

# From Fragility to Resilience in Rural Settings: the Role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation

29 November 2018 | Conference Room 1 UNHQ



## A Joint RBAs Session

### Agenda

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| 10.40 | <b>Welcoming remarks by the moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Helder da Costa</b>, General Secretary, g7+</li></ul>  |
| 10.45 | <b>Panel discussions</b><br><b>Moderator:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Helder da Costa</b>, General Secretary, g7+</li></ul> <b>Panelists:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dongxin Feng</b>, Deputy Director, Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division, FAO</li><li>• <b>Ashwani K. Muthoo</b>, Director, Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division, IFAD</li><li>• <b>Jean-Pierre de Margerie</b>, Deputy Director, Policy and Programme Division, WFP</li><li>• <b>Representative</b>, Permanent Mission of Haiti to the UN in New York (TBC)</li></ul> |
| 11.25 | <b>Open discussion with an intervention from UNICEF and questions from the audience</b>   |
| 11.55 | <b>Closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Helder da Costa</b>, General Secretary, g7+</li></ul>   |



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## Biographies



**Helder da Costa**  
General Secretary, g7+

Helder da Costa is the General Secretary of the g7+, an association of 20 countries affected by fragility and conflict situations whose Secretariat is based in Dili, Timor-Leste.

Helder earned his PhD in Trade Policy at the University of Adelaide, South Australia in 2001; Masters in Agricultural Economics at Massey University, New Zealand (1995) and Bachelor of Agricultural Economics at Satya Wacana Christian University, Salatiga, Indonesia (1990). He has over 15 years of management experience and 12 years of work in the academic and development fields. Helder's professional career includes 6 years of senior posts with both the Asia New Zealand Foundation and Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) based in Wellington, New Zealand as Tertiary Education Manager and the Asia Programme Manager overseeing 5 countries in Asia (Bhutan, Lao PDR, Viet Nam, Cambodia and Timor-Leste). Helder has consulted for various international development agencies over the past 10 years including UNDP, UN, ADB, World Bank, AusAID and ACIAR Australia.

Helder contributed a book chapter on East Timor in "Searching for Peace in Asia Pacific: An Overview of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities" Heijmans (Ed) et al (2004) Lynne Rinner Publisher, New York; and was co-editor with Prof. James Fox of ANU of "Agriculture: New Directions for a New Nation, East Timor" published by ACIAR Canberra in 2003. Helder has also published refereed articles on Timor-Leste's economy in a number of international journals.



**Dongxin Feng**

Deputy Director, Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division (DPS), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Dongxin Feng is Deputy Director of the Partnerships and South-South Cooperation Division (DPS) at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and she is in charge of South-South Cooperation.



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Before joining FAO in May 2017, she was working at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), as a plant pathologist for 19 years and then at the Department of International Cooperation when she served as Deputy Director General and Director General of the Department for 8 years. As a plant pathologist, she published 8 books and more than 50 papers in world-class academic journals.

She received her B.S. (1986) in agronomy from Hebei Agricultural University, China, M.S. (1998) in Plant Pathology from the Graduate School of CAAS, China, and Ph.D. (2003) with greatest distinction in Molecular Plant Pathology from the Université Toulouse III (Paul Sabatier), France.

She previously served as Lead Shepherd of APEC's Agricultural Technology Cooperation Working Group (ATCWG) (2015-2017) and member of the Standing Adversary Group for Nuclear Application (SAGNA) of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (2015-2017).



## Ashwani K. Muthoo

Director, Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Ashwani K. Muthoo, a national of India, has extensive experience in international cooperation, agriculture and rural development, management and development evaluation.

He currently holds the position of Director of the Global Engagement and Multilateral Relations Division in IFAD. Prior to his current position, he was Deputy Director of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE).

Mr Muthoo has experience of working in more than 50 developing countries in all regions, and is fluent in English, Hindi, Italian and Portuguese, and understands French and Spanish.



## Jean-Pierre de Margerie

Deputy Director, Policy and Programme Division, United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)

Mr de Margerie is an experienced humanitarian and development assistance professional with 25 years of experience in developing, implementing and managing complex food assistance programmes. He is a graduate in international political economy and international management.

Prior to his current position, Mr de Margerie spent almost 15 years as Representative/Country Director for



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the World Food Programme in multiple countries across Africa and Asia. Furthermore, he also has experience as Resident Coordinator for the United Nations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



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