



United Nations  
Office for South-South Cooperation



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

# SOUTH-SOUTH GLOBAL THINKERS



**THE GLOBAL COALITION OF THINK TANK NETWORKS  
FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**



## THE CHALLENGE

South-South and triangular cooperation have contributed substantively to development results through a variety of flexible cooperation modalities, including trade, investment, technology transfer, knowledge exchange, peer support, and neighbourhood initiatives. Through this approach, countries in the Global South are forming common development agendas and are seeking collective solutions to shared challenges. However, we are just skimming the surface of the potential of this dynamic modality to deliver on sustainable development priorities. Knowledge gaps in the South and uneven access to solutions, expertise and resources are major obstacles.



## THE OPPORTUNITY

Think tanks play a vital role in the political and policy arenas at the local, national, and global levels. They assist governments in understanding and making informed choices about issues of domestic and international concerns. Think tanks provide thought leadership that empowers governments and development practitioners to bring South-South and triangular cooperation to scale. However, the complex and diverse approaches require multidisciplinary knowledge and analysis, which can be very difficult to fully master by any individual think tank or a single network of think tanks. It takes a global platform to pool knowledge and expertise of multiple think tank networks around the world to work together.

# THE GLOBAL COALITION OF THINK TANK NETWORKS FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

UNDP and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) have supported the formation of the South-South Global Thinkers - the global coalition of think tank networks for South-South cooperation. This is a joint effort to draw on the high-quality expertise of think tank networks and research institutes and to develop a platform for South-South cooperation research and knowledge sharing.

The frameworks, methods, analysis, indicators, good practices, lessons learned and recommendations generated under this initiative will inform policy dialogues, renew commitments and spur actions on South-South and triangular cooperation. It will help

provide substantive inputs to the upcoming Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA40+) discussions and beyond.

This global coalition of think tank networks will inform policy makers and development practitioners on the value of South-South and triangular cooperation, on how to bring this approach to scale, and on how South-South and triangular cooperation can accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



»»» **ANTÓNIO GUTERRES**  
Secretary-General of the United Nations

“  
*South-South Global Thinkers will support greater exchange of experiences and the advancement of thought leadership in South-South and triangular cooperation.*”



## MISSION

The mission of the South-South Global Thinkers is to be a platform for think tank networks from the Global South to exchange knowledge, pool multidisciplinary expertise, collaboratively conduct research, and engage in policy dialogues on South-South and triangular cooperation. Together we can provide the evidence base on how South-South and triangular cooperation can accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



## VISION

By bringing forward the voices and knowledge from various networks of think tanks around the world, we can better understand the concepts, methodologies, policy implications and solutions to bring South-South and triangular cooperation to scale, and empower governments and practitioners to realize the full potential of South-South and triangular cooperation towards a sustainable future for all.





## CONNECT

Find out what think tank networks are doing. Interact with peers and other think tank networks of the South-South Global Thinkers community.



## LEARN

Explore a growing collection of publications and tools on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development.



## COLLABORATE

Partner with other think tanks. Formulate joint research agendas and research studies. Influence the global debate with frontier thinking.



## PARTICIPATE

Join events that are shaping the debate on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development around the world, and online.



## LEAD

Join dialogues, lead discussions, contribute your expertise, add your perspective, and learn from the experience of other members of the community.



## SHARE

Share the latest thinking, perspectives, news and inspiring stories of your think tank. Gain visibility and receive global recognition.

The South-South Global Thinkers online platform enables the coalition of think tank networks to expand their spheres of influence and possibilities of collaboration, and to promote a forward-looking research agenda on South-South cooperation that can accelerate progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The online platform offers real-time opportunities for dialogue and networking, access to resources and tools, information about events, news and blogs, all provided by members of highly regarded think tanks with in-depth knowledge and extensive experience in South-South cooperation.

*“South-South Global Thinkers offers an unique opportunity to participate in the global sharing of knowledge, expertise, and perspectives on South-South cooperation.”*

**PROF. HAROON BHORAT**  
Director, Development Policy Research Unit  
University of Cape Town, South Africa, GReCEST network



**South-South**

**Global Thinkers**



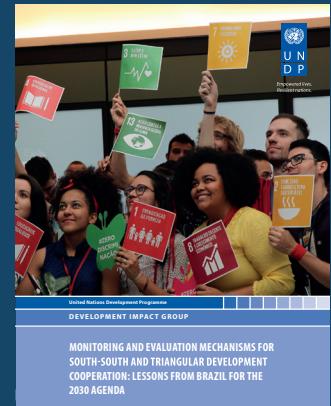
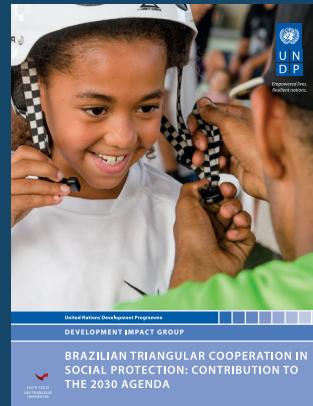
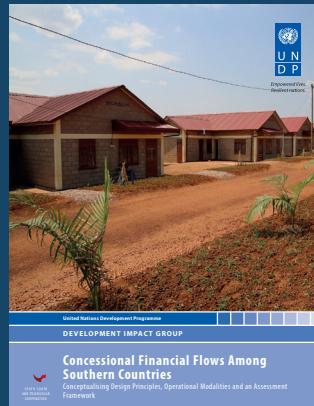
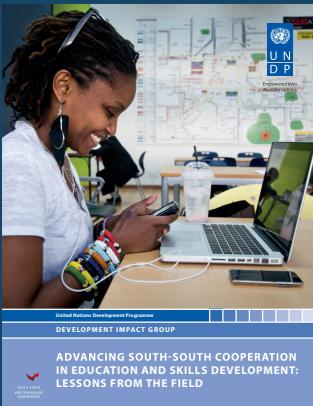
**The Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for South-South Cooperation**



# PUBLICATIONS

The South-South Global Thinkers gives think tank networks the opportunity to collectively define and shape a forward-looking research agenda on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development. The aim is to contribute to global policy dialogues, provide insights, bring evidence, and inform policy makers.

The following are a few publications produced by several think tanks in preparation for the establishment of South-South Global Thinkers. To access these and other publications produced by members of the global coalition of think tank networks for South-South cooperation please visit: [»»» ssc-globalthinkers.org](https://ssc-globalthinkers.org)





# THINK TANK

## GLOBAL RESEARCH CONSORTIUM ON ECONOMIC STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION (GRECEST)



The Center for New Structural Economics (CNSE) at Peking University, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) launched GRECEST in May 2016 with the support of UNDP and UNOSSC. GRECEST aims at building an open platform for advancing frontier thinking, innovative practices and mutual learning on economic structural transformation. GRECEST has over 30 members from all over the world, and the CNSE at Peking University houses its Secretariat.

**Research priority area:** *South-South cooperation in economic structural transformation*

## SILK ROAD THINK TANK NETWORK (SILKS)



An independent and informal network initiated and operated jointly by 47 think tanks from over 27 countries, and relevant international organizations. The aim of the network is to explore collaborative research for economic and social development, promote knowledge exchanges and build the capacity of Eurasian countries involved in the Belt and Road Initiative.

**Research priority areas:** *Policy coordination and legal environment for South-South cooperation South-South cooperation in basic infrastructure and connectivity*

## LATIN AMERICA INITIATIVE ON POLITICS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS STUDIES (ILAIPP)



A regional, non-profit, non-partisan and independent academic network inspired by the need for Latin American societies to achieve sustainable economic, social, political and institutional development, and for everyone to reach decent standards of living and fully exercise their freedoms and capabilities.

**Research priority areas:** *South-South cooperation for Sustainable Development Goals Regional/sub-regional and neighborhood South-South cooperation*

# NETWORKS



## SOUTHERN VOICE



A network of 49 think tanks from Africa, Asia and Latin America that serves as an open platform to generate and promote high-quality analyses for the global dialogue on the Sustainable Development Goals. It embeds Southern research in global discourse to promote evidence-based policy making and to ensure that governments and the global community are held accountable for effective delivery of the Agenda 2030.

**Research priority areas:** *Concepts, trends, evaluation and impact of South-South cooperation*  
*South-South cooperation for Sustainable Development Goals*  
*Regional/sub-regional and neighborhood South-South cooperation*

## NETWORK OF SOUTHERN THINK TANKS (NEST)



Welcomes contributions from a diversity of stakeholders from the Global South – governments, civil society, private sector and development practitioners – and provides valuable policy recommendations and insights on South-South cooperation. Their objective is to collaboratively generate, systematize, consolidate and share knowledge on South-South cooperation.

**Research priority areas:** *Concepts, trends, evaluation and impact of South-South cooperation*  
*South-South cooperation for the Sustainable Development Goals*  
*South-South cooperation in science, technology and innovation*  
*South-South trade, investment and financing*  
*South-South cooperation in basic infrastructure and connectivity*

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA FOR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MENAPAR)



Promotes evidence-based policy and decision-making in public administration in the Arab States. The objectives of this network are to strengthen research capabilities of the public sector in the Middle East and North Africa and facilitate the implementation of innovative solutions for public administration through South-South cooperation.

**Research priority areas:** *South-South cooperation risk management in fragile context*  
*Regional/sub-regional and neighborhood South-South cooperation*  
*Multi-stakeholder engagement in South-South cooperation*  
*Policy coordination and legal environment for South-South cooperation*

*“The South-South Global Thinkers will share perspectives on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the context of the 2030 Agenda. This initiative will strengthen the link between the think tank community and global policy dialogues including the upcoming second High-level UN conference on South-South Cooperation, Buenos Aires + 40.”*

**JORGE CHEDIK**

Envoy of the Secretary General on South-South Cooperation  
and Director, UNOSSC



# FOUNDING PARTNERS

## YINGKE LAW FIRM



Established in 2001 with headquarters in Beijing, China, Yingke is a global law firm that offers one-stop legal and commercial services for clients worldwide. Yingke is the largest own-operated law firm in the Asia Pacific region with more than 5,200 lawyers and legal professionals. It has offices in 44 cities in China and in 100 cities across Asia, Europe, South America and North America. Yingke Law Firm is supporting the Global Coalition to expand research and knowledge production on South-South cooperation with a special focus on legal environment and policy coordination for South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

## FINANCE CENTER FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION



南南合作金融中心  
FINANCE CENTER FOR  
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The Finance Center is a non-profit organization that promotes cooperation among governments in developing countries, private enterprises and multilateral organizations. It has headquarters in Hong Kong SAR, China, and provides comprehensive solution plans for South-South cooperation projects. It uses financial services, policy advice, training, and production-capacity cooperation, as means to assist countries of the Global South to propel industrialization and achieve sustainable development. The Finance Center has been in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2017.





South-South

Global Thinkers



- > 17 GOALS
- > 10 PRIORITIES
- > 6 NETWORKS
- > 200+ THINK TANKS
- > 1 GLOBAL COALITION