

Brasilia Declaration and Action Agenda

adopted at the

International Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation

“Leveraging Innovations from the Global South to Support Rural Transformation”

in Brasilia, 20 – 21 November 2017

I. Introduction

1. The International Conference on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) (hereinafter referred to as "the Conference") entitled *“Leveraging Innovations from the Global South to Support Rural Transformation”*, held in Brasilia, Brazil on 20-21 November 2017, brought together a wide range of high-level participants representing governments, the academia, civil society and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, development partners and the United Nations system. In furthering the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it provided an opportunity to identify and discuss innovative SSTC solutions related to agricultural and rural development, and to explore partnerships and cooperation opportunities across the countries of the “Global South”.
2. The Conference focused in particular on five subjects of relevance to SSTC, namely:
 - I. Enhancing the contribution of SSTC to the Sustainable Development Agenda;
 - II. Promoting SSTC as a development instrument for sustainable and inclusive rural transformation;
 - III. Sustainably increasing agricultural production, productivity and processing, and reducing food waste, for better food security, nutrition and incomes;
 - IV. Boosting investment promotion between developing countries in support of smallholder agriculture and rural development; and
 - V. Leveraging information and communication technologies (ICTs) for agriculture and rural development, with a specific focus on rural youth and women.
3. The Conference participants acknowledged with profound gratitude the hospitality of the Government and people of Brazil, the important contributions made by supporting organizations, including the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and the International Land Coalition, as well as the invaluable inputs by government authorities from all regions.

II. Preamble

4. The Conference in Brasilia:

Concerned by the persistence of poverty in both rural and urban areas, insufficient food and nutrition security and youth unemployment in many parts of the developing world, and the urgent need to invest in inclusive and sustainable transformation of rural areas, integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, social inclusion and protection of the environment, in a balanced manner;

Encouraged by the increasing economic and political leadership of emerging economies and the advent of a multipolar world which harbours unrealized potential to amplify the exchange of knowledge, resources and solutions, and to boost trade and mutual investments between countries of the Global South;

Reaffirming the fundamental principles, values and objectives of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (BAPA), which in 2018 will celebrate its 40th anniversary (BAPA+40);

Welcoming the results of the IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 14-16 November 2017, with the promise to eradicate child and forced labour, and to end all forms of modern slavery and human trafficking as well as guarantee a decent job for every man and woman, including young people, and the reinforcement of the international commitments to achieve SDG 8.7;

Acknowledging the Ministerial Declaration¹ adopted at the 41st Annual Meeting of the G77 and China (September 2017), which: (i) called for greater international support and targeted capacity-building and for the promotion of a rules-based and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; (ii) reiterated the importance of stimulating economic diversification, the relevance of regional trade, and supporting micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives throughout the value chain, in particular businesses and enterprises in the social and solidarity economy, operating in both the formal and informal economies; and (iii) reaffirmed that Small Island Developing States remain a "special case" for sustainable development owing to their unique and particular vulnerabilities;

Recognizing the unique and particular vulnerabilities faced by Small Island Developing States in fighting hunger, poverty and adapting to the impacts of climate change on food security;

Convinced of the crucial importance of SSTC for the fight against hunger and poverty, the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development;

Recalling that SSTC is particularly relevant to agricultural and rural development because of the similarities in natural, sociological and climatic conditions prevailing in the countries of the Global South;

¹ <http://www.g77.org/doc/Declaration2017.htm>.

Mindful of the benefits of Triangular Cooperation in creating synergies between countries of the North and the South, and the need to ensure its effectiveness through full ownership by developing countries and minimal transaction costs;

Recognizing the key role played by civil society and non-governmental organizations in innovation to overcome challenges in rural development, and effectively share knowledge and experiences through Triangular Cooperation;

Taking into consideration the importance of SSTC to help achieve decent work in the rural areas;

Acknowledging IFAD's unique comparative advantage in facilitating SSTC in agriculture and rural development, including through the exchange of knowledge and experience and the promotion of business-to-business links and investment;

Underlining the importance of the implementation of measures to eliminate barriers and to broaden access to opportunities for greater and more meaningful participation in the rural sector by people of African and Asian descent, local communities, indigenous peoples and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as traditional peoples and communities;

Considering the complementary, yet distinctive mandates of the United Nations Rome-based Agencies (RBAs) – FAO, IFAD and the World Food Programme (WFP) – in the areas of food, agriculture, and transformative rural development; and

Recognizing that South-South and Triangular Cooperation is a complement to, not a substitute for, traditional North-South cooperation.

5. Therefore adopts, this twenty-first day of November of the year two thousand and seventeen, the present Declaration and Action Agenda and calls upon all Governments, the entire United Nations Development system and the international community as a whole (including but not limited development partners, civil society and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, etc.), to take effective action for its implementation.

III. Action Agenda

6. The Conference recognizes and calls upon:
 - 6.1. All Governments from countries of the Global South to:
 - *Significantly increase* their technical cooperation and mutual assistance in the areas of land tenure, agriculture, rural development, inclusive rural transformation and sustainable development;
 - *Share and exchange* agricultural and rural development innovations and solutions, including appropriate information and communication technologies (ICTs) in agriculture;
 - *Boost* mutual investments into agriculture, rural development and inclusive rural transformation, while taking into account the gender-specific aspects of agricultural investments, policies and programmes, as spelled out in the

Policy Recommendations on Gender, Food Security and Nutrition² of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), as well as the CFS' Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Land Tenure³;

- *Establish* operational and multifaceted partnerships in the areas of agriculture and rural development, including through agreements with regional organizations and Regional Economic Commissions;
- *Encourage* and facilitate multi-stakeholder engagement, and *recognize* the key role they play in implementing and monitoring programmes and policies in an inclusive manner;
- *Develop and defend* joint positions in regional and global forums debating solutions for agriculture and rural development.

6.2. All Governments from countries of the North to:

- *Continue providing* development assistance to governments and civil society organizations from the Global South;
- *Support* South-South Cooperation between developing nations through triangular (technical and/or financial) arrangements.

6.3. IFAD as an International Financial Institution and United Nations specialized agency, through its relevant governing bodies, to:

- *Conclude* before the end of 2018 at least two strategic partnerships with countries of the Global South, willing to invest or share their development experience in developing countries where it operates, with a view to promoting SSTC activities;
- *Establish* a dedicated SSTC Facility, based on voluntary funding, with the following functions:
 - Promote South-South knowledge exchange in the areas under IFAD's mandate, including with the private sector;
 - Embed SSTC in IFAD-supported investment operations;
 - Facilitate operational SSTC partnerships between IFAD Member States; and
 - Promote rural South-South investments and business-to-business links as a means to foster industrial transformation along agricultural value-chains, with the full and inclusive participation of rural communities.
- *Establish and/or strengthen* partnerships with United Nations agencies, international financial institutions, bilateral partners, civil society organizations and other relevant organizations with the aim of boosting SSTC in agriculture and rural development;

² <http://www.fao.org/3/a-av040e.pdf>.

³ <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>.

- Through lending and grant financing activities, *act* as an intermediary to facilitate SSTC arrangements in the areas of agriculture, rural development and inclusive rural transformation, by promoting *inter alia* knowledge-based technical cooperation, peer-to-peer exchanges of knowledge, sharing of best practices, technology and know-how to improve agricultural productivity and reduce land degradation;
- *Include*, in the preparation of new projects, SSTC components based on best practices identified in the countries of the Global South;
- *Actively participate* in the BAPA+40 process.

6.4. The RBAs to:

- *Take advantage* of their complementary mandates so as to collectively promote agricultural and rural development through SSTC;
- *Develop* joint SSTC initiatives with countries from the Global South, including, where appropriate, with support from development partners from the North;
- *Jointly organize* a special event to commemorate the United Nations Day on SSTC, every 12 September, open to the organizations' Member States and other key partners;
- *Promote* inter-agency dialogue to design joint SSTC activities on development projects carried out by the three RBAs;
- *Harmonize and interconnect* their SSTC information exchange systems;
- *Develop and defend* joint positions in international forums debating SSTC in agriculture and rural development.

IV. Follow-up mechanism

7. The Conference calls upon:

- 7.1. IFAD to translate, in close coordination and consultation with all Conference participants, the above Action Agenda into an operational plan for the period 2018-2020, including measurable target, indicators, timelines and financial requirements;
- 7.2. IFAD to henceforth prepare biennial reports summarizing, on the basis of country reports, the progress made in implementing the above Action Agenda, to be presented to the IFAD Executive Board, for information;
- 7.3. IFAD and the RBAs to organize a joint SSTC meeting in 2018, as an input to the BAPA+40 process; and
- 7.4. IFAD and a Government country from the Global South to convene in 2022 a second international SSTC conference that will take stock of the progress made since Brasilia 2017.