

# Private Sector Engagement in South-South and Triangular Cooperation

20 March 2019 13:00 -15:00

*Centro Cultural Kirchner, Buenos Aires, Argentina*

## Background

The role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) in sustainable development is increasing substantially. Likewise, the private sector's engagement in sustainable development is growingly contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SSTC is enriching and diversifying development efforts and means through a variety of flexible cooperation modalities, such as knowledge exchanges, technology transfers, mutual learning, peer-to-peer support and innovative financing. The private sector's engagement can further expand and enhance the outreach of the SSTC.

The SDGs acknowledge that private sector has a major role to play in the pursuit of Agenda 2030, due to its strengths in terms of growth, job creation, innovative capacity, in addition to its financial and technical resources. Likewise, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) – 2025: Programme of Action (OIC-POA), the major strategic document within the OIC, recognizes the importance of the private sector and its reinforcing role in development cooperation by using the tools and approaches of South-South cooperation.

Private sector engagement in development and economic cooperation provides significant impact through its agility, innovative spirit, and efficiency. For instance, South-South investment flows which became an important financing source for the developing countries allow technological and knowledge spill-overs while strengthening their productive capacity. The increased cooperation between the countries of the Global South is reflected on the FDI levels, as the outflows of FDI between the developing countries has increased in the recent years, becoming an important contributor to development in the emerging markets.<sup>1</sup> While it plays an increasingly significant role in development cooperation, its presence in SSTC remains relatively low. SSTC is not only an open venue for private sector engagement for achieving the SDGs but also it is also crucial for the long-term sustainability of southern businesses. Leveraging the private sector's potential in South-South cooperation is needed to achieve the SDGs as its wider scope and investment needs require innovative and scalable solutions.

## TIKA-SESRIC-UNDP-UNOSSC Partnership for Private Sector Engagement in South-South Cooperation

In the 40 years that followed the adoption of Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), South-South cooperation established itself as an indispensable mechanism for capacity building and development

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<sup>1</sup> UNOSSC (United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation); UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). 2017. "South-South Investment for Sustainable Development Goals: The Policy and Legal Environment in Asia."

for the Southern countries facing similar challenges.<sup>2</sup> However, South-South cooperation has not reached its full potential yet, due to the factors such as knowledge gaps and lack of access to resources and solutions.<sup>3</sup> Especially private sector engagement in South-South cooperation is still an under-tapped modality for sustainable development, which needs to be promoted to attract more actors to participate in the efforts of achieving the SDGs. To this end, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD) and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) partnered to advance the private sector's role in South-South cooperation. This partnership will synergize the complementary strengths and expertise of each other towards developing a concreted joint programmatic offer on the private sector's engagement in South-South and triangular cooperation to contribute to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40 Conference) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and its follow-up. This panel will present the programmatic offer of the panelists to promote the formation of such collaborations and showcase good practices on how strategic engagement of the private sector could successfully address challenges and supports development cooperation through innovative solutions.

## Event

The Partners will share their experience towards establishing a programmatic offer to leverage the private sector's capacity, expertise and resources in South-South cooperation to overcome the financing and technical know-how gaps. The panel aims to explore ways to mainstream the private sector engagement in South-South cooperation through the integration of private sector into new and existing SSTC initiatives. The event will demonstrate good practices from the field and will illustrate ways to create an enabling environment to promote private sector engagement in South-South cooperation. By highlighting the modalities, best practices, lessons learned, gaps and opportunities, the panel will help the audience to better understand the relevance of private sector engagement in South-South cooperation for sustainable development.

## Key Takeaways

The panel will:

- Highlight the lessons learned and best practices from the cooperation initiatives between development agencies, NGOs, donor and recipient countries and the private sector in a South-South cooperation context;

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<sup>2</sup> UN ECOSOC. n.d. "The role of South-South Cooperation in the achievement of SDGs and the BAPA+40 Conference". [https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/dcf/brief%204\\_SSC\\_SDGs\\_BAPA%2B40\\_DGCIN\\_Argentina.pdf](https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/dcf/brief%204_SSC_SDGs_BAPA%2B40_DGCIN_Argentina.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> UNDP. 2016. *Scaling-up South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development*. New York: UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support.

- Demonstrate successful examples of private sector engagement in South-South cooperation, such as Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency's (TIKA) efforts in scaling up the BUTGEM initiative in skills development;
- Provide an overview of the challenges faced by the private actors in engaging in South-South cooperation;
- Increase the knowledge available to technical and development cooperation agencies as well as the private sector on different modalities employed in a South-South context to promote their adoption by more actors in the pursuit of achieving the SDGs.

### Target Audience and Potential Turnout

Speakers from UNDP IICPSD, SESRIC and UNOSSC, high-level representatives from governments and technical/development cooperation agencies, as well as professionals from the private sector such as the representatives of businesses and business associations, public sector and academia with the expertise and experience in the field of private sector engagement in South-South cooperation will be invited to the panel.

### Format

The side event will commence with opening remarks, followed by a panel discussion. The panelists will share good practices on private sector engagement in South-South cooperation; the modalities used; and lessons learned. The panel will also elaborate on strategic approaches to promote and scale up the private sector's engagement in South-South cooperation. The panelists will also discuss the gaps and opportunities in the field and finally, they will share their recommendations for mainstreaming. The panel discussion will be followed with a Q&A session.

### Programme

13:00 – 13:20 Opening Remarks

- **Dr. Serdar Çam**, President, TİKA

13:20 – 14:20 Panel

- **Dr. Serdar Çam**, President, TİKA
- **Amb. Musa Kulaklıkaya**, Director General, SESRIC
- **Gülçin Salıngan**, Deputy Director, UNDP IICPSD
- **Attiya Nawazish Ali**, Assistant Secretary General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (ICCIA)
- **Anthea Mulakala**, Director for International Development Cooperation, The Asia Foundation
- **UNOSSC Representative**

14:20 – 14:40 Q&A 14:40 – 14:50 Closing remarks