



**2nd Steering Committee Meeting for the South-South Global Thinkers: the Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for SSC**

**Organized by UNOSSC and UNDP**

**UNOSSC Conference Room**

**New York, USA**

1. **November 2017, 3:00-6:00pm**
2. **Background**

2019 will make an important year for South-South Cooperation. The Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation will be convened in March 2019 in Buenos Aires on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40 conference). The Conference will 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.

The South-South Global Thinkers: the Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for South-South Cooperation, supported by UNOSSC and UNDP, continues to facilitate collaboration among the think tank networks to advance thought leadership and evidence-based research and development to inform policy dialogues and decision-making on South-South cooperation in the context of sustainable development.

Since the inception of the initiative, both UNOSSC and UNDP have engaged the Global Coalition think tank networks members in different streams of works as part of the preparatory processes for the BAPA+40 Conference. This includes the support to 10 research studies which will contribute to better data and knowledge about patterns, trends, flows, composition and impact of SSC and TrC in the implementation of the SDGs. The research, knowledge and policy advocacy generated from the research aims to inform global policy dialogues and agenda setting on SSC, including the upcoming BAPA+40 and inform national policies of Southern partners and SSC exchanges using high quality evidence and new thinking.

Additionally, UNOSSC have engaged with the members of the Global Coalition to provide inputs to the Annual independent report, which has been [requested by the UN Secretary General](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B-buqyoV0jpSXzF6d1k2TzZtS1U). The Annual report, as an information tool for political leaders, practitioners and academics, will review the history and transformation of collaborative frameworks in the South and explore how they can be supported to contribute towards achieving the 2030 Agenda given the global context. It will also contribute to the deliberations during the BAPA+40 Conference. The aim of the report is to improve the quantity and quality of data and analysis that developing countries need to strengthen their institutional capacities for the achievement of SDGs through South-South and triangular cooperation at the subregional, regional, interregional and national levels. Members were engaged through on-line e-discussions and in drafting some of the chapters.

Furthermore, three workshops were organized by UNOSSC and UNDP in 2017 and 2018 to discuss the policy and legal environment conducive to South-South investment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Those two forums looked at the contributions of South-South investment with respect to the Goals in Asia (August 2017), in the Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region (May 2018), and in Latin America (October 2018). In 2019, we further aim to conduct South-South investment scoping in the Arab States and Africa regions. The discussions and outcome of these events will feed into the formulation of a research agenda that aims to inform better policy-making to promote and strengthen investment policies. The research agenda will also identify policy and legal issues that are enabling or hindering Southern countries in engaging in South-South cooperation across all regions.

In addition to the above, several dialogues were convened which focused on opportunities and challenges for South-South cooperation in the New Era, particularly the BAPA+40 conference; Capturing the Impact of South-South Cooperation in the SDG Era; and China’s South-South Cooperation in Agriculture.

In light of the above and in accordance with the Project Document governance structure, the Executive Secretariat of the Global Thinkers, which is hosted by UNOSSC, will convene the 2nd Steering Committee meeting for the South-South Global Thinkers networks members and founders to discuss the progress of the work and identify and agree on a research agenda for 2019.

1. **Objective and expected outcomes:**

The objective of the 2nd Steering Committee meeting is to review the work progress of the Global Coalition and provide recommendations for the 2019 Annual Work Plan. The expected outcomes of the meeting are as follows:

* + Review activities conducted in 2018 and reflect on the lessons – what has emerged from the first round of research pieces that were commissioned?
  + Identify and agree on the priority research topics to be conducted by the think tank networks
  + Identify research thematic area for the 2019 Independent Report on South-South Cooperation
  + Identify and agree on high-level policy events and advocacy campaigns at the global levels (ie. BAPA+40 side event, regional events)
* **Target Audiences**

The Steering committee meeting will be open to 20-30 participants from think tank network members, representatives from UNOSSC, UNDP, funding partners and other invited observing members.

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| **AGENDA** | | |
| 15:00-15:10 | **Opening Remarks by the Global Coalition Executives** | * Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation (3 min) * Ms. Margaret Thomas, Director of Development Impact Group a.i., Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP (3 min) |
| 15:10-15:30 | **Review 2018 work progress of the Global Coalition and** **formulating strategic opportunities** | * Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Deputy Director for Programme and Operations, UNOSSC (moderator) |
| 15:30-16:40 | **Presentation of findings of the commission research studies**  **Identification of new priority research ideas to be conducted by think tank networks and high-level policy events** | * Presentation by each think tank network (10 min each)   Ms Shams Banihani, UNOSSC (moderator) |
| 16:40-17:40 | **Identify research thematic area for the 2019 Independent Report on South-South Cooperation** | * Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Deputy Director for Programme and Operations, UNOSSC (moderator) |
| 17:40-18:00 | **Wrap up and closing remarks** | * Ms. Margaret Thomas, Director of Development Impact Group a.i., Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP |