





**Launch of South-South Global Thinkers E-discussion**

**The Road to the 40th Anniversary of the Adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40)**

# **Background**

To strengthen and further invigorate South-South cooperation, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution [71/244](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/244), decided to convene a 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 for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA+40 Conference).

The High-level Conference, to be hosted by Argentina in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019, will provide further momentum to spur concerted and collaborative actions by developing countries, through partnerships involving all stakeholders, to bolster the role of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The BAPA+40 Conference will provide the opportunity to review lessons learned over the past four decades, with a view to implementing an inclusive strategy that effectively leverages South-South and triangular approaches to achieving sustainable development for all, leaving no one behind. It will also provide a platform for all relevant actors to contribute to further shaping the South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation agenda by enhancing its conceptual framework, taking into consideration its expanded scope, the proliferation of its actors and its increasing impact.

It is anticipated that a key outcome of the Conference will be a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented intergovernmentally agreed outcome document that will chart the way forward on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. The Conference will also provide an opportunity to identify priority areas for further collaboration, with recommendations on how sustainable development challenges could be best addressed through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. The outcome document will serve as an important guiding tool for governments, national and international institutions, civil society and other relevant actors as they develop South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation policies, programmes, projects, strategic partnerships and frameworks for monitoring and evaluation.

As part of the [preparatory processes for the BAPA+40 Conference](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/72/711&referer=/english/&Lang=E), UNOSSC and UNDP will be inviting think tank network members of the [South-South Global Thinkers: the Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for South-South Cooperation](https://www.ssc-globalthinkers.org/) to contribute to the preparatory processes for the 2019 Conference, through an online e-discussion. Feedback from the networks will feed into the *Independent Annual Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation*, which has been [requested by the UN Secretary General](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B-buqyoV0jpSXzF6d1k2TzZtS1U), and will provide valuable inputs that will inform deliberations of Member States towards the adoption of an outcome document. The Annual Independent report, as an information tool for political leaders, practitioners and academics, will explore the diversity of cooperative models, the impact of these models on current global challenges, including sustainable development and poverty reduction, and the need for more innovative and inclusive strategies to develop as part of the multilateral and bilateral cooperation system. This Annual Independent report aims to provide innovative and disruptive analysis of local, regional and global Southern cooperative initiatives to scale up understanding and support for models of cooperation. Targeting a wide audience, this report will also provide an overarching perspective and establish a strong basis for potential future technical publications.

# **BAPA+40 E-discussion**

To ensure that we capture an informative account of the progress made in South-South and triangular cooperation, the e-discussion will be structured around the below presented themes which has been endorsed by the General Assembly:

1. Overarching theme of the Conference: “*The role of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Challenges and opportunities”*
2. Sub-themes:
3. *Comparative advantages of and opportunities for South-South cooperation;*
4. *Challenges and the strengthening of the institutional framework of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation;*
5. *Sharing of experiences, best practices and success stories;* and
6. *Scaling up the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in support of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation*.

It is envisaged that two e-discussions will take place on the South-South Global Thinkers on-line platform as follows:

## **E-discussion 1**

This e-discussion will focus on identifying experience, opportunities, good practices, lessons learned and challenges on South-South cooperation and how to scale up the 2030 Agenda means of implementation in support of South-South and triangular cooperation, covering sub-themes 3 and 4. In terms of sharing good practices and lessons learned , the e-discussion will focus on the thematic areas: investment and trade promotion, infrastructure development, digital economy/technology and capacity building.

The e-discussion will cover the following questions:

* Questions 1: How did South-South and triangular cooperation contribute to poverty eradication, reducing inequality and equitable economic growth? Kindly provide concrete good practices related to investment, trade, development cooperation, infrastructure, digital economy/tech and capacity building. In addition, what were the challenges those good practices faced?
* Question 2: How can South-South cooperation including triangular cooperation be scaled up in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

**Timeframe**:27 August-10 September 2018

## **E-discussion 2**

This e-discussion will look into the comparative advantages and opportunities of South-South cooperation and the challenges and strengthening of the institutional framework of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, covering sub-themes 1 and 2.

The e-discussion will cover the following questions:

* Question 1: What are the comparative advantages of South-South and triangular cooperation compared to other modalities of cooperation?
* Question 2: What additional measures are needed to strengthen current institutional frameworks of South-South and triangular cooperation? Institutions and legislative frameworks established at the global, regional and national levels have already proved instrumental for the promotion and coordination of this increasingly important modality. Yet, the coherence, coordination, impact and effectiveness could be further enhanced. This e-discussion is an opportunity to contribute concrete examples of how to achieve this.

**Timeframe**: 12-27 September 2018

1. **Expert Moderator & Facilitation Support:**

The e-discussion will be moderated by the UNOSSC Senior Research Coordinator, Dr. Hany Gamil Besada who will put forth the general framing of the e-discussion topic and introduce any follow up questions as the e-discussion unfolds. The role of the expert moderator also involves stimulating the dialogue, specifically to engage researchers and produce a lively online consultation. The expert also responds to potential participants’ queries and, if the discussion lulls, introduces pertinent issues and/or guides the discussion.

There will also be facilitation support provided to the Think Tank Network and the expert moderator by Shams Banihani (UNOSSC) and Valentina Azzarello (UNDP), specifically to provide communication materials to launch the e-discussions, as well as individual follow up messages to researchers to elicit contributions towards the online consultation. The facilitation support also includes the provision of user guides and online guidance to help researchers and the Expert moderator in navigating the Global Thinkers platform. The facilitation support also includes any support needed on the above-mentioned expert moderator responsibilities, including the development of an outcome e-discussion document, which summarizes the e-discussion including case studies, best practices, challenges and policy advice highlighted by the Think Tank Network researchers.