



Side Event at 6th Biennial High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)

Development Cooperation for achieving the 2030 Agenda: Convergence and Divergence of Official Development Assistance and South-South Cooperation

Date and Place: 22 May from 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm, United Nations Headquarters – Conference Room E, New York

Organisers: The Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST)¹ and the German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE)

Background

Achieving the 2030 Agenda requires transformative change and massive contributions from multiple stakeholders, including the public and private sectors and civil society. Development cooperation is firmly anchored in the Agenda's implementation, through official development assistance (ODA) and South-South Cooperation (SSC). In 2018, development cooperation is going through profound changes, triggered by different drivers, such as the declining relevance of development cooperation as a financial resource, global migration trends, the continued rise of emerging economies and a proliferation of development actors and cooperation goals, as well as a backlash against multilateralism caused by growing nationalist and populist political movements around the world. In this context, think tanks and academics play an important role in supporting evidence informed policy-making and building bridges between research and practice, especially in politically contentious areas.

NeST and DIE accompanied and contributed to the global debate on development cooperation, through hosting a **series of academic and political debates**² and **joint publications**³. Bringing together researchers from emerging economies, developing countries and OECD DAC countries has led to discussions going beyond traditional political patterns and lines of argumentation, generating a focused and research-based debate with a practical orientation on development cooperation. This side event can therefore contribute new knowledge and foster shared understandings on the quality of development cooperation, towards informing "The strategic role of development cooperation in achieving the 2030 Agenda" and "building sustainable and inclusive societies". More specifically the panel will focus on three key questions:

- 1) How have the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs changed global development cooperation?**
- 2) What is the current state of development cooperation in terms of convergence or divergence between providers of SSC and OECD DAC donors?**
- 3) What are the priorities of recipient countries for improving the quality development cooperation?**

Panel

- **André de Mello e Souza** (Institute for Applied Economic Research, Brazil)
- **Elizabeth Sidiropoulos** (South African Institute of International Affairs, South Africa)
- **Qi Gubo** (China Agricultural University, China)
- **Milindo Chakrabarti** (Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India)
- **Vitalice Meja** (Reality of Aid Africa Network)
- **Uwe Gehlen** (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ))
- **Shamshad Akhtar** (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP))
- **Stephan Klingebiel** (DIE, Germany) - Moderator

¹ The founding members of NeST are: Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), China Agricultural University, South African Institute of International Affairs, Institute for Applied Economic Research

² Past events on the global development architecture were held in [Paris 2017](#), [Berlin 2017](#), [Johannesburg 2017](#), [Nairobi 2016](#), [New York 2016](#) and [Mexico City 2014](#)

³ Previous research from [NeST](#) and [DIE](#)