



# Southern Voice

2015 On Post-MDG International Development Goals

**Occasional Paper Series**

*Special Issue 4*

## **Towards a New Research Agenda for South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

## **TOWARDS A NEW RESEARCH AGENDA FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION**

The present *Southern Voice* Special Issue of the Occasional Paper Series is based on the outcomes of the “Methodology Meeting on South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation” held in Dar es Salaam (12-13 October 2015). The document has been prepared by the Southern Voice Secretariat at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) under the guidance of its Chair, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, with substantive inputs from Refaya Rashmin, Research Associate, and feedback inputs from Towfiqul Islam Khan, Research Fellow at CPD.

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# Preface

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South-South Cooperation (SSC) has been identified as a potential source of development inputs for the implementation of the post-2015 international development agenda. Triangular Cooperation (TrC), in which traditional donor countries and multilateral organisations facilitate South-South initiatives, is also being promoted in this regard. This aspiration has been underpinned by the emergence of the Global South as a major actor in, *inter alia*, international trade, investment, finance and knowledge transfer.

In view of the 'coming of age' of the notion of SSC along with TrC, and taking note of the emerging demands on its account, *Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals* (SV) along with its partner organisation Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organization (STIPRO), Tanzania organised a meeting on 12-13 October in Dar es Salaam titled 'Methodology Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation'.

The core objective of the brainstorming meeting was to consolidate knowledge of existing research practices on SSC and TrC, exploring possible ideas to enrich researches, and addressing the drawbacks researchers encounter while examining the issues of SSC and TrC. The meeting was attended by researchers from international development community and civil society, within and beyond the SV network. The whole meeting was divided into five sessions; each session focused on relevant themes and issues on SSC and TrC.

The outcomes of the meeting have been documented in the present paper, which incorporates the summary report on the Dar meeting that was prepared by the *Southern Voice* Secretariat under the guidance of its Chair, with substantive inputs from Refaya Rashmin, Research Associate, and feedback inputs from Towfiqul Islam Khan, Research Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Dhaka, Bangladesh  
February 2016

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# Executive Summary

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Participants at the methodology meeting on research related to South-South Cooperation (SSC) discussed a number of issues as regards the current status and the challenges pertaining to the Southern countries for enhancing quality research in this area. The major takeaway points from the meeting are as follows:

- There is a need to have a renewed document on SSC to address the ‘second-generation issues’ of SSC, which have emerged following the Nairobi Outcome Document (2009).
- SSC should be analysed from the perspective of ‘theory of change’ to bring innovative changes in the development cooperation mechanisms.
- Absence of a common definition of SSC is hampering comparability in relevant research outcomes and data reporting.
- While conducting research on SSC, a number of critical issues, e.g. diversity in SSC modalities, involvement of multiple actors, and political dynamics and economic benefits are needed to be taken cognisance of.
- Emphasis should be given to four important research areas: (i) heterogeneity of recipient countries’ experience; (ii) the trade-off between quality and quantity of the assistance; (iii) necessary reforms for accommodating SSC at the country level; and (iv) new issues related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- More research studies on environmental concerns and climate change in the context of SSC need to be undertaken.
- Analytical techniques being used in SSC research are subject to availability of data and information. It is important to note that SSC-related data is often limited.
- An incentive mechanism needs to be developed so that the SSC providers share open and disaggregated data.
- An integrated platform of Southern countries (like OECD) would be essential to aggregate knowledge and information on both providers and recipients.
- Research organisations and think-tanks are expected to be an important source of SSC-related data.
- Local government and community need to scale up monitoring and evaluation of SSC-related activities.
- Triangular Cooperation (TrC) would be most effective for capacity building in data and information reporting system.

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# Acronyms

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BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CPD	Centre for Policy Dialogue
LDCs	Least developed countries
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Development Cooperation's Development Assistance Committee
OOF	Other official flows
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSC	South-South Cooperation
STIPRO	Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Research Organization
SV	Southern Voice on Post MDGs International Development Goals
TrC	Triangular Cooperation
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

## **PART A**

### **TOWARDS A NEW RESEARCH AGENDA FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION**

#### **Report on Methodology Meeting for Research on South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

*held on*  
12-13 October 2015  
White Sands Hotel and Resort  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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## 1.1 The Context and the Issues

As the global effort for finalising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) concluded in September 2015 through the preparation of the agenda 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' and prior to that articulating the means of implementation through the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in July 2015, the worldwide debate has now shifted towards the designing of the mechanisms to achieve the 169 targets set for the developing world. In this backdrop, *Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals (SV)* has been an ardent participant in the debate for shaping the strategies for post-2015 international development.

Acknowledging that South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC) would be the 'next big thing' for filling the incremental need of resources, funds, technology and knowledge for the Global South to achieve the development targets, efforts are underway to precisely define SSC and TrC, and design their guiding principles and assessment framework. Although there is no global official consensus on their definitions, it is the subject of ample research on exactly how SSC and TrC can be leveraged besides the traditional development cooperation provided by the developed North.

In view of the 'coming of age' of the idea of SSC and TrC, and taking note of the emerging demands expected on its account, SV seeks to revisit the ideas and practices of SSC so as to explore the 'second generation' issues pertaining to the revealed experience to date. In this context, SV convened a meeting on 12-13 October 2015 in Dar es Salaam with the objective of consolidating knowledge of existing research practices on SSC and TrC, exploring possible ideas to enrich researches and addressing the drawbacks researchers encounter while examining the issues of SSC and TrC. It was a brainstorming meeting with 44 participants collectively from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America within and beyond the *Southern Voice* network. Participants were researchers from civil society organisations and renowned representatives from the international development community. This meeting was geared to improve our understanding as regards the methodology deployed in research on SSC and TrC, and to identify the relevant themes/issues that need to be covered through further research. This document summarises the major debates and findings that have emerged through the one and a half day meeting with the experts.

## 1.2 Summary of the Proceedings

### Session 1: The state of research on South-South Cooperation and emerging trends

The purpose of the first session was to reflect on the knowledge from events and literature on SSC and TrC till date and observe the trend in the existing researches. Prior to the meeting the SV Secretariat conducted a mapping exercise of events and publications on SSC roughly from 2011 to 2014. This was shared by means of a brief note to the participants. The exercise revealed the following critical questions, which guided the discussions:

- Which issues on SSC activities like South-South trade and financial flows are emphasised most in recent research and discussions?
- Which end of the SSC discourse is highlighted more in research – the providers or the recipients?
- What are the opportunities for SSC and TrC revealed in recent studies for implementing the post-2015 agenda?
- What is the progress in articulating design principles, operational modalities and assessment framework of SSC from recent discussions?

The discussions in the session were on the following themes:

- a. Pre-requisites for future research on SSC:** Research documents on SSC were often not comparable. The primary reason for this is the lack of a common definition of SSC. It is however recognised that the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) offers a

working conceptualisation. However, participants noted that there is still a lack of clarification among the different classifications of SSC. For instance, South-South Development Cooperation and SSC are treated separately in certain literature, whereas distinction between international development cooperation and official development assistance (ODA) is often vague. Also, the world is still dealing with the 'first generation issues' of TrC, as till date, activities under this model are generally performed on ad hoc basis. As a result, we can seldom compare and contrast SSC and TrC to examine the development effectiveness of these processes.

- b. Critical issues for research:** Participants appreciated the progress attained in the area of researches on SSC which have covered issues such as trade, foreign aid and other official financial flows, technical cooperation, knowledge transfer and capacity development in least developed countries (LDCs). Existing research on SSC have also been conducted in various levels (e.g. by industrial-level analysis, by concentrating on specific sectors, by structural transformation techniques, by product-level competitive analysis, by macro-level collection of data on trade and investment based on structural change index, by research models based on buyers and sellers, by gravity models, etc.). However, there is still scope of further fragmentation in each topic, to give more information on project-level, local-level and country-level situation. Consequently, participants proposed that emphasis on the different aspects of SSC and TrC on a disaggregated level would be important considering i) the diverse modalities of SSC which go beyond ODA, trade and many other forms of mutual cooperation such as aid, debt relief, humanitarian assistance, private philanthropies, etc. ; ii) the different actors involved in SSC which go beyond BRICS and bilateral cooperation such as intertwined involvement of the private sector, the public sector, the civil society organisations, the media, etc. iii) political and economic benefits of SSC. Moreover impact analysis on SSC in view of changing dynamics at the global level is scant. In this context, research issues need to include climate change and environmental impact on development, progress in international health and education, etc. in forthcoming studies. Participants further emphasised that countries encompassing SSC should incorporate SSC ventures in public administration and policy making both at local and country levels. All of these activities require collective, accessible and open data and information. This is further discussed in the following sessions.
- c. Challenges for conducting quality research:** Experts identified a number of challenges faced by the researchers while conducting studies related to SSC. These are: i) poor management of information on SSC; ii) poor evaluation of SSC management; iii) lack of performance indicators for guiding and monitoring activities under SSC; iv) non-existence of common quality assessment measures for SSC. One of the ways to address these issues would be to set an assessment framework and indicators. A follow-up on the Nairobi Outcome Document (2009) is important which can reflect the present context of SSC. Proposed indicators are still in the design phase. It was acknowledged that a collective integrated approach could help in preparing a common framework. This framework should incorporate perspectives of both the South-South providers and recipients. The purpose of this framework would be monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of SSC.
- d. The way forward:** The discussants agreed that there is a need for a collective platform for aggregating knowledge on SSC. It may also support progress towards designing a common framework for qualitative and quantitative research in this area. A number of issues were proposed as future research areas including cross-country experience from the perspectives of recipient parties, quality versus quantity of the assistance provided, articulating the required legislative reforms in order to leverage SSC at the country-level and new challenges in view of SDGs implementation. Among other SSC-related research topics, the participants discussed concessionality of financial flow and its impact on the recipient countries as an important research theme for further exploration. Empirical research is also necessary on health and education to understand its relevant dimensions of South-South exchanges.

## **Session 2: Review of analytical and quantitative techniques deployed in SSC and TrC research**

This session aimed to review the empirical analytical techniques deployed in research on issues related to SSC. The SV Secretariat carried out a brief literature review of these techniques. It revealed that the methodology varies depending on a wide range of issues such as availability of data and information or the type of research undertaken. The guiding questions for this session were:

- Which methodologies are most commonly employed in research on SSC?
- Are quality data sets available for SSC research? Which data sources are reliable for using in analysis, in the absence of systematic reporting of SSC activities?
- How can research on SSC practices be scaled up? Do the private sector and civil society organisation have roles in scaling up the data systems and research on SSC?

The discussions on the session were based on the following themes:

- a. Techniques in use:** There has been an agreement that SSC studies can apply both quantitative and qualitative techniques. One may also mix both of the approaches. Availability of required data and information often determines the choice of techniques. For instance, South-South trade analysis can employ more sophisticated techniques as data is more accessible and available as opposed to data on South-South ODA and other official flows (OOF). The research question(s) may also determine the analytical technique. Some of the techniques that were discussed include the Revealed Comparative Advantage Index and Gravity Model, Hirschman Herfindahl Index; Global Vector Autoregression (GVAR) model, endogenous models and impulse response functions.
- b. Challenges:** Researchers informed that studies on SSC generally include similar variables largely because of lack of data to enable otherwise. Some data, for example South-South flows of concessional finance, may be available but not easily accessible. Considering the systemic biases, the discussants concluded that a common portal should be made available for improved accessibility of data to researchers. Other challenges included lack of continuity in data. For instance, the data on Chinese foreign aid, trade and other aspects cannot be traced back to all the years in the relevant time period. In this context, the efforts of the local and global authorities have to be scaled up to make such data available consistently.
- c. Role of non-state actors:** It was emphasised that non-state actors should scale up efforts to gather sound data and information for analysis, especially at the local level. Non-government organisation (NGO) engagement is often associated with branding the organisation itself and the resources available to them. Sometimes it is even difficult to link NGO actions to SSC due to the absence of a framework. In this context, it has been suggested that the benefits of the collaborators and the third actors need to be framed together. Also, a case study approach would be better to analyse the underlying role of non-state actors in SSC.
- d. Source of data:** Accessible and comprehensive data is generally produced and disseminated from the providers' perspectives (e.g. data provided by Organisation for Development Cooperation's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and the World Bank). It is largely because they are obligated to report their activities following a clearly stated definition. This enables these data to be appropriate for effective analysis. However, the Southern providers often do not report their bilateral or individual transactions with other partner countries globally. The provided resources essentially may not conform to a common definition. Therefore impact analyses based on these data are not comparable and can be misleading. The participants also mentioned a number of challenges as regards using regular analytical methods, such as trade mispricing, persistence of informal trade, double counting of trade among others.
- e. Issues for further discussion:** Towards the end of the session there were a number of questions which remained unaddressed. It was proposed that these issues may require further discussion in the future. These questions include: i) should researchers be looking for new ways to measure SSC activities in trying to solve the problems discussed in the meeting? ii) are the underlying

assumptions for SSC different from that concerning traditional development cooperation? iii) does examining the transmission channels for SCC offer similar challenges compared to other aspects? iv) is data for any specific sector more scattered and insufficient compared to data for others? Researchers at the session opined that SSC activities would be best captured when there will be an explicit information on provider, time frame, contributor and the country involved. In this context, the question remains that in case there are new research questions, what would be the way to empirically categorise them in order to make them comparable while examining a certain aspect of SSC and identify the actors being involved.

### **Session 3: Data challenges for SSC research**

As identified in the previous session, availability and accessibility of data and information is inevitably the most important factor influencing research on SSC and TrC. Even in the recent agreements made in the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* and *2030 Development Agenda*, the importance of high quality data and sound monitoring mechanisms has been heightened. In this context, this session was aimed at bringing out the major challenges that researchers encounter while aggregating data for their research. The guiding questions from the session were:

- What are the challenges of data collection in the Southern countries? Does it involve technical and institutional problems of data reporting?
- What are the constraints in obtaining disaggregated, open and accessible data?
- What are the institutional arrangements needed to manage data for SSC research?
- How to ensure evaluation of SSC data system in a cost-effective way?
- What roles are the NGOs, think tanks and policy research institutions currently playing in articulating data for research and what else could be improvised?

A number of issues to be dealt within this session were also discussed in the previous session. Further inputs added regarding this theme are summarised below:

- a. **Data needs:** There has been a general agreement that more research activities are required in the area of SSC. It was also stressed that more concentrated effort will be required to explore new data for research on SSC. It has been highlighted that as demand can create supply, more research activities can help augmenting more data on SSC. It was stressed that while conducting research on SSC, it is important to track data over time and across developing countries. To understand the dynamics of SSC, it is also important to compare it with the North-South activities. It was also highlighted that South-South development cooperation and SSC are different concepts. Recognising these differences would be important to suggest how to improve the data reporting system and enable monitoring for development sustainability.
- b. **Entice data sharing:** Freedom of information and right to information are not always enforced by law. Consequently, some are open data and some can be made available on request. However, providers are not compelled to report the data and they often do not allow global access to their data and information. Therefore, it is important to entice the providers and recipients to make data open and accessible. In other words, it would be important to design an appropriate incentive mechanism for the Southern providers. For example, some moral pressure can work to boost the necessary motivation. Besides, it was also acknowledged during the discussion that everything may not be quantified. For instance, it would be difficult to quantify efforts of advocacy and support for SSC in the regional and global fora or to quantify the preference for a South-South partner for exchanging information.
- c. **Technical capacity:** South-South data is scant partly because of technical shortcomings in data collection and reporting capabilities of the Southern countries. Since trade and investment flows are easy to report, data is more or less readily available in these areas. Considering pecuniary issues in data reporting is also important. Enhanced activeness of global organisations would be needed for addressing these issues and generate more data. Emphasis is also needed on how

unofficial data can be used to track SSC. For example, a dialogue between national public offices and civil society organisations could be a way to systemise data reporting. TrC was identified as an efficient mechanism to pool finance and develop capacity for systemising data and information system. Southern countries also require methodological training on data collection and reporting.

- d. **Theory of change:** It is identified that there are three different views on SSC. One group believes that they can be similar to DAC constituency. The second group claims that SSC is special and unique and thus needs a separate framework that would be complimentary to the traditional development cooperation system. The third group considers that SSC is congruent to North-South Cooperation (NSC), believing that one day it will all come together. Therefore, it is noted that there is a bounden duty to follow-up with specific data if we do not mean to connect SSC with NSC. Without a theoretical basis for SSC it is difficult to distinguish SSC from other dimensions of development cooperation.

The participants emphasised that there is a need to analyse the role of SSC in the context of 'theory of change'. It was noted that the preliminary problem of having sufficient data is the magnitude of SSC, proclaiming the bigger the scale of SSC activities, the better the data availability would be. Therefore, once the scale of SSC is increased, data reporting will consequently improve.

- e. **Challenges:** There is a scope for duplication in data when both the provider and recipient countries report the South-South flows from both ends. In order to deter this, data reporting needs to be systemised from either one end and shared openly with the other partner. A common platform for South-South providers and recipients could make such an initiative effective. This way, impact assessment can be monitored by the partners from common data, and hence the outcome can be comparable. However if the data is aggregated from national sources into a common portal, there is a risk that the data across countries may not be comparable. It has been suggested that in order to assure international comparability of the data, certain 'data-cleaning' would be necessary which can mandate the payment of an 'accession-fee' to the information portal.
- f. **Use of Southern network:** Data on SSC could be made available in electronic format in a common portal and in multiple languages such as English, French and Chinese, in order to enable global access. Currently some data is available, but not sufficiently disaggregated. Each country should maintain a strong database and report all data regularly on the common platform. This common platform could be a network like SV. A Southern network can globally disseminate the data by combining the data gathered from the different sources. Maintaining data would be a compulsory part of membership of the network. It is acknowledged that through sharing of experience and data, the network can gain access to more information.
- g. **Remaining concerns:** An important issue that emerged from the discussions in the second and third sessions is that it needs to be investigated by the research community how Southern providers may be incentivised to share data. A number of other questions were also floated. What is the opinion on the international aid transfer initiative? What are the incentives of Southern providers to comply with the Northern system? It was noted that transparency is non-negotiable. It is important to understand the political economy of data situation. There must be a continual effort to identify the data challenges specific to SSC.

#### **Session 4: Leading issues in TrC**

This was the only session dedicated entirely to the discussion of TrC. The discussion focused on some specific points; however some issues remained unaddressed; they were acknowledged to be pertinent for articulating knowledge on TrC also. The guiding questions were as follows:

- What are the steps that have been taken to construct a common definition of TrC and the guiding principles for operation? How can these steps be scaled up?
- In view of the lack of a common definition of TrC, how is the accountability and reporting mechanism being devised for technical cooperation through TrC?



- Does TrC require an assessment and accountability framework that is consolidated with that of SSC or a mutually exclusive institutional framework?
- What countries are involved in TrC? How can these practices be evaluated?
- Which countries and which sectors are being more frequent beneficiaries of TrC compared to others? What are the determinants of such a strategic partnership?
- What are the areas where TrC has been mostly successful? Does this change when TrC among different parties are involved (for instance, TrC with traditional donors; TrC with development agencies, TrC with other Southern providers)?
- How can the replication of successful examples of TrC be promoted? Can research come up with new modalities for TrC?
- How can we make use of TrC as a means of implementation for *the 2030 Development Agenda*?
- Is there a possibility that TrC can crowd out traditional development assistance?

The opening discussions of TrC deliberated upon the definitional challenges of TrC, the motivations, challenges and risks of TrC and the possibilities of TrC for scaling up global partnership in development. The highlights of the discussions are as follows:

- a. Global perspective:** The viewpoints of three major groups in TrC– international organisations like United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), traditional donors as part of the OECD/DAC and the emerging countries were discussed. The motivations for TrC from the perspectives of the DAC countries and the emerging donors were highlighted. The main technical incentive for TrC appears to be an opportunity for traditional donors and emerging economies to share experience and exchange knowledge and expertise. Politically the motivation for TrC broadly is to strengthen the ties of development cooperation.
- b. Different dimensions:** The four different dimensions of triangular cooperation, as mentioned in SEGIB (2014), were discussed. The challenges as regards such a cooperation mechanism and the affected areas in the international development cooperation fora were analysed. Among the possible threats to TrC, the imbalance in the bargaining powers of the partners was discussed. It was commented that triangular cooperation can be viewed useful from the perspective of any of the parties involved, i.e. from any side if the triangle– either the donor, the pivotal or the beneficiary country. The discussants were unsure if it is important to consider TrC as a subset of SSC or as an independent dimension of development cooperation.
- c. Impact areas:** It was highlighted that the process of TrC and the sectors in which TrCs are more prevalent must be analysed rigorously. Further research is needed on the modalities of TrC and the role of financial intermediaries, e.g. the role of development banks. There are also many non-financial modalities which need to be examined. The actors involved in TrC, particularly from the North, and the role of private and state entities involved in the process of TrC need to be investigated. It needs to be noted that the outcomes of TrC are not a stand-alone issue in the research dimension.
- d. Important concerns:** It was noted that TrC is still dealing with the first generation issues. The definitional conundrum persists as global organisations are still practicing the broader definition of TrC as a cooperation mechanism having three partners taking advantage of partners' comparative advantage in developmental projects. A definition outlining the clear and unified role of the three partners in a TrC venture is absent, as reflected from the discussion on the four schemes of TrC from SEGIB (2014). Even if the consortium reaches a consensus on SSC assessment methodology – the question remains if it can be modified to accommodate a methodology for TrC. In addition to that, the debate on certain structural issues is still ongoing; for example, whether TrC is threatening to drive away traditional development assistance systems from the North.

## **Session 5: Identification of themes in line with the objective of the research**

The final session of the meeting was dedicated to underlining the overarching themes and areas of research related to SSC. Thematic discussions highlighted the challenges in conducting research on

various themes such as South-South trade, environmental and sustainability issues among others, followed by an open debate on what can be done in the future of research on SSC. The session highlights are as follows:

- a. **Trade analysis:** A detailed presentation pertaining to South-South trade was discussed. It emphasised the methodological considerations, such as the Augmented Gravity Model for analysing South-South oil and non-oil trade in the global trade system. It was observed that production networks in the post-2000 era played a significant role in South-South trade and the developing Asia accounts for majority of South-South trade, one-third of which was accounted for by China. Recognising the increased importance of Global Production Networks, which was dominated by the trade of manufacturing products, there is also risk of double-counting due to significant cross-border activity of exportation and re-importation of inputs. As concluded, South-South trade is largely determined by supply-side, rather than demand-side factors. Major inference is that South-South trade is mainly an East Asian phenomenon, largely driven by production networks. However, it is difficult to get data for an exercise like this, since available comprehensive data for analysing trade networks and global value chains is not widely available. For future research, it is understood that more detailed analysis about how production networks and how global value chains contribute to South-South trade is required.
- b. **Towards 2030 agenda:** This discussion summarised the importance of coherence and coordination among Southern networks like SV to achieve the agenda. Keeping the discussions from the preceding sessions in mind, the focus now shifted to the political economy of the data situation for SSC, opportunities for SSC to implement the post-2015 agenda while emphasising a universal, integrated development cooperation system for SSC. It was recognised that if the world aims for 'zero poverty' by 2030, it would be important that research analysis focus on the linkage between economic transformation and human development. In this context, the institutional capacity of sharing the necessary quality data needs to be strengthened with dedicated efforts from all stakeholders– public, private and civil society organisations. It is acknowledged that only the Southern platforms can best situate SSC as an effective development cooperation mechanism in global fora for which we need to assess how inclusive different Southern platforms are, what are their objectives, to which extent their goals are met and what will be the strategies for the future. Knowledge concerning the 5Ps– Prosperity, People, Planet, Partnership and Peace– needs to be integrated with the framework.
- c. **Sustainability issues:** This theme was mentioned as one of the most important research areas. It was mentioned that climate change and environmental issues were undermined in all sessions whereas collective research efforts in this frontier are essential as most natural resources available to developing countries are shared across borders. Hence, the discussion emphasised opting for a multi-disciplinary approach as one of the strategies to meet social, economic and environmental issues.

### **Overarching issues**

Re-inventing the definition of SSC by incorporating new forms of cooperation, actors, modalities and new outputs and inputs appears to be the most important issue at this moment. With a commonly agreed definition, it could be possible to integrate SSC to the sustainability framework in the post-2015 agenda. For analysis, there needs to be prioritisation and division of labour to enable a manageable scope of work and check for the exact form of partnership needed to deliver a research agenda. There are two separate challenges. *First*, the conceptualisation of SSC needs to be linked with the post-2015 agenda. *Second*, a sounder analytical and methodological framework for research needs to be developed to examine the impact of SSC on a broader development context. These issues also need to be connected with the theory of change, reflecting on how SSC can bring about economic and structural transformation in the Southern countries.

## PART B

### TOWARDS A NEW RESEARCH AGENDA FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Briefing Notes  
**Methodology Meeting for  
Research on South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

*held on*  
12-13 October 2015  
White Sands Hotel and Resort  
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Organised by



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## The state of research on South-South Cooperation and the emerging trends

The research on South-South Cooperation (SSC) gained momentum in the backdrop of phenomenal economic performance of countries of the Global South. With the deeper integration of SSC within the development fora, a deeper outlook into the principles, modalities, volume, trends, quality and impact of South-South activities is invaluable. In this context, based on a mapping exercise conducted at the Southern Voice Secretariat at Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), chronological analyses of events and publications on SSC in the last few years are provided below. The major objective of this discussion session is to analyse the trend in research on SSC further.

Major events to identify the basic guidelines, scope and importance of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) were in Buenos Aires in 1978 which produced the Buenos Aires Plan of Action<sup>1</sup> and the High Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Nairobi in 2009 which highlighted the importance of political and economic relations among developing countries and outlined the basic parameters for SSC.

In 2011, background work on SSC was undertaken in the India-LDC Ministerial Conference 'Harnessing the Positive Contribution of SSC for Development of LDCs', which documented all aspects of SSC in developing countries till date.<sup>2</sup> At that time discussions were focused on the state of aid commitments by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member donors of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the crucial role of aid for trade in building necessary infrastructure in least developed countries (LDCs), and debt restructuring mechanism for LDCs. Discussion were particularly on the aid allocation criteria, the modalities of these financial flows, policy coherence of recipient countries to efficiently utilise these funds and enhancing LDC governments' capacity to develop industrial and agricultural sectors using development finance. SSC was noted as a complementary means of finance and support for LDC IV implementation.<sup>3</sup>

Triangular cooperation (TrC) and SSC was compared and contrasted in the context of development effectiveness on a particular panel discussion in 2011, noting that project implementation require less cost and time by means of SSC than TrC.<sup>4</sup> Research on development cooperation among the emerging economies and LDCs was a common theme at that time, particularly on China's role as a provider of development assistance to Africa.<sup>5</sup> Situation analysis and case study on African development effectiveness was made to analyse the role of SSC in low-income countries. Particular sectors such as trade, flows of foreign direct investments (FDI), remittances and capacity development through SSC were emphasised on various research outputs and events.<sup>6</sup> In 2011, building on good practices was thought to be useful to improve the quality of SSC. Workshops in Colombia and Johannesburg were held to plan the way ahead to Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) in Busan.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Background study available at <http://ssc.undp.org/content/dam/ssc/documents/Key%20Policy%20Documents/BAPA.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup>Available at <http://www.un.org/en/conf/ldc/pdf/background%20paper%20on%20south-south%20cooperation%20for%20ldcs%20development-final.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup>"Building on Istanbul: Financial support for development efforts of LDCs, including through South-South and triangular cooperation" UN ECOSOC, Geneva, 12 July 2011.

<sup>4</sup>Panel discussion on "South-South and Triangular Cooperation: competition or complementarity for development effectiveness?" La francophonie, Warsaw, 15 December 2011 and also in publications such as OECD (2011)

<sup>5</sup>Davies (2007, 2008), Davies *et al.* (2008), Gualliamont (2008), UNDP (2010), Ssenyange (2010), Ramachandan and Waltz (2011).

<sup>6</sup>Bera and Gupta (2009), Athukorala (2011), Lipsey & Sjöholm (2011), Honoso (2012).

<sup>7</sup>"Learning From South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Sharing Knowledge for Development" Colombian Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation, Colombia, September, 2011; Peer review workshop on African TT-SSC case studies organized by Africa Platform for Development Effectiveness, Johannesburg, June, 2011.

Following that, there were very few events on SSC in 2012 whereas work on SSC was escalated in 2013 and 2014. Research was involved in the challenges of SSC and the role of SSC in the post-2015 development agenda. Attempts were made to leverage the role of SSC and TrC and effectiveness of horizontal partnerships.<sup>8</sup> For instance in 2013, the discussions at the JICA/UNDP event in Tokyo focused on the significance of exchanging knowledge between Asia and Africa, and that of SSC and TrC. Emphasis was given on how SSC and TrC could bring about sustainable development in Africa. Addressing the three critical challenges for African countries, such as economic transformation from agriculture-based to industrialised economy, human resources development and infrastructural expansion, emphasis was given on how SSC and TrC can transform development efforts in Africa. It was concluded that result-oriented mutual learning and practice would ensure the success of SSC and TrC. Moreover, it was noted that preparation for incidence of external shocks that may jeopardise development efforts is essential, and that development efforts need to comprehensively address both economic and social aspects.<sup>9</sup>

There was also research on the post-2015 agenda from the perspective of LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries (LIDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to explore an inclusive and successful framework for sustainable development for them. Discussing the post-2015 agenda from their perspective was essential to get a clear idea regarding how the structural challenges and emerging development issues facing the global South would be addressed in the concept of SDGs.<sup>10</sup> In June 2013, an event was held in New York to analyse the strengths and challenges of United Nations offices to confront SSC, particularly United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).<sup>11</sup> Management practice was examined in details by analysing in-country experiences in coordinating projects, policies and agencies to scale up SSC/TrC activities.<sup>12</sup>

Consecutively the research on SSC as one of the means of implementing the post-2015 agenda was intensified, in view of the third International Conference on Finance for Development that was held in July 2015.<sup>13</sup> Certain themes were more discussed than others, for instance, international development cooperation and domestic resource mobilisation were the most debated topics. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) held a conference 'International Development Cooperation: Trends, and Emerging Opportunities – Perspectives of New Actors' in Istanbul in June 2014 for which Ms Karin Vazquez prepared a background paper analysing the trends of development cooperation among Southern countries. The international aid architecture was discussed in details in a workshop in Germany in September 2014, particularly the transformations of China and India as a donor, the role of new donors in Latin America, concessional finance in the health sector and the structure of triangular cooperation in providing aid in contrast with traditional aid from Northern donors.<sup>14</sup> Initial steps on setting general principles and assessment framework for SSC began in 2014.<sup>15</sup> United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its Least Developed Countries 2014 also looked at the post-2015 agenda from the perspective of LDC.<sup>16</sup> Couple of unconventional research themes in 2014 were the role of information and communication technology acquired through SSC by UN High Level Panel in New York and SSC on climate change by United Nations Environment

<sup>8</sup>*"Learning Mutually and Acting Jointly to build resilient society: Leveraging South-South and Triangular Partnership"* JICA/UNDP, Japan, June 2013; *"Widening Local Development Pathways: Creative Economy and the Post-2015 Development Agenda"*. UNDP/UNESCO, New York, December 2013.

<sup>9</sup>*"Learning Mutually and Acting Jointly to build resilient society: Leveraging South-South and Triangular Partnership"* JICA/UNDP, Japan, June 2013.

<sup>10</sup>*"Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda: The LDC Perspective"* IIED/UNF/SV, New York, June 2013.

<sup>11</sup>*"Briefing to the Member States on the Achievements and Challenges of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation"* UNDP/UNOSSC, New York, June 2013.

<sup>12</sup>Vazquez (2013).

<sup>13</sup>Bhattacharya (2014, 2015).

<sup>14</sup>Workshop on *"South-South Development Cooperation: Chances and Challenges for the International Aid Architecture"* in Heidelberg University, Germany, September 2014.

<sup>15</sup>Focus session on *"Locating South-South Cooperation within Emerging Development Cooperation Architecture"* in Mexico and *"Deconstructing South-South Cooperation: A South Asian Perspective"* in Delhi 2014.

<sup>16</sup>Report retrieved from: [http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ldc2014\\_en.pdf](http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ldc2014_en.pdf)

Programme (UNEP) in Peru. UNEP also published a remarkable trade flow analysis on selected environmental goods. New modalities of development finance and new sources of these funds were being analysed such as the New Development Bank and Asian International Infrastructure Bank.<sup>17</sup> In 2014, the first High level meeting of Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) was held in view of setting grounds for SSC in the post-2015 development agenda. The themes discussed were tracking progress on implementing the Busan agreement on aid effectiveness, innovative financing and domestic resource mobilisation, development cooperation among middle-income countries, knowledge sharing and capacity development among Southern partners and the role of private sector in effective development cooperation.

In 2015, focus of discussion shifted intensely towards the quality measurement and impact assessment mechanisms for SSC, particularly the technical working group of NeST organised successive events on this theme on March and September 2015. The common themes discussed were on SSC progress toward financing South-South and triangular initiatives and facilitating South-South collaboration, in particular in the field of science, technology and innovation and exchange experience in the application of technology in key sectors such as agriculture, health, infrastructure development, climate change and renewable energy.<sup>18</sup> The issue of strengthening SSC was highlighted for i) as a way to overcome the crisis for developing countries and ii) to facilitate sustainable development.<sup>19</sup> Africa's true position in the sphere of international development cooperation and whether monitoring and evaluation is needed for SSC was also highlighted to develop an appropriate African strategic framework in connection with traditional partners and emerging partners.<sup>20</sup>

The general trend in research on SSC shows there is a scope to articulate a concise methodology to assess the various aspect of SSC. Below is the tentative outline of focus areas for discussion in the session:

- i. Which issues are emphasised most on SSC paradigm in recent research? (for instance, any particular sectors, themes, projects and specific programmes getting more importance in research than others?)
- ii. Why are these issues getting more research attention compared to other topics? (for instance, why are South-South technical projects more studied compared to remittance flows and investment among Southern partners?)
- iii. Which end of the SSC discourse is highlighted more in research – the donors or the recipients? (For instance, are there more studies on China and India against Turkey, Thailand and Korea as donors; are there more studies on African countries compared to Caribbean and Pacific group of states as recipients of S-S partnerships?)
- iv. What are the most frequently raised issues in the discussion on SSC. (for instance, what are the performance indicators of SSC; how the quality of South-South development cooperation would be measured?)
- v. What opportunities for SSC and TrC have been revealed in recent studies for implementing the post-2015 agenda?
- vi. What is the progress in articulating design principles, operational modalities and assessment framework of SSC from recent discussions? Are there any definitional issues concerning SSC and TrC?
- vii. Emerging new avenues of SSC (connectivity initiatives, Southern cross-regional RTAs; Trade Facilitation Agreements in WTO) and state of the research on leveraging the opportunities through development of suitable tools of cooperation (Financial, technical etc.)

<sup>17</sup>Sobhan (2014) and Griffith-Jones (2014).

<sup>18</sup>"High-level Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Post- 2015 Development Agenda: Financing for Development in the South and Technology Transfer" UNDP/UNOSSC, Dhaka, May 2015

<sup>19</sup>South Conference "2015 and the South: Preparing for a Year of Uncertainty and International Summits" Session I: 'Global Economic Crisis, Increasing Impact on Developing Countries and South-South Cooperation', South Centre, Geneva, March 2015 and "International Technical Working Group to Measure Quality of South-South Partnerships" Johannesburg, September 2015

<sup>20</sup>"Measuring the impact of South-South Cooperation" SAIIA, Midrand, March 2015.

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## Review of analytical and quantitative techniques deployed in SSC and TrC research

Research on South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC) can still be considered a recent phenomenon, while most study emphasising on the increased integration of the Southern countries as the activities of the 'new players'. The techniques applied to these studies vary from descriptive and quantitative analysis to qualitative reporting.

The analytical and quantitative techniques used in SSC and TrC related research varied according to the study area of the topic, for instance different techniques are used to assess foreign aid flows and trade flows. Also it varies according to the availability of data, information and relevant resources to the authors. For instance, in one of the studies on regional integration reviewed, quantitative techniques were deployed to assess the trade effect of regional trade agreements (RTAs).<sup>1</sup> Seven South-South RTAs were considered in the sample of this study- ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), Andean Community, Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), MERCUSOR and Southern African Development Community (SADC). The ex-ante effects on a Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System (FATPS) among the member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) were analysed using a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model and the ex-post effects of the above mentioned regional trade agreements on trade were analysed using a gravity model. South-South trade has been analysed from the Asian perspective in another study using time series data to observe the trends in Asian trade with Southern countries and also by means of a gravity model to analyse the bilateral trade flows.<sup>2</sup> Focusing on trade in a particular sector, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) prepared a study on South-South trade in environmental goods. Trade flow analysis and trend analysis was the principle method used in this study. Analysis for transactions in environmental and renewable energy goods required data on export, import, value chains, trade barriers, incentives and many other factors. Data was collected from COMTRADE and International Trade Center (ITC) Trade Map. HS subheadings were used to extract information on classified products. The classification was inexplicit for many categories of renewable energy products for which the ITC trade map was also used.

On the other hand, country based SSC activity analysis deployed qualitative techniques, mixed with limited quantitative analysis using available data. For instance, Brazilian SSC experience in South America and Africa, particularly in health sector was assessed using database of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency and using interviews from health experts and technical experts. Matrices were made to descriptively analyse performance of the cooperative ventures against criteria such as horizontal integrity; innovation; sustainability; leadership of the 'South'; exchange of experiences; effectiveness, etc.<sup>3</sup>

Several analyses on Southern countries were based on analysing the types and volume of development cooperation among the developing countries. Data were analysed to determine a trend or pattern in the integrated activities of the Southern economies. For instance the volume of concessional aid provided over time or across different countries were analysed by means of graph, line diagram and charts. The most frequently used data were those collected from World Bank's World Development Indicators (WDI) and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) statistics for Development Assistance committee (DAC) member countries and non-member countries that report to DAC.<sup>4</sup> Data for Southern countries which do not report to OECD/DAC were collected from national ministries (e.g. database of South-African Treasury or Ministry of External Affairs of India),

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<sup>1</sup>Cernat (2003).

<sup>2</sup>Athukorala (2011).

<sup>3</sup>Basu (2014), UNDP (2014), UN ECOSOC (2008).

<sup>4</sup>UN ECOSOC (2008).

financial institutions responsible of the transactions (e.g. Chinese EXIM Bank), existing literature in the relevant topic and in some cases interview with key informants. Qualitative analysis was made based on case studies, country studies and evaluation of best practices.<sup>5</sup> Sophisticated analytical techniques were used to study particular country or themes. For instance, co-integration analysis and causality tests were used to examine the relationship between the growth of developing Asia with the growth China and India using data for the period 1970- 2009<sup>6</sup> and regression analysis using dummy variable was used to analyse the modalities and determinants of Chinese aid disbursement.<sup>7</sup> Determinants of India's aid disbursement were also analysed using data from AidData by means of descriptive and time series analysis.<sup>8</sup> Trend of India's development assistance to foreign governments, the three different forms of India's development partnership and major disbursement of Indian loans and grants to Southern recipients were also analysed descriptively in a study by Mullen (2014).

Therefore, the existing literature that has been reviewed reveal that analytical technique deployed in research is a function of several variables, principally the availability and accessibility of data and the resource available to the researcher and the theme of the research under question. In this context, the issues to be may include the following:

- i. What is the methodology employed most commonly in researches concerning SSC (for instance, is trend analysis and descriptive analysis more frequently applied compared to time series and cross section analysis to detect short-term and long-term relations and causality among variable; are certain number and type of variables being considered more often than others? If so, why?)
- ii. Which data sources are reliable for using in analysis, in the absence of systematic reporting of SSC activities?
- iii. How can research on SSC practices be scaled up? Do the private sector and civil society organization have a role in scaling up research on SSC?

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<sup>5</sup>OECD (2014), Vazquez (2013).

<sup>6</sup>Bagnar and Kumar (2012).

<sup>7</sup>Fuchs *et al.*(2014).

<sup>8</sup>Fuchs & Vadlamannati (2012).

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## Data challenges for SSC research

The emerging trends in the research on South-South Cooperation (SSC) reveal a major hindrance in sound research capacity– which is the availability of comprehensive data and information on South-South activities. South-South activities are seldom reported regularly and collectively to central authorities. Disaggregated reporting and the lack of a central monitoring institution for SSC creates a dearth in data and information which makes it difficult to track progress of developmental activities by the Global South. In the recent agreements made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (July 2015)<sup>1</sup> and 2030 Development Agenda (September 2015)<sup>2</sup>, the importance of high quality data and sound monitoring mechanisms has been heightened. Also in numerous recent research, the availability of quality data (or rather the lack of) came up as a shortcoming.<sup>3</sup> Therefore it is pertinent that the discussions in this session reveal the embedded data challenges to carry out research on SSC.

In this context, the discussions on data challenges could include the following issues.

1. Mapping of the data available for research on SSC: One of the key data challenges has been in regard to data availability. The problems arise from the incoherent data collection and reporting by the emerging and developing economies due to lack of standardised reporting system. For instance, institutional reporting like the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) database is missing for South-South flows of development assistance.<sup>4</sup> Very few non-Development Assistance Committee (DAC) member countries report to OECD. On the other hand, trade data is available in UN Comtrade database, foreign direct investment (FDI) data is available in UNCTAD database, data on remittances and migration flows have recently been added to the World Bank database and data on macroeconomic development indicators is provided in World Development Indicators (WDI) by World Bank. Nevertheless, there is a dearth of individual countries' collection, storage and reporting system.
2. Strengthening the existing database for filling up the blanks: Even if few countries maintain a database of their South-South flows, the authenticity and quality of data can be questioned. For instance, if the data is regularly updated, if the required level of disaggregation available in the data, if the data collection method is reliable). Also, even if some countries maintain sound database, there is sectoral bias in data availability, e.g. more data is available on trade and foreign direct investment compared to remittance flows, concessional financial flows and technology exchanges.
3. Definition and standardisation of SSC for data reporting: Moving away from individual countries' constraints, data challenges are also posited from definitional anomalies in South-South activities. For example, in analysing India's aid to developing countries it is difficult to follow which proportion of financial flows maintain the definition of official development assistance of OECD and which does not.<sup>5</sup> Also, not all countries follow a common definition to report SSC resource flows. If we want to analyse South-South productivity, for example, there is a need for a precise definition of South-South productivity according to which data collection can be designed.
4. Accessibility of data: Furthermore there is an issue of data accessibility. Most data on South-South flows are reported and maintained in the country level are not available globally in a website or database collectively. Even if data is available, it may be in the local language or in printed form that is readily inaccessible and incomprehensive globally. This is also addressed as the openness of (or rather lack of) data.

<sup>1</sup>Available at [http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf).

<sup>2</sup>Available at [http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815\\_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf](http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/08/120815_outcome-document-of-Summit-for-adoption-of-the-post-2015-development-agenda.pdf).

<sup>3</sup>Bhattacharya *et al.* (2013).

<sup>4</sup>UN ECOSOC (2008).

<sup>5</sup>Fuchs and Vadlamannati (2012).

In the above context, the purpose of the discussions would be as follows:

- a. Analyse the status of data and information analysis system to support the growth and impact of SSC (with a focus on developing corresponding support institutions)
- b. A consensual finding is required on how to conjure institutional arrangements to report and monitor SSC activities (the scope of SSC and the current scale of resource flows, the potential and realised level of exchanges undergoing in the Southern development cooperation arena, the performance of dedicated units for SSC, etc).
- c. Apart from that two innovative areas need to be explored for data in SSC research:
  - i. a possibility of a prudent evaluation technique functioning in a cost-effective way, potentially through a new coalition among researchers, practitioners and policymakers at national and regional level, student exchange programmes;
  - ii. construction of a central research base for SSC. In this context, the role of non-government organisations, think tanks and policy research institutions also needs to be analysed to track the efficacy of their research and possible ways to scale up their studies.

The discussions from this session would aim to achieve solutions to the issues highlighted above and more. The important research questions are:

- i. Are quality data sets available for SSC research (for instance, datasets may be available in some areas like trade and FDI, but are limited in the area of services and development cooperation or in countries with weak economic institutions.)
- ii. How can the existing data systems (local or international) be scaled up and strengthened? (for instance, ensuring the continuity of biannual or annual data reporting in a common database)
- iii. What are the challenges of data collection from emerging economies? (for instance, lack of standardised reporting may deter data collection methods)
- iv. What are the technical and institutional problems of data reporting and comparability with global datasets? (for instance, concessional finance from China can neither be called concessional on par with OECD definition nor a commercial lending)
- v. What are the problems of disaggregated, open, and accessible data (for instance, real time disclosure, up-to-date data, data transparency, legislative challenges and legislation formats)
- vi. What are the institutional arrangements needed to manage data for SSC research (for instance, with the scope and scale of South-South flows increasing, beneficiary countries also need to setup dedicated units to manage data on flows SSC)
- vii. How to ensure evaluation of SSC data system in a cost effective way?
- viii. What roles are the non-governmental organisations (NGOs), think tanks and policy research institutions currently playing in articulating data for research and what else could be improvised?
- ix. What are the motives behind SSC are how are these being evaluated? How are the impact assessment mechanisms for SSC being designed?
- x. How to measure the efforts of advocacy and support for SSC is regional and global fora?

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## Leading Issues on Triangular Cooperation

Triangular Cooperation (TrC) is seen by many as a new cooperation modality between Northern and Southern donors and recipients of development assistance combined or some as the highly ambitious solution to the drawbacks of traditional North-South relations and South-South Cooperation (SSC). Though a universally accepted definition of TrC is non-existent<sup>1</sup>, there are few literatures that offer the TrC definition as “a partnership between Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors and providers of South-South cooperation<sup>2</sup> to implement development cooperation projects in beneficiary countries. All three partners make specific and complementary contributions that create measurable value added for the beneficiary country”<sup>3</sup> or simply as provision development assistance by the DAC donors to Southern governments to execute projects/programmes with the aim of assisting other developing countries.<sup>4</sup> However, in recent times a more precise definition has been used, “the three parts are united at each step of the project: the planning, financing, implementation and monitoring.”<sup>5</sup> These definitions emerged from the analysis of various TrC experiences.

So far, four types of TrC has been identified:<sup>6</sup>

- i. a developed country supporting an existing SSC project;
- ii. an agreement between a traditional donor and a pivotal country to cooperate with a beneficiary country;
- iii. a pivotal country joining a project already being carried out together by a developed and a beneficiary country
- iv. the inception of a project from joint agreement between three or more partners involving at least one developed, one pivotal and one beneficiary country.

The developed country is usually referred to the country providing the financial flows necessary for the project inception and implementation, the pivotal country shares knowledge and expertise gained from relevant experience and the beneficiary country is generally the host country for the project implementation. However these roles are not explicitly defined and often can be intertwined.

Even though the first recognised as a means to accumulate more resources for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), the accelerating incidences of TrC has made it an important topic of discussion and research. The 2030 development agenda recalls the importance of triangular cooperation in strategies for capacity building in clause 17.9:

“Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.”

In addition to that the recent Addis Ababa Action Agenda agreed in the third International Conference for Finance for Development in July 2015 invigorates TrC as a means of implementation, specifically as

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<sup>1</sup>OECD website: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-global-relations/triangular-cooperation.htm>, accessed on September 30, 2015.

<sup>2</sup>Also known as a pivotal country in OECD (2013).

<sup>3</sup>Langendorf (2012) p:25-26; used in Piefer, N. *Triangular cooperation–Bridging South-South and North-South Cooperation?*.

<sup>4</sup>UN ECOSOC (2008).

<sup>5</sup>Li and Bonschab (2012).

<sup>6</sup>OECD (2013).

“We also commit to strengthening triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation.”

In light of these phenomena, it is important to analyse the following:

- i. What are the steps been taken to construct a common definition of TrC and the guiding principles for operation? How can these steps be scaled up?
- ii. In view of the lack of a common definition of TrC, how is the accountability and reporting mechanisms being devised for technical cooperation through TrC?
- iii. Does TrC require an assessment and accountability framework that is consolidated with that of SSC or a mutually exclusive institutional framework?
- iv. What countries are involved in TrC? How can these practices be evaluated?
- v. Which countries and which sectors are being more frequent beneficiary of TrC compared to others? What are the determinants of such a strategic partnership?
- vi. What are the areas where TrC has been mostly successful? Does this change when TrC among different parties are involved (for instance, TrC with traditional donors; TrC with development agencies, TrC with other Southern providers)?
- vii. How can the replication of successful examples of TrC be promoted? Can research come up with new modalities for TrC?
- viii. How can we make use of TrC as a means of implementing the 2030 Development Agenda?
- ix. Is there a possibility that TrC can crowd out traditional development assistance?

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### **Identification of themes in line with the objectives of the research**

The preceding four sessions of the brainstorming meeting focused to reveal the following:

- i. The potential areas of research that has not been explored yet
- ii. The topics of SSC and TrC research that has been investigated but is in need of a deeper look and scaling up with further disaggregated research
- iii. The areas of research that has been well explored and investigated.

Drawn from the discussions in the preceding sessions, outlined below are some possible research themes that need to be further explored during this session.

- i. Trends, dynamics and efficacy of SSC practices in
  - concessional finance
  - trade
  - foreign direct investment
  - remittances
  - technology transfer
  - capacity building
  - environmental issues
- ii. Data challenges and political economy of data for SSC
- iii. Opportunities for SSC and TrC in implementing the post-2015 agenda
- iv. Design principles, operational modalities and assessment and accountability frameworks of SSC
- v. Role of the non-governmental sector in promoting SSC and disrupting factors of SSC in this sector
- vi. Comparison of SSC and TrC for establishing their distinguishing features and compatibility
- vii. Situating SSC in a universal, integrated development cooperation system
- viii. How effective have been various South-centred platforms (e.g. G77 in WTO) in advancing the interests of S-S cooperation
- ix. Political economy of Northern view about SSC (geo political interests, commercial risks, leveraging, synergies)
- x. Is SSC a complement or substitute to traditional North-South cooperation model?
- xi. What contributes to successful SSC negotiations?



## **A short reading list**

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## PART C

### TOWARDS A NEW RESEARCH AGENDA FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

#### Participant List, Programme Agenda and Meeting Moments Captured

*held on*  
12-13 October 2015  
White Sands Hotel and Resort  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Organised by



In partnership with



## List of Participants

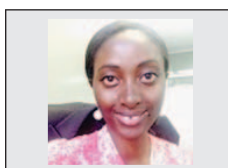
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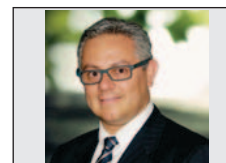


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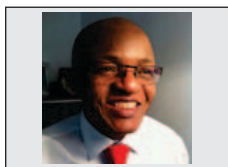


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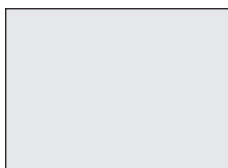




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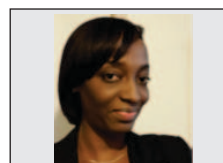
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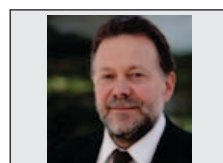
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# Programme Schedule

## Day 1: Monday, 12 October 2015

09:00 - 09:25	Introduction and Welcome Note. Speech by Guest of Honour.
09:25 - 11:00	<i>Session 1:</i> The state of research on SSC and the emerging trends
11:00 - 11:15	Refreshments
11:15 - 13:00	<i>Session 2:</i> Review of analytical and quantitative techniques deployed in SSC and TrC research.
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 16:30	<i>Session 3:</i> Data challenges for SSC research
16:30 - 17:00	Refreshments
17:00 - 18:30	<i>Session 4:</i> Leading issues on Triangular cooperation
18:30 - 22:00	Dinner

## Day 2: Tuesday, 13 October 2015

09:00 - 10:30	<i>Session 5:</i> Identification of themes in line with the objectives of the research
10:30 - 10:45	Refreshments
10:45 - 13:00	<i>Session 6:</i> Presentation on 'the Post-2015 Agenda and the Day After'
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch



## Meeting Moments Captured









Launched in 2012, **Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals** (*Southern Voice*) is a network of 49 think tanks from Africa, Asia and Latin America, which was set up to serve as an open platform to contribute to the global discourse pertaining to the formation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the challenges of implementation, monitoring and mid-course review of the SDGs. *Southern Voice* addresses the existing 'knowledge asymmetry' in the global debates and 'participation deficit' of the developing countries by generating evidence-based knowledge, sharing policy experiences originating in the Global South, and disseminating this knowledge and experience among key stakeholders. *Southern Voice Occasional Papers* are based on research undertaken by members of the network as well as inputs received at various platforms of the initiative. The *Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)*, Bangladesh hosts the Secretariat of *Southern Voice*.

#### Other Issues from the Series:

- Special Issue 1:** First Approximations on Post-MDG International Development Goals (*February 2013*)
- Special Issue 2:** Dialogues on South-South Cooperation in the context of Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (*September 2014*)
- Special Issue 3:** The Post-2015 Agenda and its Implementation Challenges: A View from the South (*May 2015*)



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