

Concept Note
Interactive Panel Discussion I

“Comparative advantages and opportunities of South-South cooperation; sharing of experiences, best practices and success stories”

High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

Buenos Aires, Argentina, Thursday, 21 March 2019
(Conference Room D, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

I. Background

The international community continues to recognize the significant contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation in bolstering the capacities of developing countries towards the improvement of the living conditions of their people. Forty years after the adoption of the strategic Buenos Aires Plan of Action for promoting South-South cooperation, the international system is undergoing a significant structural transformation. As a consequence of the remarkable economic performance of emerging Southern economies, as a new source of development, resources and knowledge, they are increasingly becoming net exporters of expertise and resources critical in accelerating the building of sustainable and resilient societies. South-South cooperation has evolved into a distinct cooperation framework that includes a plurality of approaches such as, knowledge exchanges, technological transfers, technical assistance, financial grants as well as concessional loans, amongst others.

II. Objective

The exchange of development experiences between these countries have accelerated the adoption and adaptation of development solutions championed by countries of the South. There is substantive evidence showing that South-South and triangular cooperation have immense potential to benefit countries to accelerate their achievements in the attainment of all 17 SDGs.

This roundtable is designed to allow discussions of the comparative advantages and opportunities for South-South cooperation in an evolving international system. The complementarities, specificities, experiences in its implementation as well as challenges and opportunities of South-South cooperation will be presented. The discussions will provide a comprehensive overview of the scope and forms of South-South cooperation as well as help identify new areas in which South-South cooperation can be more impactful and thus add value to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and other development priorities.