institutions. Today, there are 18 public and 17 private universities and 13 private institutes in the K.R.I. The government has also invested to improve the quality of H.E. and introduced a comprehensive system of quality assurance and accreditation in 2010.

This has included performance assessment of all teaching staff and universities which later became the basis for the annual ranking of K.R.I. universities (Ala'Aldeen, 2017). Despite this expenditure, the quality of H.E. in the area has been diminishing, mostly as a result of ongoing political and economic challenges.

The policy agenda related to H.E. in Kurdistan focuses on improving the overall standard of universities through emphasis on quality improvement in curriculum design and in approaches to teaching and learning. This is highlighted in a report on H.E., 'The Roadmap to Quality: Reforming the System of HE and Scientific Research in the K.R.I.' in which 'reforming teaching to endure quality' is the main component (Ala'Aldeen, 2009). The mechanisms to ensure this comprise teaching quality assurance, curriculum development, continuous academic development, assessment of teachers' portfolios and licensing and accreditation (Palander, 2013). The axes of the reform, which started in 2009 can be realized in these sectors, education (quality assurance), research (linking universities with international research centers), diversifying investment (private universities), organization (autonomous universities), administration (bureaucracy) and human rights (health and social justice).

### The Regional Challenges for Higher Education Institutions (HEI)

- **Challenges to higher education quality:** With the region's steadily growing youth population, the demand for educational services has put immense pressure on existing H.E.I.s. While the area struggles to strike a balance between access, quality, and prices, it must place a high focus on enhancing the quality of H.E., which is a significant challenge and urgent concern for the present and future K.R.I. Furthermore, the dual challenge of quality and relevance must be considered in any reform to be conducted in H.E. (A. Hoel, 2014)
- **Political Instability:** Among the many

challenges faced by H.E.I.s in the Kurdistan Region, political instability is the greatest obstacle. Due to persistent unrest like as the ISIS fight, the central government has been forced to reduce funding to the H.E. every year since 2014. It has created new challenges for H.E.I.s' budget, research as well as development of H.E. facilities. The political unrest has also impacted negatively on private investment in the H.E. sector. Private investment helps the sector to accommodate the increasing number of students, and it can also offer a better quality of H.E. Political instability and lack of jobs have also resulted in brain drain which in turn has affected the development in the region for a long time. This was emphasized by an Algerian H.E. expert when he said, 'the best lecturers leave for more lucrative activities locally or are attracted by international careers abroad [in the U.S.A., U.K., Canada and other Western countries] (W. Sawahel, 2014), (World Bank, IFC and MIGA, 2015).

- **Infrastructure:** Another challenge that many H.E.I.s in the region face is a lack of infrastructure (in terms of physical, virtual, and social learning environments) to provide a quality learning environment capable of accommodating increasing enrolment. As a result, there is a need to invest in educating future generations in order to ensure growth and social stability.
- **Discordance in Abilities:** Unemployment is high among graduates of H.E. According to a World Economic Forum (World Economic Forum, 2017), 71 per cent of employers in the K.R.I. are concerned that the region's education system has failed to graduate students with the right skills required for the job market.
- **Research in H.E:** The K.R.I. needs to focus on advancing research studies in H.E., including a research focus on quality and entrepreneurship education. An insufficient amount of research is a major contributor to outdated methods and tools.

- **Governance and Accountability:** Institutional governance seems to be gaining importance in the K.R.I., but increasing enrolment and expansion of the H.E. sector are putting extra pressure on the governance systems. There is a need for stronger measures to improve governance and improve the quality of education in the region.
- **Educational Quality:** Improving the quality of H.E. is a necessary element for the foundation of a successful society and can play a major role in solving many problems that the K.R.I. is now facing.

### Indian-K.R.I. Relationship

K.R.I established the Department of Foreign Relations (DFR) in September 2006 to conduct relations with the international community. Today, the DFR is an integral part of the government, with a wide-ranging portfolio of responsibilities. The KRG Department of Foreign Relations is mandated to promote the interests of the Kurdistan Region and its people in regard to relations with the international community and in accordance with the Region's legislation and the Constitution of Iraq. India and Iraq have historical and civilizational ties. Since the outbreak of war in Iraq, India has been supporting a free, democratic, pluralistic, federal and unified Iraq.

#### Developing Relationship between India-Iraq:

- **High-level visits:** There have been several high-level political exchanges between the two countries.
- **Parliamentary Exchanges:** Iraqi Parliament has an Iraq-India Parliamentary Friendship Group.
- **Economic and Commercial relations:** The economic and trade relations between India and Iraq slowed down after the invasion of Iraq in 2003. However, the total bilateral trade has grown steadily since 2010.
- **Capacity building:** India has annually been providing assistance to Iraq under the Indian Technical and Economic

Cooperation programmed to train officials of the Government of Iraq. Despite the deep historical links between India and the Kurdistan Region, diplomatic relations between the two have been restricted. In 2016, India built a consulate in Erbil, Iraq.

- India 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 and education. Taking in the concept of south-south cooperation.

## Conclusion

According to anecdotal evidence, the quality of H.E. in the Kurdistan Region is perceived to be low, and most academic students, as well as other university students, are critical of the H.E. system. Furthermore, K.R.I. must continue to improve H.E. quality and plan for future growth with the help of developing countries. Furthermore, K.R.I. requires country cooperation. For example, India has provided opportunities for Iraqi students to pursue H.E. in India through the 'General Scholarship Scheme' (GSS) organized by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and other scholarships for Iraqi students. In this context, India should increase scholarships from the K.R.I. region and explore more opportunities for University-to-University collaboration between India and the K.R.I. region.

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# South-South Cooperation in South Asia: Sri Lanka's Experience with India

Thanuja Darshika Sarath Kumara Jayasinghe Arachchige\*

**Abstract:** This paper analyzes the practice of the South-South cooperation between India and Sri Lanka with recent experience. The paper explores the historic evidence of Indian cooperation in the context of the development integration process with a special focus on the trade and investment and Lines of Credit offered to Sri Lanka as development assistance after 2020. The paper concludes that Sri Lanka needs to strengthen its South-South cooperation with India to recover from the economic crisis especially by accelerating export revenue. This paper posits that South-South Cooperation (SSC) initiatives bring potential benefits to Sri Lanka and function as a salient mechanism to strengthen the relationship securing the South Asian alliance. This study recommends furthering the research on this subject to furnish information that enables the stakeholders to formulate and implement suitable policies for Sri Lanka that target accelerating the achievement of development objectives together with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Keywords:** Development, South-South Cooperation, Development Assistance

## Literature Review

Development is a compounded term that involves a positive transformation in economic and social aspects. Gray and Gills (2016) have stated that the concept of the development historical project of the liberalization of nations from a

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fragment of underdevelopment provides great hope for the betterment with mutual assistance. United Nations International Day for South-South Cooperation, 12 September emphasizes South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contribute to their national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance, and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Predominantly, the developing countries must find an alternative way to pool the inherited resources effectively so that they are not dependent entirely on aid from the developed nations. Chaturvedi (2016) suggests the development assistance provided under the modern development compact can be categorized into five categories, namely, trade and investment; technology; skills upgrade; lines of credits and grants. In the South Asian context, especially being the voice of the region, India has established a platform introducing its development cooperation programme to transfer their resources to other South Asian countries to get mutual benefits. According to Saxena (2016), the Lines of the Credits mobilized through Indian Banks have developed as a prominent modality of development cooperation followed by the Indian Technical Assistance Program (ITEC). The Lines of Credit are one of the instruments of development assistance pertaining to development finance which provides goods including capital and consumer and services to the partner countries under an agreement. As Saxena (2016) identifies, the Government

of India’s first phase of the Lines of Credit continued till 2003, supporting 23 countries and providing USD 498.56 million in total and the second phase of the Lines of Credit emerged in 2003 reflecting the country’s growing economic profile to respond the pressure from the North.

This paper explores Sri Lanka’s development assistance prospects from India under in South-South Cooperation especially the trade and investment and lines of credit after 2020 and recognizes its way forward.

## Development Cooperation and Modalities

Sri Lanka’s Long-Term Foreign-Currency (LTFC) Issuer Default Rating (IDR) has been downgraded by Fitch from “C” to “RD” (restricted default) after the country experienced its worst economic crisis since it gained independence in 1948 as a result of its unsustainable debt and balance of payment in 2022. Similarly, the political instability followed by social unrest has caused to surge the poverty and inequality while promoting a high inflation level pausing the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In these circumstances, multinational and bilateral assistance from developed nations have drastically declined and the need for South-South Cooperation has emerged remarkably.

The historical evidence witness that Sri Lanka is continuously receiving support from India in various forms of development assistance. By the end of March 2016, Sri Lanka was the third among the development partners to whom the Lines of Credit were extended. In the year

**Table 1: Key Economic Indicators of Sri Lanka (Percentage)**

Indicator	2020	2021	2022 (f)	2023 (f)
GDP Growth	-3.6	3.3	-8.8	-3.3
Inflation	4.6	6	44.8	18.6
Current Account Balance	-1.3	-3.8	-0.8	-0.9

*Source:* Asian Development Bank. Asian Development Outlook 2022 Update (September 2022)

*Note:* (f) = forecast

2022, Sri Lanka received USD 1000 million in Lines of Credit to import staple foods, fuel, pharmaceutical items, and industrial items where the country could not afford the dollar payments due to a significant decline in the foreign currency reserves.

Sri Lanka has continuously recorded a budget deficit in the last ten years and the resource gap is financed by domestic and foreign sources. However, in 2021 the government embarked on domestic sources to finance the overall budget deficit amounted to 12.3 per cent of the GDP. Sri Lanka obtained financial assistance from the SAARCFINANCE swap of USD 400 million from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the 2021 programme and a USD 100 million loan under bilateral official development assistance in 2021 to mobilize foreign financing to strengthen public investment. Moreover, India offered grants of USD 16 million for the Enhancement of the National Traffic Database and Capacity Building Project, Construction Courses in Technical Colleges and Colleges of Technology in Sri Lanka and Forensic Drug Analysis in the Criminal Justice System in Sri Lanka in 2021.

Sri Lanka has benefited from the trade engagement with India over the years, especially after the two countries signed the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA) in 2000. In 2021 India was Sri Lanka's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest exporter under

the free trade agreements exporting USD 525.8 million of Animal fodder, Food beverages & tobacco, Spices, Minor agricultural exports, and Wood and paper products. By means of that, Sri Lanka is getting more opportunities to integrate with global value chains and diversification of exported goods, while broadening the export market.

Besides, India was recorded as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest contributor to foreign direct investments (FDI) providing USD 2,227 million in 2021 which is 12.45 per cent of the total FDI. India is investing in the main growing sectors including petroleum retail, tourism & hotel, manufacturing, real, estate, telecommunication, banking and financial services to expand value addition while Sri Lankan investors including Brandix, MAS holding, Damro, LTL Holding are surging, and taking advantage the competitiveness of the Indian market.

Tourism in Sri Lanka accounts for around 12 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the economic crisis followed by the pandemic hit the sector drastically by recording a 61.7 percent decline in 2021 compared to 2020. Gross tourist receipts recorded as Rs. 101,903 million in 2021, recording a 17.9 per cent decrease in contrast to 2020. Nonetheless, India continued to be the single dominant country for tourist arrivals maintaining 56,268 arrivals in 2021. Sri Lanka recommenced the tourism

**Table 2: Economic Indicators of SAARC countries in 2020 (Percentage)**

Country	Real GDP growth			
	2021	2022 (f)	2023 (f)	2024 (f)
Maldives*	37	4.8	-2	8.1
Sri Lanka*	3.3	-1.4	-0.5	1
India	8.7	-1	-0.1	6.1
Bangladesh	6.9	0.8	-0.6	6.2
Bhutan	-3.3	0.2	-0.6	3.7
Nepal	4.2	2.1	1	4.9
Pakistan	5.7	1.7	-2	3.2

**Source:** World Bank Macro Poverty Outlook and Staff Calculations

**Note:** (f) = forecast Countries marked as \* measured for Calendar years and the others as fiscal year basis

promotion campaign in India expecting high numbers of arrivals considering the cultural and religious tourism between the countries in 2021.

Sri Lanka has entered into an open-sky agreement with India to operate unlimited flights to six Indian airports. Before the pandemic, Sri Lankan Airlines with the flagship of 4-star rating in the Major Airline Category was the largest foreign carrier in India operating 100 flights per week to 14 destinations.

### South-South Cooperation: Sri Lankan Perspective of India and China

Recent political relationship between Sri Lanka and India has remarked 2500 years of the historical bond between the countries to stand against international pressure. The India-Sri Lanka Foundation, established in 1998 to strengthen scientific, technical, educational, and cultural cooperation between the younger generations of the two countries, and the India-Sri Lanka free trade agreement entered in 2000 reinforce the commercial relations between the countries.

As the first country in South Asia, Sri Lanka extended diplomatic recognition to China in 1950. Nevertheless, the relationship between the two countries tremendously increased in recent years. Given Sri Lanka’s strategic location along the maritime silk way, China’s Encirclement policy in south Asia resulted in the 2005 proclamation of a “Round Cooperation Partnership of Sincere Mutual Support and Everlasting Friendship.”

China is the largest development partner of Sri Lanka which accounts for 27.3 per cent and 100 percent of the bilateral loans and market borrowing in 2021 respectively. In 2021, China accounts for 8.5 per cent ownership of the central government’s foreign debt obtained from the financial market. Sri Lanka received Rs. 72,079 million from China and Rs. 19,898 million from India in 2021 as foreign assistance loans. Sri Lanka’s main sources of foreign exchange are exports and tourism. In 2021, India maintained its lead with tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka while China accounted for very low numbers. India was the main trading partner with Sri Lanka and contributed to 42 per cent of the total imports and exports of Sri Lanka. In 2021, India was the destination for 6.6 per cent of total exports and China continued to be the largest importer recording a share of 23 per cent of total imports.

While India continued to play as the single largest trading partner for exports and tourism, it is a wonder, China does not appear as a strategic partner of Sri Lanka in terms of tourism and export trading.

In 2021, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka allowed China’s National currency Yuan (renminbi) to be used in international transactions and the Indian Rupee has not been given the same privilege. However, India being the largest trading partner and one of the largest donors and investors of Sri Lanka, the Central bank of Sri Lanka is awaiting approval of the Reserve Bank of India to designate the Indian Rupee as a foreign currency in Sri Lanka which authorizes the Sri Lankan and Indians to use Indian Rupees for international transactions each other instead

**Table 3: Exports and Imports by Destination: India and China**

Country	Exports		Imports	
	2016	2021	2016	2021
India	5%	7%	20%	22%
China	N/A	N/A	21%	23%

*Source:* Central Bank Annual Report of Sri Lanka 2021

*N/A:* Not Available



of US dollars. This would be another milestone in the South-South cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

## Conclusion

Multiple economic crises after the pandemic have resulted in a wide fiscal deficit and a growing debt service pausing the achievement of SDGs countries in the south. Many countries including Sri Lanka use GDP as the most common form of development indicator which failed to address social vulnerabilities. Over the past decades, Sri Lanka received assistance largely from China and India through South-South Cooperation. Contemporarily, the need-based South-South Cooperation that respects the sovereignty of the partner countries has increasingly been important to address the social vulnerabilities and economic recovery diversifying the global value chain. Sri Lanka needs to accelerate its development defeating the existing fiscal and debt pressure soon. In the short run, predominantly Sri Lanka should increase the dollar revenue as prominent action by way of increasing exports and promoting tourism. The India-Sri Lanka bilateral agreements expand access to the Indian market and a lot of similarities have been found in the culture between the countries providing opportunities to accelerate tourism. With the recent credit downgrade of the country and the recalibration of the long-term rating of the prominent local banks, Sri Lanka continues to be struggling to find foreign sources to

finance the fiscal deficit. Consequently, Sri Lanka should seek uninterrupted support from South-South Cooperation to extend the Credit Lines, especially for essential commodities, pharmaceuticals, and fuel sectors. In conclusion, the South-South cooperation from India in a participatory approach will comfort Sri Lanka against this backdrop and as a country, Sri Lanka further needs to ensure the transparency and accountability of adopting efficient guidelines to strengthen the relationship with the voice of south Asia.

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# Peru's Development Cooperation Agenda: Towards the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals

Jhonny Edwards Rengifo Dávila\*

**Abstract:** The current international situation has shown the structural fragility of Peru as Upper Middle-Income Country. This situation has become an opportunity for strengthening international cooperation in order to contribute to economic, social and environmental recovery, as well as reduce gaps in the country, such as employment, production, social inclusion, environment sustainability, and strengthening the capacities of public institutions. Cooperation between developing countries has become an important mechanism for maintaining an active relationship in terms of South-South Cooperation, sharing experiences and capacities with clear alignment with international development agendas, such as Agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

**Keywords:** South-South Cooperation, International Technical Cooperation, SDGs

## Peru's National Policy of International Technical Cooperation

The Peruvian government has a National Policy of International Technical Cooperation that was approved in 2012 addressing the development cooperation in the country. The government understands that this policy needs to be actualized because the world has changed during these years, for that reason the government is preparing a new

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policy that is in process of approval. It includes the following elements- Peru's dual role which includes the point of view of provider and recipient of international technical cooperation; contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals; contribution to the country's sustainable and inclusive development, consistent with a social and decentralized diplomacy; considering the context of crisis generated by COVID-19; and aiming to multiple development stakeholders; strengthening the National Decentralized System for International Technical Cooperation and international technical cooperation focused on results and aligned to international technical cooperation priorities and Sustainable Development Goals.

The public problem that the new National Policy of International Technical Cooperation seeks to address is about insufficient effectiveness of international technical cooperation intended to complement the efforts to achieve sustainable development, in line with the country's dual role. The current international technical cooperation context requires greater articulation and association between international technical cooperation actors to generate synergies, while at the same time responding to the specific needs of each actor as they contribute their resources and capabilities to the effort for joint development. These actors are donor countries, the public sector, the private sector, academia and civil society. This policy will have consider the following objectives: consolidate the contribution of international technical cooperation to the national development priorities; generate new opportunities for cooperation between the National Decentralised System for International Technical Cooperation and development actors; situate Peru as a provider of technical cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions; and consolidate Peru's international projection as a reference of international cooperation for development.

With a view to complement and contribute to the national development efforts, this new policy will cover twenty three priority issues grouped into four priority areas which will intend to guide non-refundable international cooperation interventions in the country.

***Social and development community well-being and equal opportunities***

- Health-system strengthening and social security.
- Food security
- Quality Education
- Safe water and basic sanitation services.
- Gender equality and equal opportunities
- Management of migrants and refugees

***Democratic governance modernization of state and decentralization***

- Justice-system strengthening
- Public management and decentralization
- Fight against corruption
- Digital transformation of State
- Citizen Security
- Culture and management of cultural heritage

***Economic development based on competitiveness, productivity and innovation***

- Boosting Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)
- Family farming
- Science, technology and innovation
- Reactivation of tourism
- Productive diversification and competitiveness
- Exportable supply and market insertion

***Conservation of the environment, biological diversity and disaster risk management***

- Environmental management and climate change
- Improvement of the management of biodiversity and forest
- Use of renewable energies
- Sustainable use of water resources
- Disaster risk management

This policy will promote in line with the international commitments entered into by the country with respect to gender equality, disability and interculturality on a cross-cutting

basis; and will consider a territorial approach to different potentials of territories, areas with the highest levels of poverty, areas affected by natural disasters and border areas.

### **Provider of International Technical Cooperation**

It is important to highlight the rise of South-South Cooperation in the Latin American Region. Cooperation between developing countries is not a new phenomenon but is associated with the progressive withdrawal of Official Development Assistance (ODA) from the Region. Latin America received approximately only 6 per cent of total ODA in 2019 <sup>1</sup>, as opposed to 14 per cent of what it received in the 1960s. The accelerated growth of South-South Cooperation in the region has boosted as a product of sustained economic growth, which has generated certain national capacities for development to be shared. Thus, in the Latin America Region, there are six International Cooperation Agencies: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay, which confirm the importance of interacting at the level of South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation projects.

Peru is reinforcing its action with regard to international development cooperation by sharing with other nations its experiences and capacities in issues and areas of its comparative advantage, which makes it not only an applicant country but also a cooperation provider country. In this context, Peru is investing its own resources in bolstering South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, with the latter being the more significant strategy acknowledged and advocated by Peru. Furthermore, the policy intends to respond to current trends in International Cooperation in the South American region, particularly in Upper-Middle Income Countries (UMIC). These are anticipated reduction and/or stagnation of North-South Cooperation, increased South-South and Triangular Cooperation; and diversification of the forms of cooperation, with greater involvement by Civil Society

and the private sector, and by sub-national governments. It should be noted that this will continue regardless of whether global cooperation flows continue on a declining trend, as has been the case up to now.

Peru recognizes South-South Cooperation as a tool of the country's foreign policy that complements North-South Cooperation. In 2020, Peru as a dual country (recipient and provider) of International Technical Cooperation has participated in eighty- one projects<sup>2</sup>, of which thirty-one were implemented as a recipient country, thirty two were implemented as a provider country (Catalogue of International Technical Cooperation) and eighteen were implemented as double via, recipient and provider. The main partner countries are Colombia, Brazil and Chile, which concentrated approximately 40 per cent of South-South Cooperation projects. It should also be noted that in 2020, "Mixed Cooperation Commissions" were held on Technical and Scientific with Ecuador, Thailand and El Salvador, approving programmes of South-South Cooperation for the next two years .<sup>3</sup>

With the purpose of managing the financial resources for the implementation of projects where the Peruvian country has a provider role, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the support of the Ministry of Finance created a fund for the promotion of Peruvian Offer of International Technical Cooperation to attend the projects with other developing countries in its role as provider. With this, it is possible to fulfill one of the results of the National Policy of the CTI, regarding having greater participation in the SSC and Triangular Cooperation. In addition, for positioning Peru as a provider of technical cooperation, with the active participation of different national institutions, sectors and levels of government.

### **Catalogue for South-South Cooperation**

Peruvian government has developed a Catalogue South-South Cooperation Offer portfolio as a collection of best practices

of Peruvian governmental organizations recognized nationally, experiences which have been requested by other countries of the Global South, especially from South America and the Caribbean. Likewise, the catalogue considers practices aligned with Peruvian Foreign Policy objectives that directly contribute to equity cooperation within the Agenda 2030 implementation framework along with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

This catalogue makes it easy for developing countries to identify Peruvian's good practices and elaborate South-South Cooperation projects, knowledge exchange, technology, and methods. The projects will strengthen the capacities of public organizations to improve their national policies. A wide range of discussion have been documented in that catalogue including) climate change, forests and biodiversity; water, sanitation and water resource management; education and gender equality; disaster risk management; sustainable cities and transport; public safety and organized crime; health and food safety; technological innovation, ICTs and productive chains.

### **Peru-Thailand South-South Cooperation**

The Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI) and the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) met in November 2020 for the "IV Meeting of Working Group on Technical Cooperation Between the Peruvian Government and the Kingdom of Thailand" to approve the Development Cooperation Programme 2021-2023. The new Development Cooperation Programme includes six projects to be developed in the fields of Alternative development; Community-Based Tourism; Gastronomy Tourism; Science and Technology; Public Health; and Human Resources Development.

A project in the field of Community-Based Tourism was successfully executed between the Ministry of Tourism of Peru and Mahidol University from Thailand<sup>4</sup> with the

title "Strengthening the sustainability of the Community Based Tourist Product". Regarding financing, both sides agreed that each of them is responsible for their international travel cost (including air tickets, accommodations and meals), while the host country should be responsible for the expenses incurred in the country, proper for the implementation of the activities. The objectives were for improving and strengthening capacities through the provision of tools and instruments for the development and management of tourism in rural areas, which involves community participation.

### **Conclusion**

Peru is considered an upper-middle-income country that shows positive economic indicators. The country has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the challenge for population development is expected to be of enormous proportions. In light of this, we acknowledge that international cooperation has become an essential instrument of understanding and collaboration that complements, more than ever, the enormous economic and social efforts being made to combat the pandemic. The National Policy of International Technical Cooperation contributes to national development efforts and closing gaps. In line with Peru's foreign policy and its aspiration to join the OECD, it contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to SDGs and emphasizes the effectiveness of international technical cooperation, and also strengthening the alignment of partner countries with national development priorities. The Peruvian government is also looking for promoting synergies between members of the National Decentralized System for International Technical Cooperation and other actors such as civil society, academia and the private sector, with a focus on positioning Peru as a development partner in Latin American countries and other regions through South-South Co-operation and Triangular Cooperation.

## Endnotes

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# South-South Cooperation and Economic Transformation: The Nigerian Experience

Jessica John\*

**Abstract:** South-South Cooperation constitutes a valuable process of strengthening the capacity of the Global South through shared skills, experiences and expertise to achieve economic transformation. However, the Southern countries including Nigeria are faced with interlinked problems such as inadequacies of funds for infrastructural development, institutional framework and finance as well as poverty and inequality among others. The objective of this paper is to unveil the experience of South-South cooperation in the economic transformation of Nigeria and identify the gap therein. The paper concludes that despite the fact that there is reciprocity of actions between Nigeria and other Southern countries, the interlinked economic problems of the global South can thwart its effort of achieving effective economic transformation.

**Keywords:** South-South Cooperation, Economic Transformation and Global-South

## Introduction

The importance of economic cooperation among the Southern Countries cannot be overemphasized. This is because it connects the countries and paves the way for

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\* Federal Capital Territory Administration

strengthening their capacity to bring about economic transformation. The objective of this paper is to unveil the experience of South-South cooperation in the economic transformation of Nigeria and identify the gap therein. Born out of the development issues of developing countries, South-South cooperation emerged in 1978 and has been defined as “a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and shared national capacity development objectives through an exchange of expertise, skills, capacity resources and practical knowledge and ability via the regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships involving Governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and mutual benefit within and across regions” (UN 2009). Over the years, South-South cooperation has become increasingly important in contributing to the process of economic transformation, given its successes. From 2000 to 2016, for instance, countries of the Global South, in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East had an increased collective share of world GDP from 28 per cent to 40 per cent from their economic activities (IMF 2022). Also, according to UNCTAD (2022) South-South trade volumes have increased significantly from 19 per cent to 28 per cent of total world trade.

Economic transformation connotes the continuous process of moving economic resources from lower to higher productivity sectors and raising within-sector productivity growth (McMillan, Page, Booth and Te Velde 2017). As such it focuses on the movement of economic resources from low to high-productivity activities within and across all sectors of the economy.

It needs to be noted that Nigeria has been heavily dependent on oil as its major source of revenue while leaving its promising sectors, to lay fallow. However, this has not allowed Nigeria to reach its full potential. Nigeria is continuously challenged with economic problems such as inadequate infrastructure,

insecurity, low technology, and inadequate financing, hence necessitating for an economic transformation. In 2018, 43 per cent of Nigerians were below the poverty line, with another 25 per cent being vulnerable (World Bank, 2022). Also, according to World Bank (2022), the continual increase in population growth is set to outpace poverty reduction. Nigerians living in poverty are set to rise by 7.7 million between 2019 and 2024. Nigeria’s human capital development index has thus been ranked 150 out of 157 in 2020 (World Bank, 2022). To avert the ugly situation, the government has over the years made efforts through development initiatives, cooperation with other countries and creating an enabling environment to boost its economy. These include the medium-term plan Economy Recovery Growth Plan (ERGP) (ERGP). Through it, Nigeria made modest socio-economic progress in recent years, including the recovery from the recession it experienced in 2016. However, the problems still linger. For this reason, the primary aim of this work is to address this issue.

## **South-South Cooperation and Economic Transformation of Nigeria in Retrospect**

A populous nation such as Nigeria, with an estimated population of over 200 million (Worldmeter, 2023) is a vital power factor in Africa, with a great potential to facilitate progressive change among Southern nations and the world at large, given its resource endowment. Previously, economic cooperation in Nigeria was dominated by one-way donor recipients from the North. However, global actors from the South have emerged to change the narrative. Nigeria is a major participant in South-South Cooperation and has also formulated policies, institutional frameworks and initiatives that are geared towards economic transformation and the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). On the horizon of South-South Cooperation, Nigeria has continued cooperating

with Southern economies such as India, China, South Africa and many others. Remarkably, the cooperation between Nigeria and India is worth the mention because Nigeria has become India's largest bilateral trading partner, with a trading volume of USD 9.5 billion (World Bank, 2017) and USD 15 billion between 2021 and 2022 (World Bank, 2022). Furthermore, India has also been cooperating with Nigeria and other Southern countries in capacity building through scholarships and capacity building programmes like ITEC and the deputation of experts. An example is the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme with the aim of addressing the needs of developing countries. Also, India has become a major importer of oil from Nigeria. Nigeria's cooperation with India and China has earned technical and financial assistance and concessionary loans for infrastructural development which has helped in the process of Nigeria's quest for economic transformation.

### **Nigeria's Development Cooperation**

Additionally, since her independence, Nigeria has also provided political, and financial support to other developing countries over the years. For instance, the National Trust Fund initiative of Nigeria supports projects in other least developed countries by assisting with concessionary financing in sectors that the African Development Bank assess as bankable. Nigeria is a major financial contributor towards funding the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union's operational budget which are all geared towards mutual economic benefits of the African continent.

However, given its shared development challenges with other developing countries and the need for economic transformation, Nigeria has made efforts to come up with viable policy frameworks and solutions that deemed sustainable to create an enabling environment for South-South Cooperation to thrive through its development plans. Nigeria established

the International Cooperation Unit under the Federal Ministry of Budget and Planning in 2010 to promote economic cooperation as part of its policy framework on South-South Cooperation. This unit is responsible for developing national economic policy, domesticating international agendas, and converting these policies into medium-term strategic plans and annual estimates for the execution of projects. The department is charged with the responsibility of managing multilateral and bilateral cooperation, including development aid, and technical assistance programmes in the Federal Republic of Nigeria (2017). It was developed to restore economic growth and revitalisation through sectoral plans for agriculture and food security, energy and transport infrastructure, and industrialisation.

### **Economy Recovery Growth Plan**

Also, the Economy Recovery Growth Plan (ERGP) for 2017 to 2020 is one of the major development plans of Nigeria for economic transformation through which programmes are to be initiated, and various partnerships are formed for the attainment of the plan FRN (2017). The strategic policy objective directly provides for the needed policy platform that should trigger supportive initiatives and the engagement of partners and stakeholders for achieving economic transformation and attaining SDGs. To this effect, Nigeria integrated SDGs and its three dimensions (economic, environmental and social) into its sector plans with a focus on restoring growth, investing in people, and building a globally competitive economy.

One major initiative to this effect was revitalising the agricultural sector for economic transformation in Nigeria through the green Alternative Agriculture Promotion Programme. The programme was introduced to boost food production in the country, achieve self-sufficiency in food production, reduce imports, stimulate exports and create jobs. As incentives, the government will provide access to land,

input, storage, processing, marketing, and trade, as well as access to finance. Other areas covered by the Green Alternative are the promotion of agribusiness, investment development, youth and women, infrastructure and innovation and nutrition security. To this effect, Nigeria went into partnership to reach exportable targets of agricultural commodities. India, which has generated enough capacity to produce surplus food and become a major exporter of agriculture, gives support to Nigeria in terms of crop sciences, technology, expertise, and finances for high-margin and year-long farming for inclusive and sustainable growth.

### Observed Impediments

A retrospect of SSC and economic transformation in Nigeria shows reciprocity and solidarity among the Southern nations. Also, Nigeria has shown commitment to creating and enabling an environment for SSC to thrive in its effort to transform the economy. However interlinked challenges still abound between the capacity of Nigeria and other members of the Global South to efficiently mobilise resources that can effectively solve our shared development issues. There is the problem of poor institutional capacity, inadequate data on economic performance and/or limited documentation, inadequate infrastructure, dearth of human capital development and inadequate technology. And insufficient funding explains these deficiencies. Based on the Classical theory of absolute advantage that suggests the need for cooperation amongst nations based on factor endowment or technological progress, complementing South-South Cooperation with Triangular Cooperation would be of utmost importance.

### Conclusion and Recommendation

Despite the fact that there is reciprocity of actions between Nigeria and other Southern countries, the interlinked economic problems of the Global South are capable of thwarting the effort of Nigeria in achieving effective economic transformation. The paper recommends deepened trilateral cooperation with Northern countries such as Nigeria and multilateral organisations that can build on the existing bilateral cooperation in Nigeria alongside diversifying the economy through other viable sectors that would help accelerating economic transformation.

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# The Sustainable Development Goals and South-South Cooperation: the Case of the India-Cameroon Partnership

Ndoumbe Tchatcho Yannick\*

**Abstract:** Cameroon has been undergoing a transformation of its economy for two decades. The President of the Republic of Cameroon, His Excellency Mr. Paul Biya, rejected Cameroon's Vision 2035, which seeks to become an emerging nation by 2035. To do this, it has adopted a National Development Strategy outlining the main strategic orientations for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals on the one hand, and economic development on the other hand. Cooperation between Cameroon and India is part of this dynamic, given the weight of this country on the international scene and the opportunities that arise. India's current rotating Presidency of the G20 represents a window of opportunity to boost trade between our two countries.

**Keywords:** South-South Cooperation, G20, National Development Strategy

## Introduction

In the context of the unprecedented transformation of the economic and political role of the emerging powers of the South, cooperation among developing countries has taken

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on increasing importance and recognition among the international community and the United Nations.

According to some academics, the Bandung Conference, held in 1955 and bringing together of 29 nations from Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, marked the beginning of South-South cooperation. While the issues at the time were in the wake of the decolonization and Cold War movements, these issues have evolved towards a broader framework of cooperation encompassing economic, technical and political aspects. South-South cooperation, as we know it today, is therefore the result of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Action Plan for the promotion and implementation of technical cooperation in developing countries (PABA) on 18 September 1978, by 138 member states of the United Nations.

The Plan provided for a system of collaboration between the least developed countries, located for the most part in the South of the planet. The Buenos Aires Outcome Document, also known as BAPA+40, adopted in March 2019 during the Conference, supplemented by the Nairobi Outcome Document adopted by the United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation on 15 December 2009, reaffirmed the expanding role that South-South and triangular cooperation should play. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation defines South-South cooperation as “a framework for political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical collaboration between countries”. Involving two or more developing countries, this effort can take place on a bilateral, regional, intraregional or interregional basis. Through South-South collaboration, developing countries share their knowledge, skills, expertise and resources to achieve their development goals through concerted efforts.

The Sustainable Development Summit of the United Nations (SDG Summit) established the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on 25 September 2015. The SDGs include 17

goals broken down into 169 “targets” and will aim to achieve sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic, social and environmental development. Reflecting the ambitious intentions of the SDGs, the principle of leaving no one behind plays a key role in the goals (UNESCO, 2023)

In order to achieve its goal of “emergence by 2035” (Cameroon, 2023) as outlined in the Vision of the Cameroonian Head of State His Excellency Mr. Paul BIYA, Cameroon has chosen to diversify its partners, giving India preference in accomplishing the SDGs. This paper will strive to revisit the achievements of this cooperation and list some of the prospects at a time when India holds the prestigious Presidency of the G20.

## **Cameroon-India Partnership for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**

Cameroon approved its long-term development vision in 2009 with the help of civil society, the commercial sector, and development partners. This vision covers a period of 20 to 35 years. This Vision, based on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted in 2000 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, is based on four main pillars:

- Reduce poverty to a socially acceptable level;
- Achieve middle-income country status;
- Become a New Industrialized Country;
- Consolidate the democratic process and strengthen national unity (Ministry of Economy, 2023)

The Cameroon National Development Strategy 2020-2030 (SND30), adopted in Cameroon in 2020, is the new reference framework for the coming decade and is aligned with the Vision mentioned above.

In this wake, cooperation between India and Cameroon has undergone a significant evolution. As early as 1960, the two countries had diplomatic relations at the level of Ambassador. Since then, the Indian Party

opened its High Commission in Yaoundé in 2019. The Cameroonian Head of State gave his very high agreement for the opening of a High Commission whose operationalization will be made at the discretion of the Head of State.

Cameroon's ambition is to structurally transform its economy, as provided for in SND30, through increased productivity and agricultural production. Regarding technical cooperation, Cameroon has benefited from funding, up to USD 38 million USD, for two projects received from India, viz. the cultivation of maize and rice in the plain of Ndop (North-West province). The related agreement was signed in April 2009 between MINEPAT and the Exim Bank of India.

In addition, the Indian Government offered a donation of 60 tractors to the Cameroonian Government in 2005. This donation was a part of an overall project including the construction of an assembly plant for said tractors in Ebolowa and the development of agricultural holdings with the employment of young people in this area.

Regarding the human capital development component mentioned in the SND30, the Indian Government offers the Cameroonian Government several dozen academic and training scholarships each year for the improvement of the capacities and potentialities of students and public officials. These offers cover fields as varied as economics, science, medicine, technology, engineering, governance, communication and diplomacy; without claiming to be exhaustive. Prominent among this scholarship package is the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation initiative (ITEC). Concerning the field of health, it should be noted that Indian experts have enabled the Hospital Center of the University of Yaoundé 1 to benefit in a pilot phase from the implementation of telemedicine in Cameroon in order to allow patients to be monitored remotely. While cooperation between these two countries has evolved considerably, it should however be noted that it can be improved.

## Evaluation and Prospects of Indo-Cameroonian Cooperation

Indeed, Cameroon, which aims to be an emerging country by 2035, has vast projects recorded in the SND30 not yet or little explored by the two parties. By way of illustration, Cameroon adopted on 24 December 2019, a General Code of Decentralized Territorial Communities. This text defines the general legal framework of territorial decentralization, the status of local elected officials, the rules of organization and operation of Territorial Communities, the specific regime applicable to certain Territorial Communities, and the financial regime of Territorial Communities. Decentralized cooperation, city-to-city cooperation and other territorial forms of cooperation are important tools in the context of South-South and Triangular Cooperation to raise awareness, build capacity and promote the role of local and regional actors in promoting employment (Organization, 2023). A multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach helps find solutions that are affordable, innovative and sustainable. The Indian experience in this field could be duplicated in the cities of Cameroon. In addition, given its strong tourist potential, networking of cities with high potential could promote the sharing of experience and the local development of these entities.

India took over the rotating Presidency of the G20 on 1 December 2022, under the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future" (G20, 2023). In a global context plagued by multi-dimensional challenges, this presidency is an opportunity to raise even higher the path of the countries of the South, of which Cameroon is a part, for a better consideration of their aspirations. In this wake and in the face of the energy crisis, which is slowing down the world economy in general and that of Cameroon in particular, India might serve as a gateway for closer cooperation in this area in order to promote the economic recovery of the said countries.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, South-South Cooperation has undergone a significant evolution since when the BAPA was signed in Argentina in 1978. Considered as a complement to North-South Cooperation, it has imposed itself as a vector of growth in development from Southern countries. Cameroon and India, two countries of the South have not escaped this reality since the beginning of their diplomatic relations in 1960. However, the sites to be explored are vast and given their demographic, economic and cultural weight on the international scene, India appears to be a partner of choice for achieving the ambition of emergence by 2035.

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# The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency's Experience in SSC

Riman Namoorah\*

**Abstract:** This paper studies a small part of the Palestinian role in contributing to the global efforts in confronting the collective challenges the world is facing. The responsibility lies within the states of the Global South to face these global challenges. Starting from participating in international cooperation-themed conferences, focusing on sharing assistance and transferring knowledge through South-South and Triangular cooperation mechanisms to enable development projects to be completely and perfectly implemented whenever and wherever needed. This paper highlights the role of Palestine as a state of the Global South, and the establishment of the Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) which shows a unique model of cooperation despite the continuous challenges Palestine goes through. Additionally, this paper points out the strengths and weaknesses of PICA's experience, its achievements and challenges in implementing cooperation projects.

**Key words:** PICA, SSC, Development, Palestine

## Introduction

The challenges, the world is facing everyday have been affecting the developed, developing and underdeveloped countries alike. Therefore, the concept of South-South cooperation has been expanding rapidly as its presence in

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the international development discourses has become paramount. South-South and Triangular Cooperation present powerful complementary modalities to overcome these challenges. It is becoming clear that this cooperation is no longer limited to humanitarian aid and goodwill endures but is instead expanding to the level of investment, trade, climate change, and more.

The state of Palestine has been offering all possible capabilities and potentials in order to have an active participation in the ongoing global attempts, searching for effective solutions and remedies to enhance prosperity, security and development in the region. Taking into consideration the story of Palestinians, in addition to efforts already spent on Cooperation, the narrative of the historically occupied land, and the people of this land, whose every days' struggles are known worldwide, "a unique experience is formed in shapes of unprecedented public diplomacy potential for showing solidarity between countries of the south" (Molero & Degado, 2021, p. 112). This, in general, is offering the Palestinian State a great opportunity to show the globe that development cooperation is not classified only to donor countries.

## **The Establishment of PICA**

Following the establishment of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in the 1970s, Palestine has been attempting to participate in the SSC mechanisms by employing a wide range of diplomatic and political strategies, as well as a plethora of cooperation agreements, in an effort to realise Palestinian rights. Later on, "Samed", a public diplomacy tool was established for the PLO that played a main role in creating Palestinian international commitments and responsibilities, especially after the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) in 1978. Samed has increased its international interpretation, where it became more involved in different fields, like political, cultural and social one, and widened its programmes by offering projects that have

resulted in favor of the national mandate of Palestine and its partner countries.

The concept of international cooperation of development has been evaluated over time. It has now reached new development mechanisms depending on the countries of the South-South Cooperation to share different aspects of experiences and resources with each other, aiming to enhance the goals of sustainable development through various means of partnership. Thereafter, the State of Palestine has seemed to mobilising all available unique expertise through providing the possible needed assistance to the South in order to promote the process of South-South cooperation. Therefore, The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA), has been established as a way of fulfilling the Palestinian political mandate as a fully recognized state and contribute to the cooperation process with the South (PICA's Annual Report, 2017).

The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) is considered to be the primary public diplomacy tool for the State of Palestine by presidential decree which was signed by H.E. Mahmoud Abbas in January 2016. And ever since, PICA has been actively marketing its foreign missions while emphasising the humanitarian aspect of its efforts and "acting as a national coordinator for South-South and North-South Cooperation" (PICA 2019, p. 7).

PICA started implementing its strategy by providing the partner with a number of investment opportunities. It helped those in need and shared Palestinian expertise with countries of the South. The missions were successfully carried out, driven by a national responsibility to the international community in facing global crises and challenges, relying on the knowledge sharing of Palestinian expertise and building partnerships instead of financial grants, the traditional concept of development. (PICA 2019, p. 7-8). "The Palestinian international cooperation agency ever since is serving as a public diplomacy tool that coordinates outreach

to diverse geographic areas” (PICA 2019, p. 8), as a way of strengthening links with the South and the concept of Palestinian sovereignty, as well as to promote South-South cooperation.

## **PICA Challenges**

PICA faced different challenges and difficulties in their way of implementing their programmes and projects of cooperation.

### **Funding**

One of the most important challenges that have been facing the agency is financial support, and that is also due to the absence of reliable and sustainable sources of funding. However, the government has its humble budget, but there are always international organisations that countries rely on when it comes to funding projects, and this is seen as a main issue.

### **Occupation**

The obstacle of occupation plays a major role in disturbing the agency’s efficient work, particularly when it comes to the movement of delegations during missions abroad. This can sometimes prevent delegation members from traveling and create difficulties in obtaining the necessary authorizations for the transport of equipment used for their jobs (PICA 2019, p. 32). Moreover, the occupation has also resulted in challenges associated with accessing and communicating with the expertise in the occupied Gaza Strip, which is a crucial component of the occupied territories of the state of Palestine.

### **Post-COVID-19**

This situation after the global pandemic created new circumstances that the agency must deal with. This adversely affected the projects’ ability to be completed as planned and on time, and PICA came to believe that this was a global problem. This has led to postponing these projects because of delay in our delegation’s passage from Palestine to the targeted country., and is due to the restrictions

that have been imposed especially with the absence of a Palestinian ongoing occupation, our delegations have to travel through Jordan, a crossing country, to the final destination.

Even, adoption of a systematic South-South cooperation approach in light of the current tough conditions is difficult.

## **Overcoming the Challenges**

As a result, PICA always attempts to satisfy its international requirements as a cooperation agency by implementing different solutions to every difficulty that the agency may encounter in practice. To address the financial challenge caused by the lack of a stable and sufficient source of funding, PICA seeks to expand strategic partnerships with international organizations, regional development agencies, and financial institutions. Having stated that, these collaborations contribute to finance the agency’s programmes by utilizing established reverse linking mechanisms for achieving the goal of a better-developed world.

Most crucially and importantly, in relation to the occupation’s issues, PICA is actively working to develop daily solutions to overcome these obstacles through both national and international alliances. In light of the current problems posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the lack of a clear national adoption of South-South cooperation strategies, PICA and its local and international partners are working energetically and diligently to overcome this difficult circumstances by developing an intensive timetable to be implemented for a strong come-back agenda of all SSC projects worldwide.

## **PICA’S Achievements**

Despite everyday challenges, PICA has a number of advantages that have allowed it to effectively participate in the field of international cooperation. The most significant of them are discussed below.

Applied knowledge and human capital create the Palestinian experience, where flexibility and

people's "experience of displacement" focus on the relationship between humanity and development. This can be seen clearly in the Agency's work, which benefits from Palestinian experiences in knowledge sharing and project implementation in a complex and unstable environment, allowing those experiences to grasp the needs of the Southern countries and quickly adapt to the environment and challenges of the addressed countries.

The organization relies on a network of specialized Palestinian experts who are based in the diaspora and various locations throughout Palestine for its work. The diaspora includes people with a wide range of linguistic abilities, local cultural expertise, and potential for financial support from high-net-worth individuals, businesses, and much more. Engaging the Palestinian diaspora is considered a way for PICA to open doors with the whole world.

Partnerships are considered the key component of PICA's international work. The agency was able to forge a sizable number of partnerships at the local, regional, and global levels with communities, governments, the private sector, and more in the cooperating countries. Based on the central tenet of the agency, this strategy adheres to the fundamentals of South-South cooperation and reflects a larger vision of global partnership and solidarity. The knowledge gained by the Palestinian Agency for International Cooperation enables in fulfilling its development function by forming alliances and implementing development initiatives in partner nations.

As a final point, PICA has shown through its history and experience since its foundation that innovation, along with the previously indicated sources of strength, allows it to become extremely adept in completing cooperative projects, especially when managing risk and unexpected scenarios. Furthermore, in order to gain a competitive advantage, PICA has established an initiative named "Busala Innovation Challenge" in collaboration with

the Higher Council for Innovation & Excellence (HCIE). Its establishment is a multi-stakeholder project aiming to provide a platform for Palestinian innovators and entrepreneurial teams to apply, test, and grow their creative solutions in order to address global development concerns. In other words, the project aspires to collaborate with partners from the public, business, and non-profit sectors. (Molero & Degado, 2021, p. 124-125)

## PICA's Missions

Many projects have been completed in various places, including Africa, Asia, the Arab world, Latin America, and others. These projects had a significant impact on the disciplines to which it made contributions. Furthermore, PICA represents a unique model of technical cooperation agency by stressing Palestinian presence and enabling the Palestinian country as a recognized partner to boost International Development, despite the constraints imposed by the occupation, which prevents Palestinians from accessing their natural resources. Despite this, PICA is aiming to achieve a twofold goal, which is primarily to provide aid and technical assistance to poor countries, improve South-South cooperation in the sphere of international development, and contribute to relief and humanitarian assistance, disaster, recovery and relief operations.

PICA's first step was to lead a relief mission of 19 doctors and nurses to support the victims of the April earthquake in Ecuador, offering humanitarian aid and medical services to the earthquake victims. Immediately after storms like IRMA and MARIA, the Palestinian Rapid Response and Rescue Team was dispatched to Dominica. The team comprised 36 personnel, including professional doctors, rescue workers, paramedics, members of civil defense, humanitarian relief experts, and shelter experts. In addition to this, help was being provided to Indonesia in the aftermath of the September 2018 tsunami, which caused thousands of people to abandon their homes. Following

this incident, PICA made the decision to give medical assistance, supplies, and tools.

In the realm of health, in 2016 (the mission was a technical mission involving health, agriculture, and energy teams), a Palestinian medical delegation of 11 doctors from various specializations assisted Mauritanian doctors by increasing the capabilities and skills of doctors in Mauritania's hospitals. This initiative is consistent with the goals of the Arab-African Summit and the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the most important of which are the second, third, and seventh goals, which are the total elimination of hunger, good health and well-being, and affordable clean energy.

In this context, the Agency dispatched a delegation of 20 ophthalmologists in groups of five to African nations such as Mozambique, Mauritania, Guinea, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, and Sierra Leone. This mission's goal was to provide free healthcare services to those with limited eyesight due to cataracts, as part of a three-way collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank and the Tunisian Eye Club. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan hosted the director of our orthopedic programme to share his experience and knowledge in chiropractic operations with medical doctors in Lahore in order to be completely trained and be capable of executing delicate pediatric spinal cord surgery in the long run. Clinical and physical care services were also made available in Rwanda.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela received assistance in the form of technical assistance, information transfer, and the creation of new investment opportunities in order to reform and operate key agricultural projects such as the construction of greenhouse farms for the creation of vegetables and the operation of a poultry factory for the production of eggs. In addition PICA also expanded contacts with varied geographical regions for forging deeper ties with countries that express solidarity with Palestine and support the concept of establishing a Palestinian state, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA)

It is also worth noting that PICA has provided technical help to the Kingdom of Lesotho in the areas of communications, information security, and e-government. PICA has also provided technical help in the domains of media and journalism to the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Zimbabwe, as well as solar energy to Kenya. There are numerous additional tales of successful implementation of projects

It is equally important to note that the changing assistance of landscape and growing development problems, brought on by the financial and energy crises, necessitate an urgent and critical examination of existing aid mechanisms (Polonenko, Tok, Besada 2019). There are growing implications of global economic and demographic imbalances, globalization, and climate change, (Asian Development Bank 2012). However, Referring to previously implemented projects, it is obvious that these cooperation initiatives are propelling the industrial growth wheel. The South is becoming a significant player in global industry and trade. According to Dhungel (2011), developing countries accounted for 24.5 per cent of global manufacturing value.

## Conclusion

The ongoing quest of all societies to meet their development needs in promoting SSC has been an essential concern for several years. Developing Sustainable Development plans is an unavoidable goal for governments to be implemented through institutions specialized in international cooperation and organizations specialized in internal matters.

There is no doubt that the State of Palestine's model for contributing to international development efforts is quite unique, having been able to withstand international responsibilities towards the world community in spite of contemporary events such as occupation, which is robbing its resources and capabilities. As a result, Palestine can give and share through exchanging knowledge, experience, and human capital, which is referred to as "Palestinian volunteer expertise".

Despite the continued problems caused by the Israeli occupation, Palestine continues to give, share, and express solidarity with other nations. Finally, the purely human dimension promotes the agency's work for development of international community, particularly to the countries of the Global South.

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# Exploring the Ethiopia's Efforts toward Promoting South-South Cooperation

Dobuol Tut Both\*

**Abstract:** This research paper explores the contribution of Ethiopia in promoting South-south cooperation. For years, Ethiopia had been the top advocator in Africa for the Global South to have a fair representation in the multilateral institutions, at the same time she had been the sole African country not subjected to colonial bondage. Ethiopia was the founding member of the Bandung Conference which gave birth to the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM). Ethiopia is fostering capacity building in forms of scholarships to many developing countries, and also Ethiopia Airlines has been on the top in transporting the COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Keywords:** Ethiopia, South-south Cooperation, Global South

## Introduction

South-South cooperation is basically defined as a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual or shared development objectives through a cooperative exchange of knowledge, skills, resources, political support and technical know-how (Kakonge, 2014). South-South cooperation evolved after the second world war when the developing countries from the Global South realized that it was the right time for them to

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cooperate in all aspects (politics, economics, development assistant, technologies transfer, capacity development, etc), and at the same time to challenges the Global North in other international affairs (Modi, 2011). Being the only country which resisted the white imperialists' efforts to colonisation of Africa, Ethiopia had been sleepless till the colonized countries became free. She was the founding member of the League of Nations, United Nations, Africa Union, Non- Alignment Movement and many more. Throughout the years, Ethiopia had been dedicated to support and advocate for the Global South's causes. Ethiopia is constantly present in all fields, whether they are political, economic, social, or technical. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ethiopia has been using its Airline to transport the Covid-19 vaccines to many developing countries even though many developed countries closed their Airline and borders to the rest of the world. Therefore, the objective of this research paper is to explore the contribution of Ethiopia in cementing South-South cooperation between the Global South in different perspectives (politics, economic, social or technological).

### Political Perspective

After Ethiopia defeated Italy under Benito Mussolini at the battle of Adwa in 1896, the other Africans who lived under colonization, realised that black men can defeat the well- equipped white imperialists. From that moment onward, Ethiopia had been supporting many countries to gain independence. Ethiopia was the founding member of the Bandung Conference (Non-Alignment Movement) 1955, Indonesia. Bandung Conference was the turning point where the Global South was first challenging the Global North in International Affairs (Gray *et al.* 2016). The conference had participation of developing countries from the Global South who decided not to take either side during the cold war between the United States of America and the Soviet Union. Ethiopia together with a

few countries was the mastermind behind the conference. Ethiopia together with a few African countries who gained their independence in the early 1960s formed the Organization of Africa Unity (OAU) to speed up the decolonisation process and set up its head-quarter in Addis Ababa. The head-quarters of the Organization of African Unity (now African Union), and the United Nations Economic Commission of Africa were set up in Addis Ababa Ethiopia because the African continent recognised the efforts made by Ethiopia toward the decolonisation of African countries.

During the apartheid in South Africa, Ethiopia was supporting the Africa National Congress (ANC) Party which was fighting against the White minority's domination over the Black majority. Nelson Mandela was trained in Ethiopia as well by the Ethiopian government and all his training costs were covered by the Ethiopian government. Ethiopia wanted fairness to prevail in South Africa, which is why she was supporting ANC to end the segregation of the Black majority by White minority.

In peace-keeping activities, among the African countries, Ethiopia had been the top peace-keeping contributor to the United Nations and Africa Union. She has sent her peace-keeping forces to Korea, Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Darfur, Abyie, South Sudan, and Somalia, and she did this because she felt that it is her responsibilities to maintain peace in the Global South and beyond (Firsing, 2014).

In multilateral institutions, Ethiopia had been supporting the positions of the Global South, including onsanctions, army embargoes, and trade restrictions which are mostly unfairly imposed on developing countries when they fail to comply with the objectives of the Global North. Ethiopia is a top advocator of the Global South to be fairly represented in the United Nations, especially the Security Council. She always supports India and Brazil being admitted as permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Currently, Ethiopia is advocating for African solutions to African



problems. Ethiopia wants the countries in the Global South especially the African countries to solve their issues among themselves without interference from those who call themselves big powers. This was witnessed when the Ethiopian government chose African Union to negotiate the conflict in Tigray Region of Ethiopia, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam issue, and other conflicts in the region. Ethiopia also volunteers to negotiate many conflicts within African countries. She negotiated the internal conflict in South Sudan, the internal conflict in Sudan, and also helped Somalia in fighting the Al-Shabab terrorist group.

Ethiopia now is a Visa-free country to many Global South citizens. For regional integration and South-South cooperation to be fully implemented, Ethiopia decided that it is a good idea to be a Visa free country, except under certain circumstances.

### Trade Perspective

According to the Statistics Agency in Ethiopia, China and India are among the top trading partners of Ethiopia together with the United States of America and the European Union. This shows the commitment of Ethiopia to South-South Cooperation. The existing Ethiopian Foreign Policy gives more emphasis to her neighboring countries. Among the neighboring countries, Somalia is the top trading partner. Although most countries in the Global South are exporting almost the same products, which are mostly agricultural products, Ethiopia decided to import what she does not have and export what other countries do not have within the Global South. Ethiopia is among the topmost supporters of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area. She wants African countries to have free trade among themselves which will in turn facilitate regional integration in Africa<sup>1</sup>.

### Ethiopia Airline Perspective

Although many countries closed their borders and Airport during the COVID-19 pandemic, however, Ethiopia did the opposite. Her borders

both in air and land remained open. China and India had been donating COVID-19's medicines to the most affected developing countries; however, they were unable to transport them to the desired destinations because their Airlines were hit hard by the pandemic. Hence, Ethiopian Airlines took the responsibility to transport those COVID-19 vaccines and test kits to the affected countries. From early 2020 to 2022, Ethiopian Airlines Group transported more than 50 million doses of vaccine to more than 28 countries across the globe including Brazil; and it became the only African carrier to reach such a milestone playing a crucial role during this difficult time. This does not mean that Ethiopia was not affected by COVID-19, but she felt that it is her responsibility to help those countries in their difficult time. Not only this, Ethiopian Airlines currently is connecting Global South to other parts of the world. Ethiopian Airlines is sharing its experiences and building the capacities of many African Airlines. It is among the top Airlines that connect Africa with other parts of the world. Ethiopian Airlines has been practicing Triangular cooperation in a sense: India and China were donating COVID-19 vaccines to the most affected countries in the Global South, and Ethiopian Airlines has been transporting those vaccines to their final destination<sup>2</sup>. On 4 September 2021, Mr Tewolde GebreMariam, Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines said, "I am very much delighted to see such a great humanitarian achievement due to our concerted and determined lifesaving efforts. In fact, Ethiopian Airlines has played its irreplaceable role in responding to the dire need for the Global cargo transportation amidst the pandemic". By this, the Airline has proved to be the pioneer and an epitome of continental and Global solidarity.

### Climate Change Perspective

In "the fight against the effect of climate change, Ethiopia planted more than 20 billion trees under the Green Legacy project initiated and implemented by Dr. Abiy Amhed, the currents

Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in the last four years (Boissière et al, 2021). Even though many countries in the Global South contributed much less to climate change, however, they are the most affected ones. Ethiopia is currently sharing her experiences in tree planting with more than six countries in Africa. On the other hand, Ethiopia is currently implementing the concept of clean energy. Among others, Ethiopia is now building many dams, installing a lot of solar energy panels, operating more geothermal energy plants, and generating a good amount of energy from wind. Ethiopia is doing all these to divert away from burning of fossil fuels which is more probably the number one cause of climate change. This will help the countries in the Global South in the future to minimize the adverse effects of climate change on them.

## Capacity Building Perspective

Ethiopian Universities are giving scholarships to the students from different African countries on a yearly basis. To mention a few, Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, South Sudan, Somalia, Burundi and many others are the countries that benefit from the scholarships sponsored by the government of Ethiopia. A few capacity building activities are also occasionally given to the civil servants from the Somalia and South Sudan in Ethiopia.

## Conclusion

Ethiopia is the founding member of the Bandung Conference which paved the way toward more holistic cooperation among developing countries. She contributed a lot to the decolonisation process of many African countries. Ethiopia through its Airline is

connecting African countries and other Global South's countries to each other and to other parts of the world. She is the leading country in Africa in fighting climate change by planting trees, building dams, installing solar energy panels, and expanding its geothermal plants. Ethiopia is building the capacity of many citizens from the Global South in the form of long term scholarships and short term training courses. Ethiopian foreign policy is oriented toward cementing the cooperation of the Global South in all perspectives, be it trade, politics, capacity development, fighting climate change, technology transfer and many more.

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# Trends and Perspectives in Improving India-Madagascar Cooperation

Ornella Fabiola Camara\*

**Abstract:** In the context of international evolution trends, South-South Cooperation (SSC) is one of the means that complements North-South Cooperation for the development of Southern countries, especially those of Sub-Saharan Africa to accelerate sustainable development. It also puts its idea of equality into practice to maintain harmony and maximise productivity. Firmly believing in the spirit of South-South Cooperation, this paper demonstrates different fields of bilateral cooperation achieved in domains such as commerce, IT technology, capacity building, agriculture between Madagascar and India, in the extant era of international disruptive context and climate change.

**Keywords:** South-South Cooperation, India-Madagascar relations, developing countries

## Introduction

South-South cooperation was promoted in the 1960s and 1970s, in the context of Cold War politics and emerging economies. According to United Nations, the former refers to “the technical cooperation among developing countries in the Global South”, in order to contribute to their national and collective well-being and self-reliance.

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The foundations of India-Africa ties were their shared history, their shared experiences, and their shared desire for a more equal and friendly international economic system, especially for poor nations.<sup>1</sup> In the last decade, India has expanded multi-faceted cooperation with African countries including Madagascar. The latter is an island country that belongs to Sub-Saharan Africa and strongly suffers from international disruptions nowadays. In fact, COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbated threats of climate change. Ukraine crisis have accentuated economic, social and environmental disturbance to the entire Global community, especially the Southern countries. Apart from being among the five countries with the lowest Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Madagascar is also the third most vulnerable country in the world to climate change, and therefore very much exposed to cyclones, drought and floods. Similar to most Sub-Saharan African countries, the Island has a long history of political instability. It has experienced four great political crises and so four Republics were created since its independence in June 1960.<sup>2</sup>

In its quest for the achievement of its economic well being, the country has followed a liberal economic strategy and has chosen to diversify its partners both from the Global North and the Global South. This paper attempts to provide some analysis and perspectives in order to improve Madagascar's participation in South-South Cooperation, particularly by fostering a win-win India-Madagascar Cooperation, given the paradoxical situation in which even Madagascar, like other African countries, benefits from a variety of development cooperation initiatives but has yet to be able to develop.

### **Comparison between North-South and South-South cooperation**

Many scientific studies have contributed thoughts concerning North-South and South-South Cooperations. Both are expected to provide knowledge and technology transfer, development of innovative technology, fostering

of economic, scientific and technological self-reliance, and also use of experience and existing capacity to the developing countries.<sup>3</sup>

However, on one hand, North-South Cooperation (NSC) reflected donor-recipient relations which are mostly based on conditional economic and financial assistance from developed countries in the Global North to developing countries. The paradox of the abundance of the volume of aid granted and the significant increase in poverty rate in the recipient countries has demonstrated the dazzling ineffectiveness of this traditional development cooperation.<sup>4</sup>

Madagascar has experienced its first North-South Cooperation by receiving financial aid from France since its independence, its former colonizer. France still remains among the main partners of the country. With French Development Agency (AFD), France has been working for over sixty years to combat poverty and promote the development of South countries within the framework of France's official development assistance. Madagascar-France relations the, however, criticized for being a strategic cooperation of the Metropole, in order to maintain a close collaboration with its former colony to be able to keep control over the natural resources of the country.

On the other hand, South-South Cooperation (SSC) was established by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) in 1978, as a complement and an alternative to NSC. The former highlights respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality between partners, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs and mutual benefit.<sup>5</sup> But experiences have shown that this kind of partnership also has its drawbacks. The main problems can be defined as the dominance of relatively developed countries in the South, the lack of necessary conditionality that leads to non-control and impossibility to measure impacts of the grants and also an unwavering observance of the principle of non-interference.

Madagascar has an open economy and has promoted cooperation with many emerging

countries since decades. Among them are China, India, South Korea and South Africa. Every Southern partner has its particular strategy for managing the cooperation. China has oriented its cooperation with Southern countries towards the promotion of trade and the construction of major infrastructure, resulting in both negative and positive impacts for its partners. India, on the other hand, has tended to focus on capacity building, trade and humanitarian aid.

#### **India-Madagascar Cooperation trends**

Madagascar and India established their diplomatic relations on 27 August 1960. Since then, cooperation between them hasn't ceased to develop and encompass different fields.

**Economic and commercial cooperation:** Duty Free Tariff Preferential Scheme applied for Madagascar since 2008, contributed significantly to the growth of the volume of trade between the two countries; if this volume was 9.27 million USD in 2008, it reached 34.52 million USD in 2012.<sup>6</sup> A trade volume of 363.99 million USD for the years 2012-2022 demonstrates the strengthening of commercial ties between the two countries.

**Socio-cultural cooperation :** For bolstering global food security, India has provided food and medicine assistance to Madagascar facing the COVID-19 pandemic and the bad weather conditions. For example in 2022, India sent 5,000 metric tonnes of rice and multiple tranches of medicines and vaccines to Madagascar.

**Capacity Building cooperation:** This field sets up the cornerstone of Indian cooperation throughout the world which is formalised by the creation of Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) in 1964.<sup>7</sup> Madagascar is among the countries which benefitted from different kinds of capacity-building cooperation, such as the ITEC programme Courses for the Indian Ocean Diplomats conducted at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service of Indian Ministry of External Affairs, and also all sectoral trainings offered by India through India Africa Forum Summit Business Exhibition. Besides, the country benefits from e-VidyaBharati and e-AarogyaBharati (e-VBAB) Network Project,

which offers tele-education and tele-medicine. Under-graduate/Post-graduate/Diploma programmes are also offered by India to African students.

**Rural development cooperation:** Madagascar is the first among the five African countries which have benefited by the creation of the Geoinformatics Centre for Rural Development (CGARD) in 2018, which was initiated by India and the Union African Commission.<sup>8</sup> This Centre shares Indian cutting-edge technologies for modernising this sector in Madagascar. It will use satellite data as well as geo-spatial technology such as GIS, the global positioning system for rural development.

This non-exhaustive list of multi-faceted cooperation demonstrates how far India contributes to Madagascar's development through capacity building, commercial facilities, IT for rural development and humanitarian aid, and does not also threaten the country's solvency. However, it is clear that Indo-Malagasy cooperation is not yet sufficiently developed compared to other Indian cooperation with other African countries. As an illustration, India has extended Lines of Credit (LoCs) for projects in African nations that are spread across various infrastructure sectors such as roads, railways, power, ports, shipping and so on, and Madagascar is not among the beneficiaries countries. Therefore Madagascar should take every opportunity to further its gainful cooperation with India.

## **India-Madagascar Cooperation Perspective**

### **Lines of Credit on agriculture cooperation**

Currently, the Southern part of Madagascar is suffering from severe drought and famine due to climate change, coupled with the current international food and fuel crises, which further increases the rate of undernourishment and malnutrition of the people. Therefore, ensuring food self-sufficiency for the entire country is a priority for the Malagasy government.

As India is one of the emerging countries with sufficiently developed agricultural technology to ensure food self-sufficiency for its 1.3 billion citizens and also to provide food to various developing countries, it would be an ideal mentor for Madagascar in the development of its agricultural sector. In this regard, Madagascar is expecting to receive Lines of Credit on agriculture cooperation, which is characterised by a supply of agricultural equipment and also capacity building in agricultural technology, particularly in rice cultivation.

### Cooperation in Digital Transformation

India, with its own satellite manufacturing and launch capabilities, could be a partner of choice in the technology and digital sector, as well as in the environment sector, including capacity building to deal with various natural disasters.

### Cooperation in the Field of Energy Transition

Apart from the crisis in Ukraine, which has caused major disruptions in the supply of hydrocarbon energy worldwide, the environmental issue makes the energy transition a priority. The project of development of green energies is viable in Madagascar, as the country has a great potential in hydraulic, solar and wind resources.

### Conclusion

South-South Cooperation (SSC), as established by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) in 1978, is an effective strategy which complements the North-South Cooperation for the development of Southern nations, notably those in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the goal of accelerating sustainable development. With a firm belief in the true spirit of South-South Cooperation, this paper has established various domains of cooperation accomplished by Madagascar and India, in a globally disruptive backdrop and climate change.

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# Niger Areas of South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Niandou Garba Abdoul-Razak\*

**Abstract:** South-South collaboration is one of the most successful and affordable strategies for eradicating hunger on a global scale. Food security, poverty reduction, and the sustainable management of natural resources would all benefit enormously from the sharing of development ideas among nations in the South. South-South cooperation and Triangular cooperation have proved to be effective in creating jobs, building infrastructure and promoting trade between countries across the global south. They aim to stimulate the establishment of an extended framework of collaborations between developing countries and to offer a model that complements the traditional relations between donors and recipients. This present paper reviews some of the

**Keywords:** South South Cooperation, Triangular Cooperation, Niger-India Relation

## Introduction

The term “South-South Cooperation” describes the sharing of technological resources between nations in the Global South. It is a tool used by 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, urbanization, health, climate change, etc. Political, economic, scientific, socio-cultural, and

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\*.MAEC, Government

judicial principles, as well as the concepts of peace and development, provide the basis for the strong friendship and active solidarity between the Republic of Niger and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In considering the cooperation with India, it is seen as vast and multifaceted. Indeed the bond between the Republic of Niger and India dates back to the early 1960s when Niger supported India in the Sino-Indian war.

Cooperation between Niger and India is therefore a part of the partnership that began with the India-Africa Forum Summit held in 2008 in New Delhi. The essential question is whether this bond would be beneficial for Niger in the process of development. This paper focuses on three parts; first it discusses the areas of cooperation of Niger with Pakistan, then it talks about the areas of cooperation with India. At end, it explores the prospects of this cooperation for Niger.

## **Areas of cooperation with Pakistan**

### **Trade and Economic cooperation**

In the past, bilateral cooperation was almost nonexistent at the economic and commercial levels. The flow of trade is also evolving, probably due to the non-existence of an air link between Niemen and Islamabad.

Health, education, security, defence, and agriculture are just some of the fields that have benefited from this cooperation for quite some time; however, the holding of this forum has allowed for its expansion into the agro-industrial sector, pharmaceutical industry, clothing industry, craft industry, and many other fields. In order to help the economies of the two nations expand more quickly, economic operators from Niger and Pakistan had discussion for three days on how to create new partnerships in promising industries. This cooperation will thus be facilitated by other incentive measures decided by the government of Niger such as the facilitation of access to financing, facilitation of tax payment procedures, modernization of customs procedures, adoption of the law on

public-private partnership and adoption of legal and institutional framework for the governance of the special economic zone.

### **Cooperation in the Field of Training**

Since the announcement made by the President of Pakistan, during the 1st Summit of the International Cooperation Organization (OIC) on Science and Technology, held on 10-11 September 2007 in Astana (Kazakhstan), the government of Pakistan made available annually to some OIC member countries, including Niger, 100 scholarships for new PhDs, Masters and Undergraduates in the fields of medicine genius, agriculture, natural sciences and physical science.

## **Areas of Cooperation with India**

### **Economic and Financial Cooperation**

One of the modes of economic and financial cooperation is in the form of lines of credit at concessional rates of 1.5 per cent, over a period of 22 to 25 years and also in the form of grants. India has granted Lines of Credit of nearly US\$100 million for various development projects in Niger. This includes the drilling of 500 water points, the provision of storage tanks for the supply of drinking water in several rural areas of Niger; the installation of the very first solar power plant in Niger (7MW) in Malbaza, Tahoua, supplying electricity to the grid, the solar electrification of 90 villages in the region of Agadez, Diffa, Maradi and Zinder, the rehabilitation of power stations and transmission line, the supply of buses, automobiles, pumps, etc.

The projects include the extension and modernization of drinking water networks in the regions of Maradi, Dosso, and Diffa for an amount of US \$56.7 million, electrification and agricultural irrigation projects for the Kandadji dam resettlement sites for an amount of US \$25.1 and solar electrification of 50 villages for a cost of US \$10 million through the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID).



These projects not only contribute to the efforts made by the Nigerien government to improve the living conditions of its population, but also allow the transfer of skills.

The Mahatma Gandhi International Conference Center's construction, which received a grant of 35.484 million US dollars, is the biggest of the several grant projects. This modern facility is a well-known landmark in Niamey and an enduring reminder of the friendship between India and Niger. It gives Niger the necessary skills to make Niamey the conference center of West Africa. India also provided \$15 million grant aid to Niger for hosting AU summit in Niamey in July 2019.

In addition, it should be mentioned that Niger, through the Ministry of Commerce and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is represented at the Conclaves on the Africa-India economic partnership organized each year by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) in collaboration with Exim-Bank of India and whose 17th edition took place from July 19 to 21 2022. Among the many grant projects, the largest is the construction of the cooperation projects in the field of energy

Niger is one of the founding member countries of the International Solar Alliance. Created on 30 November, 2015, under the leadership of the Indian government, the International Solar Alliance aims to encourage better use of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. Niger invested very early in the field of solar energy through research conducted by Professor Abdou Moumouni Dioffo. Today the effort is still continuing.

### **Internships and Training**

India is also helping Niger to develop its human resources by financing capacity building and training of Nigerien civil servants under the ITEC program and "India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)". through which hundreds of Nigeriens travel to India for training in various fields. To date, 1011 Nigerien civil servants have benefited from the ITEC training, 23 Nigerien

army officers have been trained in Indian military institutes under the same program, and 40 have attended training courses in India under the IAFS programme. India is offering full scholarships to Nigerian students for undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate studies and research fellowships in leading educational institutions in India under the ICCR scheme; 21 Nigerien students have benefited from it.

Concurrently, we take notice of the Pan-African Network implementation project, in keeping with the pledges made by the Indian government during the 3rd session of the India-Africa Summit, which was held in New Delhi, in October 2015. This network will enable African students to continue their education at no cost and medical and paramedical professionals to further their education without leaving their home country, thanks to the combination of tele-education and telemedicine. For the implementation of this network in our country, the signing of a memorandum of understanding is still awaited.

India regularly offers training courses to the military of our country. A framework that should be regularised and supervised, particularly for risky internships where access to certain installations or security systems is often subject to strict rules. The draft framework agreement for military cooperation between the Republic of Niger and the Republic of India is still under study at the level of the two countries. The formalization of such a framework will undoubtedly offer more opportunities to our country both in the field of the fight against terrorism, cross-border crime and in the field of logistics.

### **The Prospects of Cooperation for Niger**

The prospects of this South-South and triangular cooperation would be to strengthen bonds of friendship and brotherhood between India-Pakistan-Niger. Niger wants more South-South collaboration and transparency in the

development and transfer of cutting-edge technologies. It is also desirable if these two nations could provide a hand in getting our social, economic, and cultural affairs in order.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation between Niger, Pakistan, and India have the potential to bring significant benefits for all three countries. By sharing their knowledge, resources, and expertise, these countries can work together to address common

challenges such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to education and healthcare. The triangular cooperation between Niger, Pakistan, and India can also help promote economic development and increase trade and investment between the three countries.

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# Sierra Leone: Learning from South-South Cooperation: Some Experiences in Promoting SDG Goal 2 – Zero Hunger

**Kelvina Abioseh Newstead\***

**Abstract:** No nation has achieved success without cooperation with others, demonstrating how nations benefit from each other. Countries share multilateral relationships with others targeting specific objectives which include international trade, knowledge sharing, experience, technology, adoption of policies, etc. to enhance sustainable economic growth. Sierra Leone like other nations has benefited from several multilateral relations with other developing countries like India, China, Nigeria, Ghana, etc. This paper examines how Sierra Leone has used South-South Cooperation to progress toward SDG Target 2 that aims to reduce world hunger.

**Keywords:** SDGS, SSC, ITEC, UN, GDP

## Introduction

The Bandung Asian-African Conference (1955) provided the basis for South-South Cooperation with concrete proposals for promoting economic, political, technological and cultural sphere. In 1978 in Buenos Aires capital of Argentina delegation from 138 States adopted by consensus a Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC). The aim of this conference was to promote

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South-South trade, technical cooperation and capacity building within its various agencies and ensure solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, contributing to their national well-being, national and collective self-reliance, and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals over time. The cooperation in its clear mandate is for mutual sharing and exchange of key development solutions – knowledge, experiences and good practices, policies, technology, and resources between and among countries in the global South.

The South-South Cooperation attracted the attention of several developing countries to complement each other's efforts to enhance growth. During United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, 77 developing countries aimed at collaborating to make international trade and financial systems more favourable to the interests of the developing nations. This collaboration for mutual benefits had seen several developing countries coming together to share ideas, learn from each other and promote their interests over time. Several countries, over the years, have been key beneficiaries of the South-South Cooperation as they have in various ways adopted new ideas and methodologies to improve their productivities, efficiencies, and effectiveness capabilities.

Several countries have been key players in the South-South Cooperation. Some of the biggest advocates for the partnership are China and India. India, for instance, has been a leading developing nation in the South-South Cooperation as the country has attracted several global attentions in their South-South Cooperation roles. India, in 1964, launched the ITEC flagship programme for development cooperation with other poor developing countries. This programme was launched in 159 developing countries across Asia and African sub-continent for their development. India, through this programme, provided financial as well as technological assistance to these countries with various mutually agreed projects

of development during the period. India to date has been providing assistance to the least developing countries (LDC) in the bilateral, regional or multilateral framework in the form of sharing their expertise and development experience in an effort of promoting the South-South cooperation.

## **Sustainable Development Goals**

Today, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the best plan to create a better future for people and our planet by 2030. South-South Cooperation (SSC) has emerged as a major tool that countries can depend on to accomplish the established SDGs by 2030. Adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, the SDGs are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the environment. The Sustainable Development Goal 2, which deals with zero Hunger, is all about creating a world free of hunger by 2030. In 2020, between 720 million and 811 million persons worldwide were suffering from hunger, roughly 161 million more than in 2019 (UN Sustainable Development Goal Report). With a population of 7.5 million, the West African nation of Sierra Leone on the Atlantic coast is unfortunately not exception to the World hunger. A country with a real GDP growth estimate of 3.2 per cent in 2021 relies on agriculture, mining, manufacturing, construction, and services such as banking, telecommunication, trade, hotel and tourism, etc. with the agriculture sector remaining the largest contributor to the economy with an estimate of over 50 percent of the GDP in 2021. Despite the fact that the country relies highly on agriculture, food production remains very low that led to an estimate of over USD 200 million food stuffs importation in the country with rice standing as the major product imported. Because of these deficiencies and gaps in the economy, Sierra Leone undertakes several learning travels to other developing countries to boost the country's economy. Over the years, Sierra Leone has participated in South-South

cooperation, wherein its leaders have travelled to other developing nations like Senegal, Rwanda, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, China, etc. to exchange ideas and learn about the latest technologies, policies, ideas, etc. that could be applied to Sierra Leone's economy.

## **Sierra Leone's Multilateral Relation with other Developing Countries**

### **Investment in agriculture sector**

The Government of Sierra Leone's preference to boost the agriculture sector has resulted in the government undertaking different development activities whilst pouring huge investments into the sector to achieve government's aim of attaining the 80 per cent rice self-sufficiency and food security in 2023 as the nation works toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 2 (No hunger) in 2030. The government allocated LE 348.8 billion and LE 422.6 billion to the agriculture sector in 2020 and 2021 respectively to increase productivity. The government is also set to allocate an estimated LE 278.0 billion to the agriculture sector to implement various agriculture policies and improve on yields. There is also multiple development partners, and donor-funded projects to boost the agriculture sector over the years.

The government through the Ministry of Agriculture has linked with development partners to formulate and adopt different agricultural policies that are suitable to Sierra Leone's economy with the "Agricultural Policy Shifts" being the latest policy formulated in 2020 that aimed at increasing land under cultivation and boosting yields. The interventions/initiatives of the Agricultural Policy Shifts are focused on setting the enabling environment that promotes private sector investment in agriculture, reduces inefficiencies in service delivery, and protects smallholder farmers involved in agriculture. The key landmark Agriculture Policy Shifts initiatives which featured incorporated the private sector led farm mechanization through the establishment

of machine rings and farmer service centers, provision of agricultural credit facility to private sector actors to import agricultural inputs (seed, fertilizer, and other agro chemicals), initiating an e-wallet system to foster efficiency, transparency as well as cost reduction in the government's input delivery, and rolling out an e-extension to complement the extension strategy to reach millions of farmers with information to help decisions making, boost production, and income generation.

To make the Agriculture Policy Shifts more robust, the government set up an Agriculture Credit Facility (ACF) of LE10 billion through the Bank of Sierra Leone which will support access to loans by Agro dealers at an interest rate of 5 percent with the sole aim of purchasing and distributing inputs to farmers across the country. This has to increase agro dealers' access to income to scale up the importation of agriculture inputs thereby giving farmers many chances of accessing agriculture inputs for their farming activities. These are all government's strategies to combat hunger whilst targeting to achieve the SDG's #2.

### **South-South cooperation in agriculture**

In light of South-South cooperation's role in bolstering developing nations' attempts to advance their economies, Sierra Leone has begun sending its citizens on a series of educational exchanges to other countries in order to learn from their experiences and apply what they've learned to its own. Sierra Leone recently visited Uganda with the aim of studying and adopting the model implemented by the Ugandan government in the agriculture sector which would be used to strengthen and implement the South-South cooperation model in Sierra Leone. Lessons learnt from the Uganda visit will then help the country to accelerate the country's target for rice production self-sufficiency by 2023 whilst pushing towards achieving the SDG's # 2 (zero hunger). Uganda has been successfully championing the South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

framework and has registered substantial milestones in agricultural production as the country has experienced a significant increase in agriculture productivity and profitability with an increase in rice production from 150,000 MT in 2008 to 246,000 MT in 2022 whilst targeting 740,000 MT in 2030. Uganda has also introduced 25 new agriculture technologies which include hybrid rice, foxtail millet, maize, rice- fish culture, equipment, and tools. These models implemented by Uganda are worth learning from as different other countries including Sierra Leone engaged in knowledge sharing with Uganda to replicate similar models and technologies in Sierra Leone. Those new models and technologies learned and adopted will help Sierra Leone in achieving the targeted 80 percent rice self-sufficiency and food security in the country by 2023 whilst pushing towards achieving the SDG's #2 (zero hunger).

As information is key in development, Sierra Leone has never stopped searching for quality models, technologies, knowledge, etc. to boost the country's sector, especially the agriculture sector. To keep the food production level high and enhance an expansion in the agriculture sector, Sierra Leonean delegates from the office of the Vice President, Ministry of Agriculture also visited Senegal to engage and learn from them about food security and agricultural food systems financing which will equally be replicated in Sierra Leone to increase the productivity in the agriculture sector whilst ensuring food sufficiency. Senegal, since 2012, has been excelling and making progress in agriculture in areas including agriculture financing, managing the private sector and the support to smallholder farmers, credit to farmers and smallholder commercialization and hence it was worth studying, sharing knowledge, and tapping into the progress made by Senegal as Sierra Leone further strengthens

the existing cooperation between Sierra Leone and Senegal.

## Conclusion

South-South cooperation has been keeping us together, Sierra Leone has been taping into the knowledge, models, experiences, etc. with other countries whilst other countries are equally learning from Sierra Leone. It has been a mutual win-win situation. Government of Sierra Leone through the Ministry of Agriculture has been in constant touch with other developing countries to acquire knowledge, share ideas, tap into policies of other nations the learn new methodologies to improve on the agriculture sector. This has driven the country in formulating and establishing new policies to achieve the country's 80 percent rice self-sufficiency and food security. This will foster the country's efforts to achieve food sufficiency whilst driving towards achieving the SDGs # (Zero hunger).

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# New Perspectives in Multilateral South-South Cooperation: Case of Tunisia with African Countries

Saoussen Jomaa\*

**Abstract:** South-South cooperation is a part of Tunisia’s policy. Indeed, Tunisia has the ambition to strengthen economic ties, establish partnerships, and reinforce trade relationships with Africa. The objective of this paper is to present the two most important trade agreements that Tunisia has signed with the South-South African countries and which will have a very beneficial impact on her.

**Keywords :** Trade, Africa, South-South cooperation.

## Introduction

***“South-South Cooperation needs to be based on the principle that this kind of cooperation should... contribute positively to climate change mitigation and adaptation actions.”<sup>1</sup>***

Tunisia is a North African country that belongs to the Maghreb. It is bordered on the North and the East by the Mediterranean. Its western border opens on Algeria (965 km) and its South-Eastern border on Libya (459 km). Tunisia has today a diversified economy. It is historically linked to agriculture (wheat, olives, dates, citrus fruits and sea products), to mines

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and energy (large producer of phosphates and to a lesser extent of hydrocarbons), to tourism and to manufacturing industries (textile, food processing and electromechanical engineering). In the industrial field, the interventionist policy of the State is decreasing with the increase in privatizations.

Tunisia was the first Mediterranean country that had signed an agreement of free trade with the European Union (17 July 1995). The effective date of this Agreement was 1 March 1998. The parties to this agreement have pledged to establishing a free trade area between Tunisia and the European Union by 2008. In this framework, Tunisia has decided to promote cooperation's with the African and Arabic countries, bilaterally and multilaterally.

After COVID-19, developing countries suffer much more from the pandemic. Prices have increased and the Economic situation of many countries has deteriorated. Some of countries from South decided to work and cooperate together, to support the development and improve the competitiveness of the economy.

For a variety of reasons, including getting access to cheaper raw materials, and chance to learn from and teach others, and possibility of receiving assistance in a range of technical and commercial areas, Tunisia has decided to increase its trade and cooperation with developing nations.

## AfCFTA (the African Continental Free Trade Area)

The AfCFTA "is more than just tariff reductions; it enables investors to have access to that huge market which will attract investment, driven by rules of origin that prioritize African inputs and value-added goods and service"s.2

This is the largest free trade area in the world since the establishment of the WTO. It is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063: "The Africa we want". The overall mandate is to create a single continental market.

The AfCFTA aims to:

- Eliminate trade barriers and boost intra-African trade.

- Advancing trade in value-added production across all service sectors of the African economy.
- Contribute to establishing regional value chains in Africa, enabling investment and job creation.
- Promote industrialization, job creation and investment, thus strengthening Africa's Negotiations for the establishment of the continental free trade area.

Africa includes five domains which are divided into two phases:

- **The first phase:** Liberalization of trade in goods and trade in services;
- **The second phase:** Investment, competition, intellectual property rights, digital commerce, women and youth in trade. competitiveness in the medium and long term.
- **Five priority services:** Services provided to businesses (professional services,IT, R&D services, real estate services, etc.); Tourism; Transportation; Communications; Financial services
- **Market access + national treatment (WTO approach)**

## Where are we today?

### Rules of origin:

- Conclusion of the AfCFTA rules of origin manual,
- 87.8 per cent of tariff lines are agreed under rules of origin,
- For the remaining 12.2 percent of tariff lines: application of CER regimes or regimes applied at national level,
- The Secretariat has established a secure database for stamps and specimens of signatures of the competent authorities designated to issue the Certificates of Origin, So far, 23 specimen signatures have been received.

Outstanding issues include: Textiles and Apparel, representing 10.5 percent of lines tariffs; automobiles, representing 1.4percent of tariff lines; and Sugar, representing 0.2percent of tariff lines

After signing this agreement on 21 March



2018 in Kigali, Tunisia ratified it in July 2020, “thus allowing it to benefit from a vast market of 1.2 billion inhabitants, to develop Tunisian-African trade and boost youth employment, while facilitating access for Tunisian companies to African markets. The AfCFTA is in itself an achievement because it is a free trade zone project on the entire African continent. It should bring together the Tripartite Free Trade Area, which should include the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC), with, on the other hand, the Economic Community of Central African States (Ceeac), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Arab Maghreb Union and the Community of the Sahelo-Saharan States”.

According to data provided by Onagri, this agreement will promote, in addition to the liberalization of trade in goods within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area, an expected increase in gross domestic product and exports for all African countries, i.e. growth in GDP (0.47 per cent) and exports (1.9 per cent).

“Tunisia should be one of the main beneficiaries in terms of growth in exports to Africa, at a rate of between 26 and 54%. Similarly, the growth rates of industrial, agricultural, Tunisian food industries and energy exports to Africa will successively reach 74 per cent, 21 per cent and 5 per cent”. “There would be little impact on tax revenue and, despite the opportunities offered by this market, there are many challenges to overcome including fears of significant loss of customs revenue and an unequal distribution of costs, and benefits are among the main obstacles to the integration of the continent”.

The signing and ratification of The AfCFTA agreement will certainly give our country more economic resilience and operators will be able to estimate a new way out of the crisis in this critical period”. A study entitled “Agricultural and agri-food exchanges with African countries: Realities and outlook”.<sup>3</sup>

## COMESA (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa)

COMESA was originally established in 1981 as a trading area preference of the States of Eastern and Southern Africa –ZEP–, in the framework of the Lagos Plan of Action and the Final Act of Lagos adopted by the Organization of African Unity (–OAU–). The ZEP has been transformed into COMESA in 1994. It was set up to take advantage of a larger market, to share the common heritage and destiny of the region as well as to enable social and economic cooperation. COMESA is one of eight Regional Economic Communities (–REC–) recognized by the African Union.

### COMESA Objectives

COMESA Member States have notably agreed on the following actions:

- The establishment of a free trade area which guarantees the free movement of goods and services produced within COMESA as well as the removal of all obstacles tariff and non-tariff;
- The constitution of a customs union in which the goods and services imported from non-member countries COMESA are subject to a single agreed tariff –Common external tariff – in all Member States of the LIKE THIS;
- Free movement of capital and investment, supported by the adoption of a common investment zone to create a more favorable investment climate;
- The establishment of a progressive payment union centered on the COMESA Clearing House and the establishment eventually a monetary union, with a single currency; and
- Gradual relaxation and eventual elimination the visa requirement, which will lead to free movement people, labor and services as well as the right of establishment.

On 18 July, 2018, Tunisia formally joined the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, making it the 20th member (COMESA). With the signing of this agreement, Tunisia thus joined the 19 African countries, having

concluded since 1994 a common market of Eastern and Southern Africa, of free trade. The signature of this agreement Tunisia will Absence of a preferential legal framework governing relations Tunisian-African trade, Weak Tunisian presence in this region, Promising economic performance of countries in the region, Low volume of Tunisian exports to Africa, Diversification of partners and annihilation of dependency vis-à-vis traditional markets, Orientation towards the integration of regional economic blocks as a cornerstone of overall African integration, growing willingness of the private sector to be market oriented African.

### Challenges Affecting Intra-African Trade

- Lack of access to trade and market information.
- Weak industrial base and dependence on raw materials.
- Inadequate trade-enabling infrastructure (electricity, transport, etc.) (funding gap of \$110 billion).<sup>4</sup>
- Inadequate trade facilitation infrastructure (customs and logistics).<sup>5</sup> Payment and Settlement Matters.
- Limited access to trade finance (financing gap of US\$120 billion).<sup>5</sup>
- Historical Trading Trends.
- African informal trade is around 40% (US\$70-140 billion).<sup>9</sup> Lack of quality infrastructure

and harmonized standards.

- 10. Slow implementation of regional trade commitments

### Conclusion

Tunisian cooperation with sub-Saharan African countries does not start long but it presents the future because we all share the same goal, which is to help each other forward. Tunisia is committed to keep working with and within the African continent and to actively take part in its development.

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<sup>3</sup> Onagri: the National Observatory of Agriculture  
<sup>4</sup> African Export-Import Bank  
<sup>5</sup> African Export-Import Bank

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# Algerian Indian Cooperation: An Example of South-South Cooperation

Dehim Fouzia\*

**Abstract:** As a result of South-South cooperation, there has been an enormous rise in economic activity, including trade, investment, and the sharing of resources, technologies, and expertise among developing nations. In 1962, the year Algeria gained its independence from French colonial rule, diplomatic relations were established between India and Algeria. Since then, relations between the two countries have been warm and cordial. The two nations support each other on all important issues in bilateral and multilateral forums. The objective of the paper is to explore how South-South cooperation can be beneficial to boost the Algerian economy.

**Key words:** South-South Cooperation, North-South Cooperation, Algeria-India Relations

## Introduction

The main purpose of economic cooperation and development is the promotion of sustainable growth from an economic, societal and ecological point of view. The aim is to reduce poverty and inequality, create new jobs and promote increased productivity. South-South cooperation for development is a process, whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives, through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources

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and technical know-how, through regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships involving governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector, for their individual and/or mutual benefit within and across regions. South-South cooperation is not meant to replace North-South Cooperation but rather to supplement it.

### **Economic Cooperation**

Economic cooperation is considered one of the most striking landscapes of globalization and it has fully contributed to the development process, particularly through its different dimensions (bilateral, multilateral) and its multiple arrangements (intra-regional, regional and interregional). Thus, it is a very important aspect of international relations, playing the card of complementarity between economies.

### **Fundamental Principles of South-South Economic Cooperation**

Through South-South Cooperation, developing countries share their knowledge, skills, expertise and resources to achieve their development goals through concerted efforts such as, national ownership and independence, national sovereignty, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs, mutual benefit, and mainly different perceptions of how the gains would be distributed, and ready for humanitarian aid.

### **Triangular Cooperation**

Triangular cooperation can bring together the best of different actors – development cooperation providers, South-South cooperation partners and international organizations – to share knowledge and implement projects in the service of the common goal of fighting against poverty and promoting development. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation have proven effective in creating jobs, building infrastructure and promoting trade between countries across the Global South. They aim to stimulate the establishment of an

extended framework of collaborations between developing countries and to offer a model that complements the traditional relations between donors and recipients.

### **Forum on Aid Effectiveness**

South-South Cooperation is one of the fourth high-level forums on aid effectiveness. It has become a tangible source of development cooperation. It was made clear that through South-South cooperation, there has been a significant increase in trade and investment as well as the exchange of resources, technology and knowledge among countries of the South.

### **India-Algeria Relations**

Diplomatic relations between India and Algeria were established in 1962, the year Algeria became independent from the colonial power of France. Since then, relations between the two countries have been warm and cordial. The two nations support each other on all important issues in bilateral and multilateral forums. Recent bilateral events India participated as guest of honor at the 48th International Fair of Algeria at the invitation of the Algerian government, the date of which coincided with the ninth meeting of the joint commission on 27 May 2015. A pavilion of India titled “Salaam Namaste”, was set up in cooperation with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and 70 Indian companies that participated in the fair.

A symposium on the theme “Trade relations between India and Algeria: challenges and future prospects” was organized by the Indian Embassy on 3 March 2016, at the Hilton Hotel in Algiers. More than 60 people, including top Algerian and Indian business leaders and senior officials from the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and the Ministry of Commerce, attended this programme. Thirteen Indian companies exhibited a wide variety of plastic production machinery, raw plastic materials and packaging products during the PrintPack and Plast Alger exhibition which took place

from 5-7 April 2016 at the Safex Exhibition Center in Algiers.

The Indian Embassy participated on 21 May 2016, in an international fair organized at the Hilton hotel to promote Indian tea brands. A delegation from CAPEXIL (Council for the promotion of exports of chemicals and associated products), made up of 13 business leaders from the ceramics, granite and book sectors, prints, glass beads and rubber conveyor belts, visited Algeria from 27 to 31 August 2016. A Buyers and Sellers Meeting (BSM) was organized by the Plastics Export Promotion Council of India on November 7 2016, in Algiers.

Twenty-five Indian pharmaceutical companies participated in the annual Maghreb Pharma exhibition which took place from 8 to 10 November 2016 in Algiers.

### **ITEC Programme**

(ITEC Programme is a bilateral assistance program of the Government of India. Training or capacity building is one of the main activities of the ITEC programme. Professionals and individuals from partner countries are offered unique training courses at various centers of excellence in India that not only equip them with professional skills but prepare them for an increasingly globalized world. The Government of India offers training courses every year covering various topics in different Indian Institutes such as Health, Information Technology, ICT, IT, Management, Leadership, Auditing, energy technologies, etc, to civil servants of the Algerian Government, employees of the public sector, Universities, Chambers of Commerce and Industry and members of the private sector.

Since 2007, more than 365 candidates from Algeria have availed ITEC training. This year the Embassy has received a record number of applications. Some of the popular ITEC courses in Algeria are- advanced methods of crime investigation, narcotics and psychotropic substances, Human Resource Management for organizational excellence, government

accounting and financial management, audit of e-governance, WTO issues, development partnership – learning South-South cooperation, climate change and sustainable development, recycling technology, artificial intelligence, data analytics and risk management.

### **Privileged Areas of Algerian-Indian Cooperation**

Within the framework of bilateral relations between Algeria and India, several meetings were held between officials and ministers of the two parties, in order to explore and seek possible lines of cooperation and partnership in various fields. Here are the recent visits made:

The Minister of Energy and Mines of Algeria met with the Indian Ambassador in Algiers to discuss expanding and enhancing energy and mining cooperation between the two countries. While in Algiers, he met with India's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs to explore expanding bilateral cooperation in areas such as energy, mining, and seawater desalination. There was a meeting between the Algerian Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Indian Ambassador to Algeria, where they spoke about methods to strengthen ties of collaboration between the two countries in the realm of academics. The Algerian Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy, Transition and Renewable Energies, received in Algiers, the representative of the Indian company Kalpataru Power Transmission LTD, with whom he discussed technical cooperation and the prospects for investment in the field of renewable energies, indicates a press release from the ministry. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and National Community abroad, discussed, with his Indian counterpart, bilateral relations and ways to strengthen them, particularly in the field economy in view of future bilateral deadlines, according to the NEW YORK (United Nations). He met in Algiers with the Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, with whom he discussed the issues of common interest, including the promotion of bilateral

relations. According to a statement released by the Prime Minister's office, the Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs was welcomed by the Minister of Finance while in Algeria on a business visit.

### **Results of an Algerian dissertation in economics on South-South Cooperation**

Purpose of highlighting the concept of South-South Cooperation, as one of the recognised forms of international economic cooperation. This aims to boost the economic and social development in developing countries and the least developed countries. Through the descriptive approach, attention was focused on a broader vision of South-South Cooperation, its principles, its historical context as well as its scope and the role it can play alongside North-South cooperation. Moreover, the involvement of Africa and Algeria in this type of cooperation as well as relations between them in this context was also analysed. The study concluded that the South-South Cooperation is a fruitful opportunity to boost the Algerian economy.

### **Algeria and North-South Cooperation**

Algeria, benefiting from a strategic location, enormous economic capabilities and also strong historical relationships, has concluded numerous cooperation agreements both with the South and with the North. But it was oriented more North than South point of totally abandoning its neighbours to the South. This had repercussions in its economic relations and the volume of trade between it and the southern

countries. Nevertheless, the very mixed record of Algerian cooperation with the northern countries, particularly with the European Union (EU), such a balance sheet is characterized by a structural imbalance in earnings. However, the figures for trade, investment and development have shown us that this cooperation does not result in a win-win situation as it is promised during the ratification of the cooperation and partnership agreements.

### **Conclusion**

Therefore, in the current geopolitical and economic context, the role of Southern nations in growth processes and the generation of global wealth has become more crucial. In this regard, the South-South cooperation stands out as another way of partnership and cooperation to circumvent the shortcomings and anomalies that characterize North-South cooperation and allow reverse flows between Algeria and the other Southern countries (particularly those in Africa), which have shared with it the same development aspirations. In order to replace the phrases aid and assistance with collaboration and partnership, it was important to establish relationships of equality as the basis for cooperation.

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# South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation in the Sahelian Region: The G5 Sahel

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**Abstract:** The G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger) cooperate in various areas to address the complex security, political, and humanitarian challenges facing the region. The organization, established in 2014, focuses on implementing development projects, strengthening the capacity of their security forces, and promoting regional economic integration. The G5 Sahel Joint Force is a major security initiative launched by the organization in 2017, which aims to combat terrorism and transnational organized crime in the region. The organization also works closely with international partners, including the African Union, the European Union, and the United Nations, to mobilize resources and support for their initiatives.

**Keywords :** security, development, cooperation

## Introduction

The Sahel region of Africa is facing a number of complex security, political, and humanitarian challenges, including terrorism, organized crime, and illegal migration. In response to these challenges, the countries of the region have formed the G5 Sahel, an organization comprising Burkina Faso, Chad,

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Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. Established in 2014, the G5 Sahel aims to coordinate efforts and strengthen cooperation among its member countries to address these challenges and promote sustainable development in the region. The organization's actions are focused on implementing development projects, strengthening the capacity of security forces, and promoting regional economic integration. Additionally, G5 Sahel works closely with international partners such as the African Union, the European Union, and the United Nations to mobilize resources and support for their initiatives. Cooperation between the G5 Sahel countries is vital in addressing the complex challenges facing the Sahel region, and in fostering cooperation and coordination among the member countries.

As a worldwide vision of peace, the Sahelian ideal is a universal aspiration. Consequently, the G.5 Sahel has been given more responsibilities. This Organization of the G.5 Sahel acts on two ambitious but complementary axes despite the various challenges and limits it face: fighting against insecurity and carrying out development actions to open up the area.

## The fight against insecurity

The G.5 Sahel cannot achieve its objective of combating insecurity in the Sahel without having its own and autonomous Force which will constitute its armed wing. This is why the Heads of State of the G.5 Sahel adopted resolution n° 00-01/2017 of 6 February 2017, creating the Joint Force of the G5 Sahel (FC-G5 Sahel) whose deployment was authorized by the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, Communiqué of 13 April 2017 (Lecoutre, 2004) acting as a “collective security system” (Union, 2022) for an initial period of twelve month which was subsequently renewed several times. The FC/G.5 Sahel is, as such, complementary to the peace and security architecture of the African Union. The United Nations Security Council, by resolution 2359 of 21 June 2017, welcomed the creation of this joint force.

In order to restore State authority, implement development, and aid in humanitarian operations, the FC/G5 Sahel is tasked with combating terrorism, transnational organised crime, and human trafficking. With regard to this expanded mandate, the FC.G.5 Sahel is analysed as a multinational force, i.e. an “armed corps made up of several national contingents





placed under unified state command and control, pursuing the objective of maintaining or peace-making and endowed with coercive power. The creation of a multinational force can be the result of a simple interstate initiative. Since its creation, FC.G.5 Sahel has had to carry out dozens of joint operations, mainly in the “three-border zone” (Burkina-Faso, Mali and Niger), which is the most critical.

The financing of the FC/G.5 Sahel, which currently has 5,000 men, is provided by the Member States and the main international actors in the Sahel. However, FC/G.5 Sahel has not yet reached full operational capacity (Jean SALMON, 2001). Indeed, it evolves alongside other forces present in the region, in particular, the French and especially the UN forces of MINUSMA, which provide it with operational and logistical support on the basis of the technical agreement concluded on 23 February 2018, between the UN, the European Union and the G5 Sahel States. The terms of this “Technical Agreement” are set out in paragraph 13 of resolution 2391 (2017) of 8 December 2017.

This FC/G5 Sahel has several components, in particular the Police and the Anti-Jihadist Force. In addition, the G.5 Sahel uses other tools such as Rapid Action, Surveillance and Intervention Groups, training institutions (the Defense College, the Sahelian Security College and the Regional Academy of police), an intelligence system, and the Sahelian Center for Threat Analysis and Early Warning. The fight against terrorism can also be won in the field of development.

## **Development Actions**

Among the four ambitious objectives of the G.5 Sahel, three relate to the development axis, namely the improvement of the living conditions of the populations through the development of infrastructure, governance, and the resilience of the populations to vulnerability. The development actions selected are inseparable from and complementary to the security actions that they contribute to diminishing. With this

in mind, 40 projects are registered under the first phase of the PIP (2019-2021). Better still, to speed up the response to development issues, an Emergency Development Programme (PDU) extracted from the PIP has been implemented in order to improve the living conditions of populations in fragile areas (hydraulics, health, education...)

In terms of governance, the actions adopted relate to the “return” of the State to areas of insecurity, the improvement of local governance, information, awareness and communication actions to fight against all kinds of violence and promote social cohesion, empowerment and socio-professional integration of young people and women, the strengthening of Civil Society Organizations, etc.

In terms of infrastructure, the actions aim to open up areas, the construction of socio-economic infrastructure (hydro-agricultural facilities, agro-pastoral production and processing infrastructure, creation of marketing circuits, etc.), transport infrastructure, training young people in agricultural and livestock trades and techniques, land development, etc. In terms of the resilience of the populations, the actions related to the development of agro-sylvo-pastoral activities, organization and capacity building of production actors, improvement of food security, support for local authorities, training and professional integration of people vulnerable, coverage of basic social needs, return of displaced persons and refugees, etc. More than 500 development projects are included in the Sahel Alliance portfolio, a large part of which is under investigation or in progress.

## **Cooperation with International Organizations**

The accompaniment and support of the international community remain an essential condition for the sustainability and longevity of all G5 Sahel initiatives. On the defense and security aspect, the G5 Sahel can count on:

- Substantial financial and technical support which translates into the supply

of equipment and materials for the FC-G5, training given to the battalions of the FCG5S and its police component by the TFPs, logistical support provided by MINUSMA in the framework of the EU-UN-G5 Sahel tripartite agreement and by the Barkhane force.

- Regional support from the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) and their Member States through various partnership mechanisms and frameworks:
- Operational support, particularly in terms of intelligence and air support; In the field of development, the G5 Sahel also benefits from various supports.
- Institutional support for the rotating Presidency, the Permanent Secretariat and its attached structures. This support concerns technical and operational capacity building for staff and logistical and financial support for operations provided by numerous partners.
- Financial support from certain TFPs, for the complete formulation, the carrying out of studies and the implementation of projects are implemented in the areas of intervention of the G5 Sahel, in conjunction with local actors.

This variety of support from partners allows the G5 Sahel to gain momentum and consolidate its place and power of intervention in the fields of security and development. Thus in a few years of existence, the G5 Sahel has become a key regional player on security issues in the Sahel. Despite its modest impact on development, its importance as a complement to the efforts of states and regional organisations like CILSS, ECOWAS, and UEMOA is widely acknowledged.

This rise in power is causing increased demand from the G5 Sahel, which still poses issues of strengthening and mastering the G5 Sahel intervention system.

## Limits and Key Recommendations

The G5 Sahel's institutional and organisational framework is functional, and its instruments are either fully functional or moving in the right direction toward full functionality. However, further evidence of its applicability is needed before we can expect any real outcomes. There is a diversification of partners, which is an asset for mobilizing sufficient funds but also a risk for the effectiveness of actions.

TFP interventions take various forms, ranging from direct funding to the supply of equipment and materials, including training and the supply of food and fuel.

While the TFPs have contributed significant assistance, the G.5 Sahel has yet to become fully functioning owing, in part, to delays or omissions in the delivery of pledged contributions. In addition, the coordination of TFP interventions poses a real problem due to the independence of the financing mechanisms and the frameworks in which they operate, the nature of the interventions as well as the policies and objectives pursued. The entanglement of intervention strategies of international, regional and national actors hinders coordination, generating overlaps and duplications, thus weakening coherence and impact.

## Recommendations

- Sharing of information, pooling of resources and cooperation at borders: building an architecture of secure and interoperable information systems, regional sharing of information between national services in the fight against terrorism and organized crime (based on what already exists), application of regional agreements in the fight against terrorism and organized crime.
- Articulate the actions of the G5 Sahel with the regional strategies promoted by the relevant organizations with the area of intervention of the G5 Sahel: ECOWAS, CILSS, ALG, UEMOA: search for complementarity, the principle of subsidiarity, targeting of the action of the G5 Sahel on areas contributing

to restoring security in order to strengthen the action of other regional actors;

At the level of the FC-G5Sahel : moving from political recognition to operational recognition

- Strengthen the culture of planning and the conduct of long-term operations;
- Systematize feedback;
- Accelerate the operationalization of the police component of the FC-G5Sahel.

As for France, whose military action is particularly appreciated by the leaders of the G5S, must avoid dragging on in the region. This is so because French military operations with an indefinite mandate are going on for very long in the continent, and have ended up arousing the mistrust of the populations. French military operations must therefore give way to the FC/G5Sahel and if France absolutely must intervene militarily to protect civilian populations, it should only do so at the request of the countries concerned, regional organizations and under a United Nations mandate.

## Conclusion

In the light of all the above, it can be concluded that the G5S, is a framework for institutional coordination and monitoring of regional cooperation in policy matters of development and security created by the five States of the

Sahel to pool their efforts and face together the multiple challenges of the Sahelian region. The G5S, strong in its capabilities prospective and operational, the unique organization of its kind, coupling the issue of security and development, is an effective actor in the resolution of conflicts in the Sahel. However, the FC/G5S, an attempt to respond to the lack of regional military cooperation, is a default response to a situation marked by a lack of political and diplomatic solutions in the current crises in the Sahel, and an important component in the conflict resolution strategy of armed Sahelians; it faces a number of problems that limit actions and therefore limit the effectiveness of the G5S as a major actor for peace in the region. This is how the G5S turned to strategic partnerships and alliances with multilateral partners to favour a cooperation policy aimed at improving the living conditions of the people.

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# The South - South Cooperation in Development: An Opportunity For Malawi

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**Abstract:** Malawi's cooperation with India dates back to 1964. The emergence of the new cooperation paradigms of South-South Cooperation has brought new opportunities to developing countries including Malawi. There are many priority areas and sectors for Malawi as outlined in the Malawi 2063 agenda and Malawi Implementation Plan for the first 10 years (MIP-1). This study focuses on two key initiatives outlined in Malawi 2063 that are important for realising this goal. These areas are Human Capital Development and Institutional Development which were also discussed in the Bhopal T20 meeting and are said to be key in the bolstering the growth of an economy.

## Introduction

Malawi is a Land locked country in southern Africa. Its population is estimated to be around 19 million people and rapidly growing. According to the World Bank, the GDP per capita of the country is around USD 634.8 in 2021 (World Bank, 2021) As one of the Least Developed Countries(LDC) Malawi has many challenges that affect its development, most of which are common in many African countries and others in the South.

Malawi in the quest to develop its economy through improvements in various sectors has over the past decades

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embarked on strategies to move the economy and its populace from poverty to self-reliance and also move to the upper-middle income level. Over the past two decades, Malawi's economic growth has been slow; the country still faces a lot of challenges to meet the desired achievements of its vision as well as others international aspirations including the global SDGs.

Malawi in the year 2020 developed another ambitious vision called the Malawi 2063 (MW2063) led by the National Planning Commission (NPC) with strategies that aim at realizing the dreams of the country by the year 2063. The MW 2063 has three main pillars which are anchored to direct its strategies. These are agriculture productivity and commercialization, industrialization and urbanization.

The commonality in the attainment of these pillars is human capacity development and institutional effectiveness plays a pivotal role in this process. People are the driving factor in the economic development and achievement of goals. The capabilities of human resources are instrumental to the attainment or failure of these goals. Research has shown that countries that neglect human resource development not only retard the expansion of human capabilities in the broadest sense but also undermine the country's long term potential rate of economic growth (Charturvedi, 2016)

The participation of all Malawians at all levels is one of the strategies the Malawi Government has considered to have instrumental values, which makes it an important feature in Human Capital Development. This has been shown through the commitments pronounced in the Malawi 2063 vision document by leaders of the three arms of Government namely: The Executive, the Judiciary and parliament. Other notable groups who have also pledged their commitment are the civil society, youth groups, non-state actors, traditional leaders and faith communities among others. The capabilities of all these groups will make the difference in how they participate, engage and indeed contribute

towards the processes of the various projects and programmes under the MW2063.

## **Opportunities for Human Capital Development in the South- South Cooperation**

The emergence of new modalities in cooperation or partnership by countries in the southern hemisphere called South-South cooperation (SSC) is a very interesting notion that has attracted a lot of attention among the countries in Africa, South Asia and South America. Countries in the south have for a long time experienced the contribution of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) led North-South Cooperation and some of its challenges including conditionalities, budgetary interventions, macroeconomic targeting etc., which have not spurred growth or stability in most countries.

Certainly, South-South cooperation presents a new paradigm in development partnership and cooperation and is appealing to most Southern countries which feel that SSC has a common understanding, based on similar backgrounds and traditions of their partners. This notion has been echoed by many speakers in the recent Bhopal T20 meeting; the developing countries in the south share some unique situations and backgrounds. Some of the common backgrounds like colonialism, traditional beliefs and cultures and economic similarities also enhance the appeal and acceptability of South-South cooperation. India has been on the forefront in championing the South-South discourse with dedicated institutions like Global Development Centre (GDC) at RIS taking the cooperation to a new level where it is not just been talked about, but actually being implemented. GDC is said to be a "Do tank" and not just a "think tank" which is a new paradigm of practicality for achieving outcomes that actually assist to improve the development of the lives of the people in developing countries.

It is very interesting to note that GDC has

been working with most African countries in many areas of development and has many success stories in the adoption or replication of best practices in African countries, Asia and the Pacific countries, in the broad areas of the capacity building, agriculture and nutrition, health, digital technology amongst others. The South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation have become important and effective ways of cooperation through, mostly, capacity building, information trade sharing, and technology transfer that add to the process of indigenous development processes (Chakrabarti, 2022).

SSC believes in an all-embracing approach towards the development of partner countries which leads to greater policy adherence across trade, investment and technology transfer and engages them to support human resource development for their economic growth (Chartuvedi, 2016). It focuses on demand-driven partnerships and localization of projects and not one size fits all for all countries for empowerment and ownership; this has been amongst the agreements in summits like the Paris (2005) and Geneva (2015)

### **Human Capital Development in Malawi**

The Malawi 2063 vision has been supplemented by the first ten year implementation plan called the Malawi Implementation Plan One (MIP-1) for the years 2021-2030. This is a document that outlines the strategies for implementation of the MW2063 in the first ten years. The MIP-1 lists some priorities for attaining the 2063 vision and this write-up will focus on enabler number two, Effective Governance Systems and Institutions and enablers number five, Human Capital Development.

The MIP-1 has placed an enabler on Developing Human Capital through education, skills development and health, which plays a pivotal role in the transformation of the economy (MIP-1, 2020). Human capital development is the expansion of scientific and technical knowledge that raises the productivity of labour

and other inputs in production. (Becker 1993). Human Capital Development in developing countries is one of the critical processes that Malawi as a country should focus on. This has been given priority in the MW 2063 document pillar number two which indicates inclusive human development as one of the strategies that will be used to achieve the stipulated goals in this vision (Malawi Government, 2021).

In the year 2020, Malawi's Human Development Index (HDI) was at 0.41 and it has set a target of 0.5 to be reached by 2030. The human development of the country has been faced with several challenges including lack of quality education and equal access to education, exacerbated by poverty, poor health, low access to early childhood development institutions and illiteracy amongst others.

The MIP-1 has outlined several strategies including enhancing areas in youth education, skills development, science, technology and innovation (STI), health and nutrition, gender equality, etc. which have all been part of the discussion at the T20 parallel sessions held in Bhopal, India in January 2023; these issues will be part of the areas of discussion in the G20 meetings during the Indian presidency (Bhopal Declaration, 2023).

The T20 meetings in Bhopal highlighted some principles like neutrality, localization, and demand driven partnerships in the South-South cooperation which are appealing to the developing countries. There has been some consensus on issues of sovereignty and localization of development initiatives to suit specific countries. Malawi should, therefore, take advantage of SSC to collaborate with institutions like the Global Development Centre (GDC) at RIS to spur building human capital capabilities through knowledge sharing, capacity building and technology transfer of technicians in the key sectors of the economy. GDC has already collaborated with Malawi in Women's Economic Empowerment initiatives. However, there are areas in Malawi's key sectors like energy sector, agriculture and infrastructure

development that face various challenges. SSC intends to explore alternative financing that does not burden the beneficiary countries. Even though financial resources are a critical element in development, it is not a panacea to all the challenges faced by developing countries.

## **Institutional Development Through South -South Cooperation**

Institutions play a very critical role in the development of countries, strong institutions in the private sector as well as Government needs to be strengthened. Government institutions through various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) represent various sectors in the development arena. However, they face several challenges ranging from inadequate financial resources, lack of adequate technical skills, inadequate human resources, etc. The strengthening of the institutions in key sectors should be the focus of Malawi in the partnership within SSC. One of the panelists in the T20, proposed that the SSC should consider new paradigms beyond conventional areas and reinvent new models in critical areas of health, education, knowledge economy and financing of relevant institutions to impact economic growth.

The various critical institutions in the areas of education, health and skills development have an opportunity to collaborate and tap the vast experience and technical know-how of the Global Development Centre (GDC) of India. The MIP-1 outlines several strategies to build effective governance systems and institutions which includes building the technical and human resource capacity of the institutions that are coordinating governance systems and interventions in key sectors.

GDC has been partnering with many southern developing countries. GDC supports organizations with specifically tailored interventions to address specific needs and requirements of the organizations. It believes that best practices that have worked in similar countries can be replicated or adapted to other

countries and as such provide synergies for effectiveness. This collaboration ensures the capacity building and technological transfer that developing countries like Malawi can acquire for localization and replication. The ITEC programme under the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is amongst the partnerships that Malawi needs to harness as part of its interventions to achieve the goals in MIP-1.

Institutions in these sectors can collaborate with GDC to set up their institutions on a path of growth and learning which are amongst the objectives of SSC. Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General at RIS, in his speech at the T20 reiterated the fact that SSC is increasingly becoming critical in bolstering productive capacities of the developing countries with impact on trade, financial flow, technology and economic growth.

It is of great importance to note that Malawi has historic ties with India and is already involved in bilateral cooperation in some areas including Women Economic Empowerment. However, with the interest within the SSC framework, Malawi should explore priority areas as outlined in the MIP-1 where new collaborations may be established to enhance the learning processes and increase human capacity development in many sectors of the economy.

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Malawi as a developing country has aligned its development agenda in the Malawi 2063 which seeks to achieve self-reliance and economic independence by the year 2063. This agenda is also aligned with the global 17 SDGs. The –South-South Cooperation, therefore, presents opportunities for Malawi to partner with countries in the SCC in terms of Human Capital Development as well as Institutional Development to spur development through homegrown solutions with assistance from the partners. One of the strategic partners in the cooperation with India is the GDC whose vast experience in partnerships with other African countries as well as Malawi in certain areas



that can be leveraged further. It is therefore recommended that Malawi takes further steps in engaging with the Government of India to enhance its partnership and collaboration in areas of institutional development and human capital development and in other areas as discussed in this paper.

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# Triangular Cooperation in Mine Action

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**Abstract:** This article sheds the light on Triangular Cooperation and the problem of the explosive remnants of war and landmines that threatens the lives of civilians and development efforts in many countries around the world. This is in addition to shedding light on the mine action programme efforts to counter this threat and its negative impacts. It also showcases a form of Triangular Cooperation in the Mine Action sector.

**Keywords:** South-South Cooperation, Triangular Cooperation, Mine Action, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), Arab Regional Cooperation Programme, Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC).

## Introduction

The Triangular Cooperation in mine action is an untapped topic despite the growing importance of both areas in the international arena, which signifies the importance of having an academic investigation. Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERWs) continue to kill, injure and destroy the lives and livelihoods of civilians. They cause an estimated number of 11 to 12 victims each day and in various places worldwide (Duttine, 2013). There appeared a need to counter that threat through some form of cooperation between the governments of the contaminated countries who share certain similarities. This paper highlights a form of Triangular Cooperation in the field of Mine Action

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which is the “Arab Regional Cooperation Programme”. The aim of this research is to shed the light on triangular cooperation with a focus on mine action efforts among the Arab countries that suffer from the contamination of landmines and explosive remnants of wars. This paper is comprised of an introduction, research methodology, and secondary data on the topic under study. The paper ends with a conclusion along with the limitations and drawbacks of the study. The methodology adopted in this research is the secondary data collection through reviewing the previous literature on Triangular Cooperation and Mine Action showing the case of the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme. The data was collected from various sources and references in the literature that are relevant to the topic under study.

## **South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

There are several definitions that describe the South-South Cooperation which mainly come from the theory of International Relations. If we have a look at history, we may find that the term South-South Cooperation has been used to describe the exchange of resources, expertise, knowledge and experiences between countries of the south. Currently, the South-South cooperation is being seen as an opportunity to harness the economic ties and developmental cooperation among the countries of the South since they share many similarities that make understanding one another easier and sharing the same dreams. (Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries , 2022)

South-South Cooperation is about bringing together the efforts of the disadvantaged countries through a vision of mutual benefit in the sense that the development efforts can be achieved by the disadvantaged themselves and not through other parties (Gray & Gills, 2016).

The triangle is a basic shape in geometry and one of the strongest and well-established shapes in existence. It is also at the core of innovative

ways of working together in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. Hence, when the form of cooperation takes the form of a triangle, it means that countries, international organizations, civil societies, the private sector, and philanthropists collaborate together of three or more seeking flexible, cost-effective, and innovative solutions to successfully achieve the SDGs. It can take several turning and shaping as some believe that the triangle should have a top as a kind of hierarchical structure and in that way, it is called trilateral cooperation, while others believe that it is more of a flat structure which indicates horizontal cooperation (OECD, Accessed in 2023).

Triangular cooperation does not currently play a significant role in the global international development structure, although it is believed that it represents a significant proportion of development assistance programmes. So far, geography has been a key factor in guiding the bilateral development in the South, and this makes sense as contributors are likely to have a better understanding of their countries’ needs and share linguistic and cultural similarities (United Nations Economic and Social Council, 2008).

## **Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War- Scope of the Problem**

Explosive remnants of war continue to kill, injure and impact the daily lives of the communities that suffer from the contamination of their lands by the explosive remnants of wars and landmines even long after the wars and conflicts have come to an end. A lot of efforts were made to decrease the negative impact caused by the explosive remnants of wars, however, recent armed conflicts have resulted in an increase in the number of casualties and mortalities taking into account that many accidents go unreported, especially in the regions under conflict. Moreover, another more sophisticated contamination which is

the improvised explosive devices (IEDs) have aroused causing the injury and death of civilians and negatively affecting the infrastructure. By the year 2019, it is reported that 60 states were contaminated by landmines and 29 states were contaminated by cluster munitions (GICHD, Accessed 2023).

## Mine Action

The mine action sector has grown dramatically when humanitarian demining efforts started to take place in Afghanistan in the late 1980s and an active advocacy movement calling for the ban of these weapons was in progress. Mine action is and will continue to be a long-term effort. The negative humanitarian and developmental impact of the explosive remnants of war has been documented throughout history for quite a long time and here appears the important role of the mine action intervention (UNDP, 2021).

- As per the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining in its fifth edition entitled “A Guide to Mine Action”, Mine Action is described as the combination of activities designed to:
- reduce real and perceived risks to affected populations of landmines, cluster munitions, ammunition stockpiles and explosive remnants of war;
- address the consequences of accidents upon victims;
- reduce economic, social and developmental consequences of contamination; and
- advocate developing, adopting and complying with appropriate instruments of international humanitarian law (IHL) (GICHD, 2014).

## Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD)

Founded in 1998 and based in Switzerland, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining is an international non-profit organization that offers expertise in the field of countering landmines, explosive remnants of war and other hazards. The GICHD helps in

developing the capacities in the countries that suffer from landmines and explosive remnants of war. This takes place through conducting research, creating standards and sharing knowledge, as well as facilitating dialogue and cooperation. The GICHD cooperates with the national and local authorities in each of these countries in order to help them plan, coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate their national mine action programmes. It also cooperates in implementing the relevant mine action conventions. The GICHD follows the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence (GICHD, 2014).

Not only dealing with national and local authorities, but the GICHD also supports the developing and the professionalizing of the mine action sector for the welfare of its partners be it the United Nations, other international and regional organisations, non-governmental organisations, private businesses/ corporations and academia (GICHD, Accessed 2023).

In 2003, an agreement was signed between the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Swiss Federal Council relating to the status in Switzerland with the aim of contributing to end the suffering and the loss of lives caused by the landmines and explosive remnants of war, promoting the development of the international humanitarian law and its effective implementation, as well as strengthening the international cooperation in the field of humanitarian demining. (GICHD, Accessed 2023)

Currently, the GICHD operates in forty affected states and territories and this cooperation is endorsed by thirty governments and organizations, through core, financial and in-kind contributions (GICHD, Accessed 2023).

## Emergence of Cooperation Programmes in Mine Action

The idea of the cooperation program dates back to 2006, when the French speaking countries that suffer from the contamination of the explosive

remnants of war requested to establish a program or a platform that brings together the French speaking countries who are affected by landmines and explosive remnants of war. In response to this request, GICHD created a common platform for the French speaking countries in order to share experiences and best practices. Following this idea, GICHD created other groups based on linguistic commonality in order to facilitate the process of sharing experiences in the mine action field. In line with that, the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (ARCP) was created in 2012, the Persian Regional Cooperation Programme was created in 2013, and the Eastern Europe, Caucasus, and Central Asia Regional Cooperation Programme (EECCA RCP) was created in 2015. In 2011, the French speaking programme was then handed over to the African partners, and the Persian programme was closed in 2019. The ARCP and EECCA RCP do not focus any longer on the linguistic commonalities only, however, they have started to focus more on geographical proximity and common regional technical challenges, in addition to cooperation and sharing experiences on how to manage the mine action activities and decrease the threat caused by landmines and explosive remnants of war through risk education. (GICHD, 2020)

### **Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (ARCP)**

The Arab Regional cooperation programme was initiated by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining as a successor for the Arabic Language Outreach Programme that was previously initiated based on language commonality as previously mentioned (GICHD, Accessed 2023). The Arab Regional Cooperation Programme includes a number of 18 Arab-Speaking country members of the Middle East and North Africa Region. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) partners with the Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC) in order to facilitate and manage the programme. The main activities

of the programme are implementation of mine action related trainings and workshops in the mine action field for:

- facilitation of the exchange of experience of staff on the regional or international levels;
- mobilization of Arabic speaking experts on the local and regional levels; and
- translation of mine action related documents and publications into Arabic. (GICHD, 2020)

In that sense, this programme helps the Arab countries who suffer from the contamination of landmines and explosive remnants of war have access to recent information and best practices regarding the main pillars of the mine action (GICHD, 2020).

### **Leban on Mine Action Centre (LMAC)**

In 1998, the Lebanese Mine Action Authority (LMAA) was established by the Lebanese Council of Ministers as a legislative body to coordinate and facilitate the cooperation among the relevant ministries on matters that are related to landmine clearance/ demining. The Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC) is part of the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and acts as the executive arm of the Lebanese Mine Action Authority in terms of coordinating and implementing the Lebanese National Mine Action Program (LNMAP).

Lebanon is currently facing a complex explosive weapons threat stemming from four core events which are the Israeli occupation (1978 - 2000), the civil war (1975 - 1990), the Israel aggression in 2006 and more recently the spillover of conflict from Syria (2011 - the defeat of the terrorist groups in 2017). This resulted in serious contamination nationwide with Cluster Munitions remnants (CM), landmines, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). The Lebanon Mine Action Centre (LMAC) has extensive information on the level of contamination and the remaining contaminated locations. LMAC also cooperates with GICHD with regard to implementing

multiple workshops on the various mine action topics and facilitating the various mine action activities in cooperation with the rest of the Arab member countries through the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme (LMAC, Accessed on 2023).

## Conclusion

Explosive remnants of war and landmines continue to injure and kill a large number of civilians and negatively affect their daily lives. Moreover, they have serious negative impacts on the infrastructure and the development and investment efforts held by the national governments. The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining initiated the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme in order to bring together the Arab speaking countries who share the same contamination threats, have commonalities and similar backgrounds, language and historical backgrounds in order to share experiences, expertise, knowledge and best practices with regard to the mine action pillars. In order to facilitate the activities of the Arab Regional Cooperation Programme, an agreement was signed between the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and the Lebanon Mine Action Center with the aim of decreasing the threats imposed by the landmines and explosive remnants of war.

The main drawback and limitation to developing this paper was the tight timeline which resulted in disregarding multiple relevant topics in addition to missing the opportunity to access other important sources of secondary data. The study did not include any primary data such as conducting interviews with the relevant stakeholders in order to enrich the study with their opinions, thoughts, inputs, aspirations and experiences with regard to the topic under study.

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# India –Africa Investment, Trade and Economic Cooperation: Challenges and Perspective

Rambang Tot Deng\*

**Abstract:** The India-Africa trade, investment and economic cooperation is an instrument or forum promoted by Indian Government to promote meaningful economic and commercial ties between India and Africa. This initiative recognizes the importance of the African continent for India's economic growth and development and aims to strengthen the existing bonds of friendship between India and Africa. The initiative includes a series of initiatives such as the India-Africa Forum Summit, the India-Africa Trade and Investment Forum, and the India-Africa Business Forum. The goal is to create an environment where Indian and African businesses can collaborate and develop mutually beneficial economic partnerships. The initiative seeks to promote India-Africa trade, investment, and economic cooperation in order to foster sustainable economic growth and development in both countries.

**Keywords:** Trade and Investment, Human Capital and Skills, Public and Private Partnership.

## Introduction

The India-Africa trade, investment and economic cooperation is an effort of the Indian Government to strengthen the economic ties between India and African countries. Trade between India and African countries has been growing at a rapid pace in the last decade, registering double-digit growth during the period.

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\*Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation

The trade between India and Africa has been estimated to be around US\$ 72 billion in 2018-19, increasing from US\$ 51 billion in 2011-12. India's exports to Africa have grown from US\$ 21 billion in 2011-12 to US\$ 36 billion in 2018-19. India's imports from Africa have increased from US\$ 30 billion in 2011-12 to US\$ 36 billion in 2018-19.

India has also emerged as the 5th largest investor in Africa, investing over US\$ 32 billion in the continent. India's investments are mainly concentrated in natural resources, manufacturing and infrastructure sectors. India-Africa trade, investment and economic cooperation have been further strengthened by the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) process, launched in 2008. The IAFS has provided a platform for India and African countries to discuss and explore opportunities for enhanced economic cooperation. The latest India-Africa Forum Summit was held in October 2015 in New Delhi.

The summit provided a platform for India to reaffirm its commitment to the economic development of Africa and to reaffirm its commitment to the economic development of Africa. The Indian Government has also launched a number of initiatives such as the India-Africa Development Fund and the India-

Africa Health Initiative to further strengthen India-Africa economic cooperation.

## India-Africa Trade, Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Cooperation

Between 1996 and 2016, FDI in commerce between India and Africa produced about \$54 billion. Therefore, this paper will also examine the relationship between India and Africa in the areas of investment, trade and economic cooperation which has shown some important stories of the development partnership between India and Africa through the philosophy of South-South Cooperation in the global South.

### India-Africa Trade

India and Africa have a long history of trade. India has been trading with Africa for centuries and is now one of the most important trading partners of Africa. India exports a variety of goods to Africa, including machinery, automobiles, chemicals, textiles, and agricultural products. In return, Africa exports to India a range of commodities, such as minerals, metals, oil, and natural gas. India is also investing in Africa, particularly in infrastructure and energy projects. In addition, India is providing

**Table 1 India-Africa Trade in 2001-2018 \$ billion**

Year	India's imports from Africa	India's exports to Africa	Years	India's imports from Africa	India's exports to Africa
2001	2.44	2.81	2010	31.44	17.89
2002	3.30	3.02	2011	39.78	23.35
2003	3.28	3.62	2012	43.02	27.31
2004	3.38	4.80	2013	39.42	34.08
2005	4.93	6.73	2014	40.37	34.63
2006	12.76	9.47	2015	33.78	25.64
2007	18.31	12.44	2016	26.14	22.61
2008	26.65	15.38	2017	35.80	24.38
2009	21.12	13.31	2018	41.51	26.95

*Source:* Author's development based and government of India (n.d).

assistance to African countries in areas such as healthcare, education, and social welfare.

Therefore, India and Africa’s cooperation in the areas of trade, investment and cooperation is currently estimated to be about 72 billion USD which has transformed many sectors in the African continent.

Most of these projects have been supported by the government of India through the Line of credits (LoC). Most of this trade and investment is very important since it has increased the GDP of the most of the African countries since 2001 and 2008 and stood at \$68.46 billion. India has been exporting so many products which have increased from \$2.81 billion to \$26.95 billion in 2018 which has shown significant improvement.

### Foreign Direct Investment and Economic Cooperation

India-Africa foreign direct investment and economic cooperation are integral parts of India’s foreign policy. India has been actively engaging with African countries to promote economic cooperation, trade and investments. India has provided concessional lines of credit to African countries for infrastructure, industrial and human resource development. It has also provided financial and technical assistance to

African countries for the implementation of various development projects.

India has also participated in a number of joint ventures with African countries, including the setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and export processing zones (EPZs). India has also signed several agreements to promote investment, trade and economic cooperation with African countries. India has also signed agreements for the training of African professionals in India through Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), and for the mutual recognition of professional qualifications. India has also taken part in trade fairs and exhibitions in African countries and is a major participant in the India-Africa Forum Summit.

There has been a massive increase in O-FDI from India in the last 15 years. According to the data released by the Ministry of Finance, the government of India, O-FDI increased from \$0.1bn in 1990-91 to \$16.8bn in 2010-11 (Table 2).

### Challenges and Perspectives

- In the end, there are also some few challenges and perspectives to look into in order to address these future challenges between India and Africa to strengthen the strong

**Table 2: Total Outward FDI from India and India’s Share in Developing Economies’ Total Outflow**

Year	Outwards FDI	Total O-FDI in Developing countries	Share of India in developing Economic
2001-02	1.7	134.2	1.3
2002-03	2.5	82.5	3.1
2003-04	2.4	49.7	4.8
2004-05	2.2	121.4	1.8
2005-06	2.5	122.1	2.0
2006-07	9.7	226.7	4.3
2007-08	14.6	294.2	4.9
2008-9	19.4	308.9	6.3
2009-10	14.8	270.7	5.5
2010-11	16.8	327.6	5.5

Source: various issues of World Investment Reports (UNCTAD).

relations and find a way to explore the potential areas in Africa through South-South Cooperation.

- Some of the difficulties in trade, investment, and the economy between India and Africa in the global south are shown by some of the following instances from the article. Access to finance: Access to finance remains a major challenge for businesses in India and Africa. There is a lack of access to both domestic and international capital, especially for small and medium enterprises, hindering their ability to invest in foreign markets.
- Infrastructure: Poor infrastructure is a major obstacle to trade, investment and economic cooperation between India and Africa. Poor transportation and communication networks make it difficult for businesses to operate in both countries.
- Regulatory barriers: Regulatory barriers, such as high tariffs, non-tariff barriers and cumbersome bureaucracy, can make it difficult for businesses to conduct trade and investment activities between India and Africa.
- Market access: Businesses in India and Africa face limited market access in each other's countries. This can limit their ability to benefit from the potential of both countries' markets.
- Skilled workforce: Both India and Africa have a shortage of skilled workers, making it difficult for businesses to take advantage of the potential opportunities that exist in both countries.
- Cultural differences: Cultural differences between India and Africa can make it difficult for businesses to understand and work with each other. This can make it difficult to develop strong economic relationships.

India and Africa have increasingly grown closer in recent years, with trade, investment and economic cooperation becoming increasingly important to both parties. India has been looking to invest in African markets and build strong economic ties with African countries. Examples of this collaboration include:

- India investing in infrastructure projects in Ethiopia, Sudan, and Nigeria.
- India providing loans to African states to help fund development projects.
- Joint ventures between Indian and African companies.
- India setting up technical support centers in African countries to train personnel in IT and other skills.
- India increasing its involvement in African agricultural initiatives to benefit both nations. India creating a market for African exports, including agricultural produce.
- India creating a platform for African students to study in India.
- India providing healthcare initiatives in African countries.

## Conclusion

It has been possible for India to increase the amount of goods that it ships to African nations, while at the same time it has been possible for African countries to have access to Indian technology, resources, and cash. This has led to both nations seeing higher rates of economic growth and development, in addition to improvements in their political and social relations as a consequence of the situation.

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# Experiences of Mauritius as a Pivot Partner for Healthcare Advancement

Darshan Sharma Ramkissoon\*

**Abstract:** The medical and food security sectors are essential to bolster economic development by ensuring a healthy workforce, particularly in Africa and the Indian Ocean, where healthcare services fall short of needs. Along the same line, Mauritius, which already has a well-established healthcare system and which is also secure in terms of food and alimentation, has a lot to act as a pivot to this side of the world in providing efficient healthcare to those in need with cooperations with different countries to equip it in terms of infrastructure and training.

**Keywords:** Healthcare System, Mauritius, SDGs

## Introduction

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is the baseline reason for countries to collaborate bilaterally and triangularly among themselves. This Research Paper addresses the importance of SDG 3 (Ensuring healthy lives and promoting Well Being for all Ages), in relation to the workforce in the Indian Ocean and Africa, such that the Republic of Mauritius becomes a pivotal partner for the development, training, and treatment of healthcare. From an economic perspective, it is imperative to consolidate individuals in the formal sector of the job market, in both skilled and unskilled jobs.<sup>1</sup> While many medical educational institutions on the continent of Africa tend to perpetuate, at times, skewed and irrelevant Eurocentric health training, the national pyramidal health structure, weakened at the village level, and disproportionately favouring the provincial and national hospitals, gives the illusion that rural areas are well-served, when

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in actuality they are not.<sup>2</sup> The disturbing fact was that, in Namibia, in 2008, most of the doctors, dentists, and pharmacists were in private practice and served only about 15 per cent of the population, mostly in urban areas.<sup>3</sup> While the provision of healthcare service is in most, if not all parts of the world, public or private sector-driven, there is a tremendous opportunity to leverage the private sector in ways that improve access and increase the financing and quality of health care goods and services throughout Africa. Around 60 per cent of health-care financing in Africa comes from private sources, and about 50 per cent of total health expenditure goes to private providers.<sup>4</sup> The other reliable option is to get development assistance, in forms of Lines of Credit or Grants, from where South-South Cooperation becomes important, as in the case of Cuba in a programme initiated in 1998 - Cuba's assistance in international health care is evidenced in its health programs in Africa as South-South development cooperation. The objective of enhancing the capacities of medical personnel in Africa is pursued through the Integral Health Programme initiated by Cuba in 1998. This programme, which is primarily earmarked for rural areas, involves the sending of medical personnel to African countries. More importantly, Cuba is greatly involved in the international campaign against HIV/AIDS in Africa.<sup>5</sup>

### **Clinical and Medical Aid**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed serious shortcomings in national health care systems, overwhelming surveillance and testing capacity. While Africa enjoyed some initial success in containing the pandemic, the social and economic costs have been severe, creating Africa's first recession in decades and pushing millions of people into poverty. The \$4.5 billion in capital expenditure currently made by African governments each year is far below the estimated \$26 billion in annual investment needed to meet evolving health needs over the

next decade. While COVID-19 has highlighted the need for greater investment, the crisis has also left African countries with severely constrained resources and rising indebtedness.<sup>6</sup> That is why the private sector has a significant role to play in providing clinical and medical financing. Donors can help build healthcare capacity by earmarking some aid to fund private sector entities directly while also assisting local governments to expand their procurement capabilities and manage contracts with the private sector. Employers can foster the development of the local private healthcare sector by outsourcing the provision of healthcare for their employees.<sup>7</sup>

The World Health Organisation considers quality improvement a permanent obligation and priority for health service development. For this to be successful, traditional donors can provide financial and technical support to facilitate development activities between two developing countries in the South, i.e. one emerging donor country and a beneficiary. Triangular cooperation allows nations to learn from the mistakes of the pioneers of the development cooperation process, bringing about cost-effective and efficient development assistance in the recipient countries. A flagrant example is India's growth as a partner in development cooperation and, in particular, its commitment to triangular cooperation programmes such as the distinctions and similarities between India-UK, India-US, and India-Japan partnerships in terms of track-one diplomacy, the scale of operations, diversity and swiftness.<sup>8</sup> Since the mid-2000s, the practice of South-South cooperation in health (SSC) - that is, state-state exchange of technical, financial, and human resources, and policy expertise and support among low and middle-income countries has gained growing attention among policymakers, health and foreign affairs ministries, global health agencies, and scholars from a range of fields.<sup>9</sup> Along the same line, opportunities for SSC among African countries included in the areas of disease prevention



and control, production of medical products and essential medicines, harmonization of regulatory processes, and health workforce development among others. However, pitfalls such as poor coordination, inadequate political commitment, lack of conducive policy environments, language barrier and inadequate financing opportunities for SSC initiatives present a major dilemma for the use of SSC mechanisms. The need for a paradigm shift from vertical to horizontal development cooperation needs no further proof but a call to action. We call on the concerned stakeholders to support the establishment of a systematic approach for use of SSC mechanisms in the health sector of Africa, the designation of an African Centre of Excellence for SSC in public health and the development of a regional mechanism for monitoring and evaluation of SSC initiatives in Africa.<sup>10</sup>

## Health and Food Security

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four pillars of food security are availability, access, utilization and stability.<sup>11</sup> Food is necessary for existence, but the availability of food for the world's population, which is susceptible to population increase, is in doubt. Lack of consumption of foods with greater nutrients will result in issues with food security, reduced labour productivity, increased hunger, lowered life expectancy, and slower economic development.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, measures have been taken by governments to make sure that food can reach the maximum of people around the world. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, governments across the world made a commitment to “end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture” by 2030, through the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2.<sup>13</sup> Combatting hunger for an effective

workforce has also received the aid of Trilateral Cooperations among countries. Trilateral cooperation involves development actors from mainly the global South and also a wide range of actors, drawing from their respective strengths and working towards a common goal.<sup>14</sup> Trilateral cooperation, especially on the model of “traditional donors (including developed countries and multilateral development agencies) + emerging donors + developing countries,” has become a bridge linking South-North cooperation and South-South cooperation. This trilateral cooperation model can also contribute to improving the effectiveness of international aid and constructing new global development partnerships. China is actively involved in trilateral cooperation, working with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to promote agricultural development in developing countries.<sup>15</sup>

## Mauritius the Pivotal Partner

The whole point in making Mauritius a pivotal partner in the development, training, and treatment of healthcare lies in its geopolitical location, security for food and peace that prevails in the country for Africa and the Indian Ocean. The workforce in Mauritius is already reliable with a literacy rate of 92.6 per cent. Literacy plays an indispensable role in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: “Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning”. This goal is targeted at ensuring literacy and numeracy for youths and adults (men and women) by the year 2030.<sup>16</sup> With globalisation, there is an increasing demand for new subjects such as data analytics, data science, computer-science, biomedical engineering, international communication, fashion and graphic design, health care, hospitality, supply chain and logistics amongst others. Further, with increased competition worldwide in the education sector, there are fewer certainties about what career a degree will lead to.<sup>17</sup> Health promotion is described as social and political action enhancing public

awareness of health, fostering a healthy lifestyle and creating conditions conducive to health. Health promotion is a process of activating communities, policy-makers, professionals and the public for health-supportive policies, systems and ways of living.<sup>18</sup> Therefore, Mauritius has already established an efficient healthcare system with public health institutions providing for 73 percent of health requirements and the remaining by the private sector. Since Mauritius is promoting an increase in medical tourism, in 2017, Mauritius attracted more than 11,500 foreign patients for treatment” in cosmetic surgery, orthopedics, fertility treatment and other specialised areas.

## Conclusion

As more investment pours into the sector of healthcare, advancements in infrastructure can potentially attract more foreign patients. One of the main challenges health care in Mauritius faces is the ineffective distribution and mix of human resources in terms of numbers and skillsets of health workers. Mauritius is also promoting the development of high-tech medical tools in the industry. The intention and ambition are here and coupled with aid from collaboration from South-South, Triangular or Trilateral Cooperations, in terms of easing flow of transport for sick people from Africa and countries in the Indian Ocean, Mauritius is very well placed to equip itself with high- tech health infrastructure and with proper training of the workforce, both locally or imported professionals, the country can secure people for pre and post-treatment.

## Endnotes

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# South-South Cooperation: Egypt-African Partnership in the Light of COVID-19 Pandemic

Shaimaa Mohamed Said Abdel\*

**Abstract:** This study analyses achievements by the government of Egypt in providing humanitarian aid to African developing countries during COVID-19 pandemic. The paper shall focus on the successful experience of Egypt in this regard. In addition, it discusses the forums, platforms and conferences in which Egypt is involved in the context of Egypt-African partnership which is a part of South-South cooperation and institutions that supports South-South cooperation (The Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development, EAPD)), as well as challenges faced and recommendations in this matter.

**Keywords:** EAPD- Covid 19 – South-South Cooperation

## Introduction

The world is facing huge challenges that have its impact on development and cooperation. Currently, not only COVID-19 but also environmental issues, Russia-Ukraine war and global food crisis are felt the most by developing countries. These necessitate more efforts from countries like Egypt that provide technical assistance to African countries.

This worldwide economic downturn began during COVID- 19, when the government shut down all social

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and economic activities. Half of the global work-force risks losing their jobs, especially in the South, spreading poverty and hunger. The developing countries were more vulnerable to this pandemic, facing multiple shocks due to the crisis, and having constraints in providing even basic health facilities.

Egypt as an African and a middle-income country has a large burden on its shoulders, a human mission to assist its African neighbours, less-developed, and defend their interests in international forums, especially on issues mainly climate changes, technology transfer, capacity building and trade and development. Its interest in Africa is also due to geographical connections, a joint historical heritage, the spirit of African solidarity and unity which Egypt has supported since the continent's independence from colonialism. There are also other vital interests which Egypt shares with other African countries like security, stability, boosting economic relations, influence, regional stature and soft power.

There is also a political motivation, which is to protect its strategic depth and her right to access Nile water, both of which are in jeopardy due to the the construction of the Ethiopian Renaissance Dam.

### **South-South Cooperation and North-South Cooperation**

UNDP defines **South-South cooperation** as “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.” India is showing Zambia how to convert cotton by-products into clean energy and jobs, Colombia is sharing its strategies to reduce hunger with Mesoamerican countries, China is working with Uganda to improve the resilience and livelihoods of farmers. The Egyptian Fund for Technical Cooperation (merged with

the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development) was instrumental to kick off its support to Uganda in its effort to control aquatic weeds. These are just a few examples of South-South cooperation.

UNDP noted that North-South cooperation, the most traditional type of cooperation, occurs when a developed country supports economically or with another kind of resources a less favored one, for example, with financial aid during a natural disaster or a humanitarian crisis. Therefore, South-South cooperation can be more effective and economical and manifest the best results than North-South cooperation. It is evolving into an expression of collaboration and partnership among countries from the South, interested in sharing, learning, and exploring their complementary strengths to go beyond their traditional role as aid recipients. Beside finance and technical assistance, one of the most dynamic dimensions of SSC is Knowledge Sharing, which is a third pillar of development cooperation. So, we witness the emergence of a paradigm where “Horizontal Partnerships”, based on equity, trust, mutual benefit and long-term relations, become an alternative way to do development cooperation. In addition, South-South cooperation respects national sovereignty in the context of shared responsibility. It seeks also to enable developing countries to play a more active role in international policy and decision-making processes, in support of their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

First Egypt-International Cooperation Forum (IFC) High-Level Conference During this conference, held in September 2021, The African Development Bank joined leaders of government and international organizations in calling for stronger partnerships to support Africa's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic at the first Egypt-International Cooperation Forum (IFC).

The two-day forum, organized by the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation and supported by the African Development Bank, brought together representatives of government, international organizations,

development finance institutions, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting, held in a hybrid format, aimed to drive multilateral engagement to support two agendas: Leaving No One Behind and Building Back Better.

Dr. Rania Al-Mashat, Egypt's Minister of International Cooperation, highlighted the opportunities that have emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda, as well as how South-South cooperation can be exploited to foster enhanced flows and increased volumes of trade, as well as the exchange of solutions and experts, technology transfer, and dialogue on options for policy reforms.

"There is this common conviction of the importance of SDGs. We need to work more together to enhance complementarity between different multilateral institutions to achieve them," she said.

## Platform on Sustainable Development Solutions for South-South Cooperation

In 2022, the Ministry of International Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched a coordination platform on Sustainable Development Solutions for South-South Cooperation. The platform aims to enhance discussions between the government-represented by the international cooperation ministry- the UNDP, and multilateral and bilateral development partners on benefiting from the leading Egyptian experience in the field of development cooperation, projects implemented with international partners in various development sectors, and expertise accumulated over decades in strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation to transfer expertise and experience in a manner that enhances integration between developing countries, emerging economies, and countries of the African continent.

## Egypt's Presidency of COP27 at Sharm El Sheikh

This event aimed to support the creation of an international framework that would help African countries to utilise green financing more effectively, particularly against a backdrop of budget deficits linked to responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and soaring prices for energy and food.

## The Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD)

The Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD) was established in July 2014 by the Egyptian President as the first South-South Cooperation institution in Egypt aiming at putting the country's comparative advantages and technical expertise into play for the benefit of the South, and in particular of Africa and of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The creation of the EAPD and the strong political backing it enjoys, reflect Egypt's resolve to partner with Africa at a time when the continent is undergoing major positive developments.

The Agency was born as the merger of two Egyptian Funds for Technical Cooperation, one with Africa and the other with the Commonwealth of Independent States, and its work builds on their accomplishments.

True to the essence and principles of South-South Cooperation, the Agency adopts a demand-driven approach by responding to the priority needs of the countries of the South, especially of Africa. The main areas of cooperation are capacity building, construction, trade and agriculture<sup>1</sup> Egypt has long played an important role in delivering humanitarian aid to African countries, underlined by the vital role it has played during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the industrialised world hoarded vaccinations for itself, this epidemic revealed a lack of empathy and cooperation among nations. However, there were substantial signs of solidarity among countries from the South. Egypt sent

medical and technical assistance to Africa to overcome the pandemic and mitigate its impact. In addition, Egypt called for fair distribution of vaccines in international forums and conferences regionally and internationally.

Egyptian humanitarian action in Africa indicated the importance of linking humanitarian and development diplomacy in Africa, and the robust coming back of Egypt in the African scene, since its membership to African Union suspended in 2013, then its presidency of AU in 2019. Egypt is not a large donor to Africa like US or Europe, but it tries to provide aid through limited resources. Egyptian humanitarian and medical aid to Africa is focused on the Nile Basin region, the Horn of Africa, and the Sahel, which have a greater impact on Egyptian interests in Africa. In September 2020, Egypt sent medical aid worth \$4 million to 33 African countries during the crisis.

Medical aid in 2020 and 2021 went to Libya and Tunisia (North Africa) and Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, Eritrea, and Djibouti (East Africa). Egypt also responded to flood victims in 2020 and 2021, especially in Sudan and South Sudan, by sending urgent food and medical supplies through the ministries of defence and health and population. In terms of medical convoys, according to Ministry of Health statistics published in February 2016, six medical convoys went to Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Burundi, and Uganda in 2012. Four went to Chad, Somalia, Sudan, and Tanzania in 2013; two to Sudan and South Sudan in 2014; and three to Eritrea, Ghana, and Sudan between the end of 2015 and February 2016.

Egypt's medical convoys also included Equatorial Guinea, where they established a quarantine regimen for the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations. In 2019, Al-Azhar sent medical convoys to Sudan, Nigeria, Chad, the Central African Republic and Burkina Faso, as well as South Sudan for an eye clinic in February 2020. Another eye clinic went to Tanzania in August 2021 and Djibouti in November 2021

## Challenges faced by Egypt

- The first challenge is to maintain balance between humanitarian role and national interests which are to have influence and soft power in Africa.
- Another challenge is the rise in the number of conflicts on the continent, like Libyan crisis, and the transitional phase in Sudan as well as the unilateral decision taken by Ethiopia to begin the first filling of the dam during the 2020 flood season, and embark on a second filling in 2021. In addition, the Russia-Ukraine conflict raised the cost of agricultural commodities, which had an effect on Egypt and other African nations.
- Egypt is facing major competition in Africa from economic heavyweights such as China, the US and European countries whose products are available at affordable prices to African consumers. Egypt has problems in moving, promoting and introducing its products to Africans. In addition, Egyptian commodities are expensive due to difficulties in shipping and storing and high-risk trade factors.
- South-South initiatives still have a short-term planning horizon and aims at mutual learning and capacity building rather than targeting directly attributable results.

## Opportunities

COVID-19 gives us a unique opportunity for change. Combatting Covid 19 and addressing both existing and new challenges, strengthening South-South cooperation and solidarity can offer a positive route forward for developing countries.

### Key Recommendations for Egypt- African partnership

- Reformulating the strategic objectives of Egypt's interests in Africa and developing a mechanism to achieve them.
- Developing a new approach to Nile water issues based on the concept that sharing should lead to cooperation not to conflict

while refraining from threatening to use force in resolving conflicts.

- Increasing the number of scholarships granted to Africans to study in Egypt, and establishing cultural offices throughout Africa in general and in Nile-basin countries in particular.
- Vetting Egyptian educational curricula, with the purpose of highlighting Africa's importance to Egypt.
- Developing a trade and investment policy that recognizes opportunities and potentials on both sides, and aims at overcoming obstacles.
- Underlining the importance of the Egyptian commercial offices in Africa, given that they represent a major source of information on investment and trade opportunities.
- Assisting in the reformulation of African stances with the aim of reconciling between the interests of the two sides on such issues as economy, environment, fighting poverty, human rights and refugees.
- Using the media to correct the negative African image of Egypt, damaging to cooperation.

#### **Key Recommendations for South- South cooperation at the Global Scale:**

- Regional development banks like BRIC New Development Bank, could scale up lending, allocate loans to more countries outside the region they cover and create a fund to provide finance at subsidized rates to the poorer countries especially in Africa, and coordinate in partnership with national development banks needed for the recovery phase.
- There is a need to strengthen South-South solidarity, inventing new financial relations, rebuilding trade competitiveness by reviving industrial growth, and taking bold initiatives in health and health- related areas.

- Finally, the countries of the South should build a strategic partnership not only to promote cooperation and peer learning but to translate their commitment to solidarity into common positions in international affairs for more inclusive global governance. Therefore, there is a lot to be achieved by Egypt in the field of South-South cooperation in light of the COVID-19.

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