

BAPA+40 Side Event

Private Sector Engagement in South-South and Triangular Cooperation

20 March 2019 13:00 -15:00

Centro Cultural Kirchner, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Background

The role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in sustainable development is increasing substantially. Likewise, the private sector's engagement in sustainable development is growingly contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SSTC is enriching and diversifying development efforts and means through a variety of flexible cooperation modalities, such as knowledge exchanges, technology transfers, mutual learning, peer-to-peer support and innovative financing. The private sector's engagement can further expand and enhance the outreach of the SSTC.

The SDGs acknowledge that private sector has a major role to play in the pursuit of Agenda 2030, due to its strengths in terms of growth, job creation, innovative capacity, in addition to its financial and technical resources. Likewise, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) – 2025: Programme of Action (OIC-POA), the major strategic document within the OIC, recognizes the importance of the private sector and its reinforcing role in development cooperation by using the tools and approaches of South-South cooperation.

Private sector engagement in development and economic cooperation provides significant impact through its agility, innovative spirit, and efficiency. For instance, South-South investment flows which became an important financing source for the developing countries allow technological and knowledge spill-overs while strengthening their productive capacity. The increased cooperation between the countries of the Global South is reflected on the FDI levels, as the outflows of FDI between the developing countries has increased in the recent years, becoming an important contributor to development in the emerging markets.¹ While it plays an increasingly significant role in development cooperation, its presence in SSTC remains relatively low. SSTC is not only an open venue for private sector engagement for achieving the SDGs but also it is also crucial for the long-term sustainability of southern businesses. Leveraging the private sector's potential in South-South cooperation is needed to achieve the SDGs as its wider scope and investment needs require innovative and scalable solutions.

¹ UNOSSC (United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation); UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). 2017. "South-South Investment for Sustainable Development Goals: The Policy and Legal Environment in Asia."

The private sector could contribute to the South-South cooperation with its investments, expertise, networks and technological solutions which can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of development cooperation. The ideal way to utilize this potential is combining the private sector's core competencies i.e. innovative business solutions with investments and deploying them in the SDG priority sectors. One such area is the development of green economy solutions in a South-South context. Leveraging the private sector's potential in South-South cooperation can generate immediate benefits for sustainable development and poverty alleviation through the application of green economy solutions for agricultural development and enhanced food security. While growing populations call for increased food production and the realities of climate change necessitate more careful approaches to innovative solutions in agricultural development for food security, green economy offers solutions to these growing challenges. Green economy solutions can help create new high-tech sectors around sustainable use of energy and water. This will lead to cleaner, more sustainable communities, while mitigating risks arising from climate change, food and water insecurity.

TİKA-SESRIC-UNDP-UNOSSC Partnership for Private Sector Engagement in South-South Cooperation

In the 40 years that followed the adoption of Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), South-South cooperation established itself as an indispensable mechanism for capacity building and development for the Southern countries facing similar challenges.² However, South-South cooperation has not reached its full potential yet, due to the factors such as knowledge gaps and lack of access to resources and solutions.³ Especially private sector engagement in South-South cooperation is still an under-tapped modality for sustainable development, which needs to be promoted to attract more actors to participate in the efforts of achieving the SDGs. To this end, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD) and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) partnered to advance the private sector's role in South-South cooperation. This partnership will synergize the complementary strengths and expertise of each other towards developing a concredited joint programmatic offer on the private sector's engagement in South-South and triangular cooperation to contribute to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40 Conference) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and its follow-up. This panel will present the programmatic offer of the panelists to promote the formation of such collaborations

² UN ECOSOC. n.d. "The role of South-South Cooperation in the achievement of SDGs and the BAPA+40 Conference". https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/dcf/brief%204_SSC_SDGs_BAPA%2B40_DGCIN_Argentina.pdf

³ UNDP. 2016. *Scaling-up South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development*. New York: UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support.

and showcase good practices on how strategic engagement of the private sector could successfully address challenges and supports development cooperation through innovative solutions.

[IFAD-WGEO-UNOSSC Partnership for SSC in Green Economy for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security](#)

In the new partnership initiative that is being launched in the second half of 2019, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Green Economy Organization (WGEO), and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) aim to promote South-South cooperation in Green Economy for Agricultural Development through the combination of advocacy and networking activities, promotion of green investment with the focus on young smallholder farmers, and provision of capacity development support in green economy for agricultural development. In doing so, UNOSSC will build on the recent partnership initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security in the Arab States, Europe and the CIS, that was jointly supported by the IFAD, Islamic Development Bank and the UNOSSC since 2015.

[Event](#)

The Partners will share their experience towards establishing a programmatic offer to leverage the private sector's capacity, expertise and resources in South-South cooperation to overcome the financing and technical know-how gaps. The panel aims to explore ways to mainstream the private sector engagement in South-South cooperation through the integration of private sector into new and existing SSTC initiatives. The event will demonstrate good practices from the field and will illustrate ways to create an enabling environment to promote private sector engagement in South-South cooperation. By highlighting the modalities, best practices, lessons learned, gaps and opportunities, the panel will help the audience to better understand the relevance of private sector engagement in South-South cooperation for sustainable development.

[Key Takeaways](#)

The panels will:

- Highlight the lessons learned and best practices from the cooperation initiatives between development agencies, NGOs, donor and recipient countries and the private sector in a South-South cooperation context;
- Demonstrate successful examples of private sector engagement in South-South cooperation, such as UNDP and TİKA joint initiative in replicating the Bursa Chamber of Commerce and Industry owned private sector led skills development BUTGEM model from Turkey in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Provide an overview of the challenges faced by the private actors in engaging in South-South cooperation;

- Increase the knowledge available to technical and development cooperation agencies as well as the private sector on different modalities employed in a South-South context to promote their adoption by more actors in the pursuit of achieving the SDGs.
- Present the tangible results and strategic outcomes of the implementation of partnership initiative on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSTC-ADFS) that was jointly supported by IFAD, IsDB, and UNOSSC.
- Identify innovative solutions that can be replicated aimed at promoting South-South cooperation in green economy for agricultural development and food security.
- Showcase the Reverse Linkage modality - a scaled-up technical cooperation mechanism of the Islamic Development Bank - to engage the private sector in agriculture in order to support the achievement of the SDGs.

Target Audience

Speakers from UNDP IICPSD, SESRIC and UNOSSC, high-level representatives from governments and technical/development cooperation agencies, as well as professionals from the private sector such the representatives of businesses and business associations, public sector and academia with the expertise and experience in the field of private sector engagement in South-South cooperation will be invited to the panel.

Format

The side event will commence with opening remarks, followed by two panel discussions. During the first panel, the panelists will share good practices on private sector engagement in South-South cooperation; the modalities used; and lessons learned. The panelists will also discuss the gaps and opportunities in the field and finally, they will share their recommendations for mainstreaming. During the second panel, the panelists will discuss the strategic outcome of their partnership initiative, identify innovative solutions to promote South-South cooperation for agricultural development, and present their modality for private sector engagement. The panels will also elaborate on strategic approaches to promote and scale up the private sector's engagement in South-South cooperation.

Programme

12:45 – 13:10 Lunch

13:10 – 13:30 Opening Remarks & Keynote speeches

- **Gülçin Salıngan**, Deputy Director, UNDP IICPSD
- **Xiaojun Grace Wang**, Deputy Director, UNOSSC
- **Dr. Rahman Nurdun**, Vice President, TİKA
- **Amb. Musa Kulaklıkaya**, Director General, SESRIC
- **H.E. Amb. Sedat Önal**, Vice Minister, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey

13:30 – 13:35 **Launching of South-South in Action: Special Edition, South-South and Triangular Cooperation Solutions for Sustainable Development- Turkey & Event Photo**

13:35 – 14:10 Panel I – Private Sector in South-South Cooperation

Moderator: **Gokhan Dikmener**, Technical Specialist, UNDP IICPSD

- **Jose Antonio Gonzalez Norris**, Executive Director, Agencia Peruana de Cooperación Internacional (APCI)
- **Attiya Nawazish Ali**, Assistant Secretary General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA)
- **Anthea Mulakala**, Director for International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation
- **Xavier Michon**, Deputy Director, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) (TBC)

14:10 – 14:15 **MoU Signing Ceremony - SESRIC and Comoros National Agency for International Cooperation (ANCI)**

14:15 – 14:20 Keynote speech for Panel II

- **Mr. Abdelkarim Sma**, Lead Regional Economist, Near East, North Africa and Europe, IFAD

14:20 – 14:55 Panel II - SSC in Green Economy for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security

- **Mr. Edem Bakhshish**, Chief of the Division for Arab States, Europe and the CIS, UNOSSC
- **Mr. Elborni Salhi**, Director General, Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation
- **Dr. Sevinc Madenoglu**, DG of Agricultural Research and Policies, Department of Soil and Water Resources Research, Turkey
- **Dr. Mohamed Elhagarey**, Researcher, Desert Research Institute, Egypt
- **Mr. Nedžad Ajanović**, Senior Partnership Specialist, Global Partnership and Resources Mobilization Department (GPRMD), Partnership Development Complex, Islamic Development Bank

14:55-15:00 Closing remarks

- **Jorge Chediek**, UNOSSC Director and Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation (TBC)