

## South-South and Triangular Cooperation on Data: Call to Action

**Official Side Event lunchtime, High Level Committee on South South Cooperation.  
May 28. 1:00pm – 2:15pm, Conference Room 8, UN Headquarters**

The prospect for progress on many of the Sustainable Development Goals might appear bleak, in the context of growing global challenges and shrinking resources. However, global collaboration on data and technology offers the prospect of accelerating progress to tackle critical issues such as climate, health and global equity. Research tells us that every \$1 invested in data systems offers a return of [\\$32 on average](#). New technologies, including digitalisation of public services and the use of AI, have magnified the power of data, further increasing the return on investment.

Despite the returns, and the huge opportunities to use data to accelerate progress, many countries in the global south have not been able to capitalize on this ‘data dividend’ due to competing priorities, fragmentation of investment and limited opportunities to learn and exchange with each other, while some Global South countries have not been able to capitalise on the dividend, others have been in the forefront of innovation. South-South and Triangular Cooperation exchanges allow all to share what they know and learn from others.

Since 2024, APC Colombia and the Global Partnership have been trialing a new approach to South-South exchanges to strengthen data systems through the [Make Inclusive Data the Norm initiative](#). Focused on [inclusion](#), exchanges between Ghana, Kenya and Colombia provided opportunities for participating countries to discuss common challenges, learn from each other and increase their uptake of best practices.

- Ghana is learning from Colombia’s experience in recording incidents of gender-based violence, to inform policy responses.
- Colombia is learning from Kenya’s approach to quality criteria for citizen generated data to increase inclusion without a loss of data quality, and from Ghana, Colombia is learning how to use digital tools to collect Citizen Generated Data.
- Kenya is learning from Colombia’s experience with gender mainstreaming across the data system, providing a strong grounding for more equitable service delivery.

A new collaboration between development cooperation agencies in this sector, based on mutual respect and learning, will leverage the comparative advantage of different players, and ensure that all resources are used to best effect to tackle inequality and drive progress on climate, health and other global challenges.

- Global South development cooperation agencies can draw from the expertise of their statistics offices, academic institutions and private sector to share promising approaches and solutions to harness the power of data for progress in different sectors, and ensure it is shared worldwide.

- Development cooperation agencies in the global North have experience in supporting data and technology programs around the world, and the skills and knowledge in their public and private sectors to share with colleagues in the development cooperation sector and across the wider field of data and technology.

Cooperation agencies from the North and South have the opportunity to build a global cohort for change, bringing the power of new technologies and innovations to bear in partnerships which draw on the expertise and experiences of countries and communities around the world.

The Global South is defined by the collective empowerment of capacities, driven by solidarity and the strengthening of horizontal relationships among partners. This approach not only fosters collaboration but also offers a unique opportunity to chart a new course for international cooperation, shifting from traditional financing to a focus on strengthening capacities in key areas, especially as we build systems and policies that respond to emerging technologies. South-South and Triangular Cooperation is not only vital but uniquely suited to this sector, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and best practices among countries, and enabling the creation of adaptive, innovative solutions.

APC Colombia and the Global Partnership are bringing together a group of countries leading on international cooperation around data use to address challenges in climate, health and social equity. This panel aims to explore the experiences of partners who have participated in South-South Cooperation initiatives related to data from different roles, highlighting the outcomes of these exchanges and their contribution to Development.

Countries prioritizing investments in their data use and more evidence-based decision making are invited to participate in a meeting to discuss concrete steps to work together on data. Such collective action could ultimately be aligned with the [UN Power of Data Initiative](#) of which Colombia is a committed member.

**Opening:** Eleonora Betancur, Director General, Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia – APC Colombia (Dual Rol)

**Moderator:** Claire Melamed, CEO, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data – GPSDD

**Panelists:**

- Ambassador Yabesh O. Monari, Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations (Beneficiary)



- Sra. Bethania Vegazo, Director of Analysis and Coordination of International Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Dominican Republic
- Xóchitl Guadarrama Romero, Director General of Planning and Evaluation, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation – AMEXCID

**Closing:** Xiaojun Grace Wang, Trust Fund Director, UNOSSC.

**Run of Show: (70 Minutes)**

**7 Mins:** Introduction of APC Colombia to the panel and brief presentation of its experience in South-South Cooperation projects in Data Strengthening.

**7 Mins:** Introduction of the GPSDD and its experience working with countries around Data, and introduction of the panelists and their experience in South-South Cooperation initiatives in Data by the moderator.

**40 Mins:** Round discussion with panelists with guiding questions (4 minutes response time per panelist - 2 questions per panelist)

**10 Mins:** Q&A and interactive segment with digital tools to collect information from partners and their interest or experiences in Data cooperation initiatives.

**5 Mins:** Closure, conclusions and next steps for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Data by UNOSSC.