



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 VII [02:30 PM – 04:00 PM, Libertador Room]

South-South Cooperation, Climate Change and the New Urban Agenda

The Paris Agreement is the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal that seeks climate neutrality before the end of the century. By adopting it, governments agreed to a long-term goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. They also committed to significantly reduce risks and the impacts of climate change by limiting the increase to 1.5°C. The agreement also requires global emissions to peak as soon as possible, recognising that this will take longer for developing countries, and to thereafter undertake rapid reductions in accordance with the best available science.

The agreement offers a raft of actions on transparency and global stocktaking, adaptation, dealing with loss and damage as well as the role of cities, regions and local authorities. South-South modalities are well suited to implement some of these measures, such as the strengthening of regional cooperation on adaptation, the establishment of regional centres and networks, implementing and enhancing capacity-building in developing countries as well as policy coherence and coordination. In its current work plan that covers the period 2016-2020, the global community agreed to, inter alia, explore how developing countries can take ownership of building and maintaining capacity over time and space. The work plan [agreement] stresses the importance of international cooperation on adaptation efforts, and of considering the needs of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. More specifically, the agreement speaks of the provision of development cooperation to developing countries to enable them to implement their nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

A major contributor to climate change is the rapid progress of urbanization. The New Urban Agenda, the outcome document of the 2016 United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, aims primarily to create a mutually reinforcing relationship between urbanization and development. It seeks to accomplish this through a set of development as well as operational enablers. Urban development enablers seek to generate vibrant and economically thriving urban settlements and include effective and coherent national urban policy related to laws, institutions and systems of governance.

The New Urban Agenda also identifies three sets of operational enablers: local fiscal systems, urban planning, and basic services and infrastructure. The agenda addresses the issues of inequality and exclusion, safety and security, risk reduction and urban resilience. It acknowledges trends in urbanization, where cities have morphed into mega-regions, urban corridors and city-regions whose dominant and obvious characteristics defy the conceptual understanding of a “city”. In this vein, the agenda calls for new urban rules and regulations, improved urban planning and design, and municipal

finance, among other things. In order to contribute to sustainable urban development, develop and expand capacities and foster exchanges of urban solutions and mutual learning at all levels and by all relevant actors, the agenda outlines a commitment to expand South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation, as well as sub-national, decentralized and city-to-city cooperation.

In the run-up to both the 2018 High-level Meeting of the DCF 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 VII of the Symposium will explore the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the New Urban Agenda. It will consider issues related to: disaster risk reduction and management; reducing vulnerability; building resilience and responsiveness to natural and man-made hazards; and fostering mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The session is also expected to provide further insights into Southern solutions and available networks and platforms for sharing information, knowledge, experience and good practices.

Focus Questions

- How are South-South cooperation actors tackling climate change and urbanization challenges?
- How can the various modalities and initiatives of South-South cooperation be effectively leveraged to foster the policy-science interface in developing countries in tackling climate change and urbanization?
- From a development cooperation perspective, how can South-South cooperation play a catalytic role in leveraging more private finance towards adaptation?
- How can South-South cooperation help countries to take mitigation measures?

Format

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