



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation New York, 1-4 June 2021

Concept Note

Side event: “Triangular cooperation in post BAPA+40: a multi-stakeholder partnership for the achievement of 2030 Agenda”

Date and time: 3 June 2021, from 1-3 p.m. (EST)

Location: Virtual (Join the meeting: <https://undp.zoom.us/j/82624937623>)

Registration is required: https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TGy1dc3oT3egU1CJPgU-gg

I. Background

The world has undergone significant changes in recent decades, with a greater balance between South-South dynamics and North-South dynamics. In this context, the traditional paradigm based on cooperation flows from the global North to the global South is no longer able to explain reality, nor to contribute as effectively as before to solve more complex and interdependent challenges.

Consequently, the international development cooperation system itself is going through a moment of redefinition in its agendas, methodologies and actors. In addition to the growing influence of emerging countries, this new stage is marked for instance by the increasingly important role played by the private sector and civil society.

The 2030 Agenda attenuates the traditional North-South dichotomy and encourages the establishment of a global partnership for sustainable development (SDG 17). In this new paradigm, South-South and Triangular Cooperation has enormous potential as an effective means of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This side event will discuss the role of triangular cooperation as a multi-stakeholder modality of partnership to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the global South. The importance of triangular cooperation was underscored at the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40). The outcome document of BAPA+40 highlighted that triangular cooperation is “a modality that builds partnerships and trust, between all partners, and that combines diverse resources and capacities, under the ownership of the requesting developing country, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”, which can “find innovative and cost-effective, flexible context-specific solutions to development challenges”¹.

¹ <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/N1911172.pdf>.

To overcome the pandemic and build back better and resilient societies, leaving no one behind, the importance of multi-stakeholder partnership has become increasingly important as the pandemic affecting almost all people and countries. According to the recent released report on “Leaving no one behind: Impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs”, the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to affect low and medium human development countries disproportionately with potentially devastating impacts on the three dimensions of the Human Development Index – health, education and standard of living, including through socioeconomic effects of the virus and containment policies for the months and years to come². The pandemic and its socio-economic impacts cannot be addressed by any single country or actor. The world needs more solidarity and cooperation, and the importance of multi-stakeholder approaches through collective actions, as highlighted in the BAPA+40 outcome document, has been increasingly recognized.

In the BAPA+40 outcome document, countries and other stakeholders are encouraged to further utilize triangular cooperation, given its inclusive and diverse nature and adaptable and flexible approach to challenges, to build solid partnership, expand cooperation, and mobilize resources, expertise, cost-effective and innovative development solutions toward achieving SDGs. Furthermore, voluntary efforts of the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation (GPI) were featured in the outcome document. Voluntary Guidelines for Effective Triangular Cooperation were also launched in 2019, emphasizing country ownership; shared commitments; a focus on results; inclusive partnerships and multi-stakeholder dialogues; transparency and mutual accountability; innovation; joint-learning and knowledge-sharing; the advancement of gender equality; and leaving no one behind³.

II. Objective

The objective of the side event is to identify good practices of triangular cooperation to address both health challenge and recover from COVID-19, and how to leverage triangular cooperation in achieving SDGs under the background of COVID-19. Specifically, the following questions will be discussed.

- How has triangular cooperation helped in addressing health crisis caused by COVID-19, by identifying good practices of triangular cooperation?
- How can triangular cooperation help recovery and build resilient society in the post COVID-19 era?
- What kind of roles can development cooperation partners play to further promote triangular cooperation towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?

III. Provisional Agenda

The side event will be held on 3 June, between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. (EST). The panelists will each make a ten minutes presentation, followed by interactive discussions. The session will end with a summary presentation of the findings by the moderator.

² Abidoye et al. (2021), Leaving no one behind: Impact of COVID-19 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). New York, NY and Denver CO: UNDP and Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures.

³ <https://www.effectivecooperation.org/content/voluntary-guidelines-effective-triangular-co-operation>.

1:00 pm – 1:10 pm	Opening remarks by the moderator
1:10 pm – 2:10 pm	Presentations by the panelists
2:10 pm – 2:50 pm	Interactive discussions
2:50 pm – 3:00 pm	Summary by the moderator

For more information on this side event, please contact Ms. Yoko Shimura and copy Mr.

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