

DIRECTORS GENERAL FORUM: A PLATFORM FOR MAINSTREAMING SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

The High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum) is one of the annual flagship events of UNOSSC that it implements together with its partners to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation. The DG Forum seeks to bring together heads of cooperation agencies of national governments to provide an opportunity for them to exchange views on South-South and triangular cooperation approaches and methodologies as well as to serve as a matchmaking platform for further strengthening partnerships.

The Forum is a platform for South-South cooperation that offers an opportunity to make proposals for further mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation into national policies of cooperation and development. It also provides an opportunity for South-South and triangular cooperation practitioners and other stakeholders to discuss and initiate partnerships.

ROLE OF THE TENTH DG FORUM IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR BAPA+40

The tenth annual DG Forum was held on the margins of the GSSD Expo 2018 in New York. The overarching theme of that Forum was “Towards the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40): The role of practitioners in scaling up the impact of South-South and triangular cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The topic of reinforcing the global institutional arrangements for South-South and triangular cooperation received considerable attention from relevant policymakers and practi-

tioners, given the increasing demand for coordination and partnership at the global, regional and national levels.

The DG Forum was also held within the framework of the preparatory process for BAPA+40 to provide an opportunity for the practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation to engage with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, which were in charge of the negotiations of the outcome document of the Conference, on aspects related to their needs as practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation and how to reflect them in the outcome document.

ELEVENTH DG FORUM FACILITATED TO IMPLEMENT BAPA+40 RECOMMENDATIONS

The eleventh edition of the annual DG Forum was held in Istanbul in December 2019. The overall theme of the Forum was “Charting the post-BAPA+40 roadmap for South-South and triangular cooperation: Towards effective institutionalization of South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development”. It provided an opportunity for practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation to reflect and exchange views on ways and approaches to implement the recommendations of the BAPA+40 outcome document. The Forum participants committed to further strengthening the institutionalization of South-South and triangular cooperation, assessing the results, and promoting an inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach to implement the BAPA+40 recommendations. The Forum resulted in concrete recommendations for the post-BAPA+40 roadmap.



Panel discussion at the High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation 2019, Istanbul, Turkey

Delegates at the DG Forum, Istanbul, Turkey



LESSON LEARNED

- High-level events such as the DG Forum can serve as important platforms for peer learning and capacity development among the practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation as well as for partnership mobilization. The involvement of partners such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) as co-organizers opened the way for a partnership aiming to improve the ecosystem and institutional capacities for South-South and triangular cooperation in developing countries in different regions of the South.



WAY FORWARD

- More partners will be engaged for the organization of the DG Forum to broaden its scope. More regional DG Forums focusing on the Global South will be organized, establishing institutional links with the global DG Forum, to support global and regional partnership efforts for the achievement of the SDGs.