

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: Wednesday, 6 September 2017

Concept Note for DCF Workshop [04:00 AM – 06:00 PM, Libertador Room]

South-South cooperation forty years since BAPA: challenges and opportunities

The Action Plan of Buenos Aires was signed in 1978 by 138 countries, who met in that city within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among developing countries (TCDC). The Plan settled a global framework on development and formulated a set of guiding principles and recommendations for the purpose of strengthening and supporting South-South cooperation.

TCDC is identified in BAPA as a dimension of international cooperation with an increasing importance in promoting development among countries that face comparable challenges, as it facilitates equal exchanges and similar approaches to common problems. As the Plan expressly states, TCDC is not a substitute but rather complement to the cooperation of the developed countries, therefore not diminishing the responsibility of the latter in taking the necessary measures, particularly with regard to ODA, to contribute to the growth of developing countries.

South-South Cooperation recognizes the Conference held in Buenos Aires in 1978 as the main milestone referred to technical cooperation. In that sense, The Action Plan of Buenos Aires was set up as reference framework to developing countries in their work in the field of International Cooperation. In the four decades since the adoption of the Plan, South-South Cooperation has established itself as a distinct and innovative paradigm and has proved to be a valuable tool for building capacity and promoting development. It has also promoted the articulation of triangular schemes that increase the impact of actions and synergies with traditional cooperation actors.

Nowadays, the international system of development cooperation is undergoing a redefinition in terms of its agendas, methodologies and actors. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted in 2015 express an ambitious global commitment to the promotion of sustainable development that sets a new framework for the development of international cooperation and a renewed perspective for South-South Cooperation that raises new challenges and opportunities.

In this context, a set of challenges are presented facing the BAPA+40 Conference, such as:

- The development of a creative and inclusive approach with new actors that have been incorporated into the South-South and Triangular Cooperation actions, ranging from private sector, to civil society among others;
- The improvement of systematization and measurement tools to evaluate the contribution of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

- The improvement of the coordination and coherence of United Nations System’s support for South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
- The promotion of an inclusive international cooperation system that takes into account not only the concerns of those in need, but allows differentiated cooperation schemes for all populations in developing countries.
- The promotion of the dialogue between traditional and South-South cooperation, through triangular cooperation, and for developed countries to fulfill their historical commitments.

The forthcoming United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation commemorating the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the BAPA (BAPA+40), which will be held in Argentina in March, 2019, represents a unique opportunity to strengthen and further revitalize South-South and triangular cooperation, within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

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”.

The Symposium programme on Wednesday, 6 September, will feature a DCF Workshop on “South-South cooperation forty years since BAPA: Challenges and opportunities”. All Symposium participants are encouraged to take part in this scene-setting workshop, which will lay the ground for the discussions to follow on the Thursday and Friday. Speaker will make brief presentations, drawing on their country’s or organization’s experience and expertise, that reflect on the evolution and history of South-South Cooperation and the Buenos Aires Action Plan (BAPA), elaborate on the current strengths and challenges of South-South Cooperation, and explore how and in which direction South-South Cooperation could develop in the next 40 years.

Focus Questions

- Which have been the major achievements that Southern countries have made in relation to the objectives and recommendations outlined in BAPA, in the last 40 years?
- Which elements need to be updated regarding the BAPA recommendations for the promotion of South-South cooperation?
- What are the main challenges to BAPA+40 Conference in the framework of the current governance of international cooperation?
- Taking into account the challenges and opportunities for the South-South cooperation, is it relevant to BAPA+40 to work on its operational definition?

Format

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