



## DCF Argentina High-level Symposium

### South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda Building Innovative and Inclusive Partnerships

San Martín Palace, Buenos Aires: Friday 8 September 2017

#### Concept Note for Session VI [11:30 AM – 01:00 PM, Libertador Room]

##### Mobilizing science, technology and innovation through South-South cooperation

Recent years have witnessed considerable progress in the realm of science, technology and innovation (STI), all of which are at the heart of sustainable development. Access to STI remains uneven within and between countries, with the greatest growth in technology investment occurring mainly in developed regions and select developing countries. Further action is required through the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, both of which are rooted in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and well beyond to bridge the STI divide.

The 2017 Inter-Agency Task Force report on Financing for Development observes that the STI performance of a country, as well as its economic and social impact, are affected by the quality and level of interactions and flows of knowledge between agents in the innovation system such as firms, universities, research centres, public agencies and intermediate organizations, and that these interactions are enabled by infrastructure, market forces and public policies. The report also noted that the systemic nature of the innovation process underlines the need to incorporate scientific and technological knowledge into national development strategies and plans to foster the effective use of innovation. The Addis Agenda underscores the role of international development cooperation. Building an innovative economy is based on a range of actions, including interactive learning, information exchange, timely availability of finance and other resources, and effective collaboration among the private sector, universities, research centres, policymakers and other actors, as well as improved governance.

The Development Cooperation Forum emphasizes in this area how development cooperation modalities and instruments – technical and financial support, capacity building, and policy change support – can facilitate innovation to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The DCF has stressed the need for these instruments and modalities to be carefully deployed, country owned and delivered through effective channels. It is also imperative for development cooperation actors engaged together in partnerships to have a shared understanding of what constitutes successful technology innovation at different stages of the technology cycle. It is critical for development partners to provide long-term capacity building and bring together resources, actors and actions that respond to development needs and the specific social, economic, political and institutional contexts. South-South cooperation on STI could potentially make an important contribution by providing access to complementary knowledge, offering context-specific solutions and overall STI capacity building, to solve the difficulties faced by the most vulnerable groups. It is also instrumental to bridge the existing technological gaps, and promote effective transition towards more knowledge-intensive sectors that

can help boost productivity, value-addition, economic diversification, quality employment, sustainable production and international competitiveness.

In the run-up to both the 2018 High-level Meeting of the Development Cooperation Forum and the Second United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in 2019, the DCF Argentina High-level Symposium will explore “South-South and triangular cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda. Building innovative and inclusive partnerships”.

Session VI of the Symposium will examine how different Southern partners have emerged as change agents in the science, technology and innovation sphere that is recognized among the key “means of implementation” of the 2030 Agenda, Addis Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and explore prospects for the future. In this context, it will also consider South-South arrangements, knowledge sharing platforms and networks as well as appropriate legal frameworks.

### **Focus Questions**

- How are Southern partners contributing to the growth and expansion of STI initiatives in developing countries?
- What are some challenges and opportunities that impede the full potential of South-South and triangular cooperation in fostering STI development?
- What are some concrete policy recommendations that could unlock and enhance the contribution of Southern partners in STI performance?

### **Format**

90 minute-moderated interactive discussion, featuring brief presentations by speakers.