

## Ethiopia High-Level Symposium in preparation for the 2014 Development Cooperation Forum

### *South-South Cooperation:*

### *Contributing to the norms for development cooperation in the post-2015 era?*

### **Summary Report**

7 June 2013, UNECA Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

DIE organized a think tank side event on the role of South-South cooperation in the post-2015 international development agenda in the margins of the first High-level Symposium in preparation for the 2014 DCF. This side event built on outcomes of a [conference](#) that DIE organized jointly with the Shanghai Institute for International Studies in Shanghai in January 2013 as well as on findings of a conference held in [Delhi](#) at the Research and Information Systems Institute. Funding for the side event was kindly provided by BMZ.

### **Main messages from the side event**

The panel brought together researchers from think tanks including Sachin Chaturvedi (RIS, India), Huang Meibo (Xiamen University, China), Jorge Perez (Instituto Mora, Mexico) and John Rwirahira (IPAR, Rwanda). The session was moderated by Stephan Klingebiel (DIE).

Panelists agreed on the importance that monitoring and evaluation of South-South Cooperation has to be strengthened in order to assure the quality of South-South Cooperation and they called on developing stronger institutional mechanisms to build up monitoring and evaluation standards. Panelists disagreed as to whether the principles and standards of South-South Cooperation differ from traditional development assistance. Also the question which challenges and opportunities emanate from South-South cooperation for poor countries (i.e. issues of transparency, tied aid, accountability) provoked controversial discussions.

The panel discussion showed that even though researchers/think tanks take a broader and more critical perspective on changes in the international development landscape than policy makers, there is no 'think tank position' emerging. Instead, also think tank representatives' argumentation remains strongly influenced by national positions (be it from the 'North', 'poor countries' or 'emerging economies').

After an initial round of short inputs, people from the audience made some critical comments and questioned for instance whether the strong interest in South-South Cooperation was not biased and mainly driven by China's rapidly growing relations with other developing countries. Some participants shared their own experience in South-South Cooperation such as the former Zambian Minister of Finance and Economy who emphasized that developing countries need to develop a clear idea how they want to use South-South Cooperation to promote development.