

**Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) & German Development Institute (DIE)**

**Side Event at the UNDCF High-Level Meeting**

UN Headquarters, 22 July 2016, 1:15 - 2:45 pm

**“Principles of SSC and TOSSD: What case studies in the South can tell us about convergence and discrepancy”**

**Concept Note**

**Background**

With the emergence of Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) the role of financing for development has come at the centre stage. Resource allocation for inclusive development has brought the countries of the South together. In that sense 2015 was the year of transformation starting with UN Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa followed by the Sustainable Development Conference in New York and the Paris Conference on Climate Change. On a macro level these major conferences were conclusive and consensual in nature. However, the North-South divide on the issues of financing and means of implementation for attaining Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through a global partnership on the contentious issues of domestic resource mobilisation and technology facilitation mechanism still persists.

The UN moving forward with the motto of “Leave no one behind” is trying to bridge the gap between North and South by providing space for the South to voice its concerns and share successful models for attaining these 17 goals. The development priorities of the South are different which requires inclusive and job creating economic growth, access to modern technology, industrial development and innovation. Elevation of Southern led international practices and institutions at the global level would result in their better visibility and with enhanced prospects of the best practices getting fed into the various follow up processes that have been created at the behest of UN.

South-South Cooperation (SSC) has been accepted by the UN as a complementary process of development cooperation for attaining the SDGs. SSC has come a long way from its origins based on solidarity with newly decolonised nations of Asia and Africa after World War II. The political solidarity has now progressed to a relationship that is based on a sound economic logic of win-win cooperation and mutual benefit for both partners without relinquishing the features of equality and trust. What really differentiates SSC from North-South Cooperation is its demand driven nature along with absence of conditionalities attached with the partners. High economic growth rates achieved by emerging economies coupled with frustration over slow reform of Northern institutions has led them to come up with their own institutions. Apart from the high profiled New Development Bank (NDB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) has been established to carry out joint studies for evolving a SSC framework.

While respecting their different nature, objectives and approaches, SSC and North-South Cooperation (NSC) by traditional donors need to recognize, complement and re-enforce each other in implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Otherwise the ambitious goals of global transformation towards sustainable development cannot be achieved. For this to happen, it is of utmost relevance that all stakeholders gain a better understanding of where SSC and NSC are coming from, where they differ and where there is scope for practical collaboration, mutual learning and joint knowledge creation. Both concepts, SSC and NSC are fluid and need to adapt to changing conditions in the global system. Traditional donors in the OECD Development Assistance Committee are presently debating how to expand their notion of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to an expanded concept of Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD). It is of interest to explore where TOSSD stands in relation to SSC.

### **Purposes of the Side Event**

The Side Event sets out to accomplish two objectives:

The first part focuses on relevant SSC case studies from Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico and South Africa carried out by the Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) and collates best practices from Southern countries which would contribute towards implementation and attainment of SDGs.

Building on the empirical evidence from case studies, the second part brings in the concept of TOSSD and explores how it relates to the concept of SSC. Flowing from a comparative perspective, the possibilities of arriving at a common understanding and a mutually agreed framework of SSC and NSC in achieving the SDGs will be explored.

### **Moderator:**

Dr **Thomas Fues**, Head of Training Department, German Development Institute

Prof **Sachin Chaturvedi**, Director-General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries

### **Welcome remarks:**

Mr. **Dominik Ziller**, Deputy Director General, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

### **Speakers:**

Dr **WANG Yihuan**, Director, Research Center for International Development, China Agricultural University

Prof **Elizabeth Sidiropoulos**, National Director, South African Institute of International Affairs

Dr **Paulo Esteves**, Director, BRICS Policy Center, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Dr **Shafiah Muhibat**, Senior Researcher, Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Indonesia

Dr **Jorge Pérez**, Professor and Senior Researcher, Instituto Mora, Mexico

Dr **Stephan Klingebiel**, Head of Department "Bi- and Multilateral Cooperation", German Development Institute

Prof **Milindo Chakrabarti**, Visiting Fellow, Research and Information System for Developing Countries, India

### **About NeST**

The **Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST)** was formally launched at the Conference on South-South Cooperation on March 10, 2016 in New Delhi and will serve as a knowledge and information bridge for Southern countries sharing similar developmental experiences and socio-economic challenges. Prof. LI Xiaoyun, Chair of the China International Development Research Network (CIDRN), acts as NeST President. The NeST secretariat is housed at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi.

### **About DIE**

The **German Development Institute** based in Bonn is a public sector think tank. DIE has built up a broad network of knowledge institutions and government agencies through the Managing Global Governance (MGG) program funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. MGG comprises joint knowledge creation, policy dialogue and training for professionals from the partner countries Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico and South Africa and beyond.