



Side Event of the G20DWG

Effective Triangular Cooperation for Achieving the 2030 Agenda

Chair's Summary

23 January 2019, 10:00-13:30

International Convention Centre Pamir, room Gyoko

Grand Prince Hotel New Takanawa, Tokyo, Japan

Co-organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic, and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

**The present document is prepared by the co-organisers under their responsibility, and not a document agreed by the G20 members.*

1. Background

1.1. The global development landscape has changed, and new actors and new needs have emerged. Multi-stakeholder approaches, including South-South and triangular cooperation, are key tools for achieving the 2030 Agenda. They harness a rich and diverse set of actors, knowledge, experiences and resources and broaden the availability of cooperation opportunities to address the demands and specific challenges of countries at different levels of development. Triangular cooperation can support the broader reform and effectiveness of the global development architecture by creating strong, horizontal partnerships for development. It delivers not only development results for all 17 SDGs, but also fosters partnerships that transcend current divides and promote innovative mechanisms of development cooperation – complementary to traditional frameworks and contributing to the provision of global public goods.

1.2. The G20 has long recognized the potential of South-South and Triangular cooperation. The 2010 Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth called for a “focus on systemic issues where there is a need for collective and coordinated action, including through South-South and triangular cooperation, to create synergies for maximum development impact”. More recently, G20 leaders recognized in their Buenos Aires 2018 Declaration “Building consensus for fair and sustainable development” that South-South and triangular cooperation have an important role to play in the



implementation of the G20 Action Plan on Sustainable Development to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

1.3. At the same time, more in-depth discussions, evidence, and knowledge-sharing are needed and could contribute to understanding how South-South, triangular and other forms of multi-stakeholder cooperation can be implemented more effectively to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and what role the G20 could have in this.

1.4. To this end, and building on the successful outcome of the G20 Development Working Group (DWG) workshop that Argentina organised in April 2018, the present event chose to focus on triangular cooperation – a modality in which many G20 members are involved. While recognizing the increasing demand for this modality, participants specifically discussed how to increase the effectiveness of triangular co-operation.

2. Typology of different models of implementing triangular co-operation and lessons learned

2.1. The 2018 Buenos Aires workshop stressed the potential for the G20 to engage more in triangular and other innovative forms of cooperation for sustainable development, also as a laboratory to develop new approaches to partnerships and knowledge-sharing. Specific examples were discussed in the DWG areas of work, as well as the usefulness of a G20 Voluntary Peer Learning Mechanisms (VPLM) on cooperation modalities.

2.2. Several fora, such as the Global South-South Development Expo organized by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), and international meetings organized by the OECD and others, have already provided opportunities to discuss effective ways of implementing triangular cooperation and to share good practices and lessons learned.

2.3. However, given that triangular cooperation manifests itself in various forms, and in order to deepen the reflections on existing expertise and experiences, the present event proposed to opt for an approach that allows to classify good practice into several categories. Specific types were presented at the event, such as: (1) cooperation scaled up by a Centre of Excellence (CoE) at regional or global level (cases of Chile and Indonesia); (2) cooperation scaled up through facilitators' catalytic role (case of Tanzania); (3) cooperation scaled up by an emerging development cooperation agency (Turkey). Other types were also raised, such as cooperation scaled up through regional organization's frameworks (SICA, ASEAN) and international organization (i.e. UNIDO).

2.4. Such a typology allowed highlighting the different key roles that beneficiaries,



pivots and facilitators can play respectively for an effective triangular cooperation, and sheds light on different ways to maximize synergy among the various actors involved.

2.5. More concretely, the discussions pointed towards the following conclusions:

(1) The facilitator's catalytic role is important when it comes to mutual learning between developing countries and making best use of comparative advantages of all stakeholders.

(2) CoE can be a core for scaling up expertise and good practices at regional or global level. Collaboration between CoE and facilitators is also important from the viewpoint of CoE's human and institutional capacity development and contribution to broader collaboration.

(3) The roles of fast-growing developing/emerging countries as pivots are evolving as they take more and more initiatives in the international arena and have relevant knowledge and development experiences to share. At the same time, it needs to be acknowledged that all countries have experiences to share and can at the same time learn from others, and thus this is a "win-win-win" tool for all. Triangular cooperation encourages this type of joint learning, which may inspire innovative and co-created solutions to development challenges.

(4) Given that international cooperation initiatives – including through development cooperation agencies - are also expanding in such fast-growing developing/emerging countries, it is important that such initiatives and agencies and traditional development partners collaborate with each other for seeking mutual learning, maximizing synergy, and strengthening their relationship with beneficiary countries.

(5) Close collaboration among beneficiaries, pivots and facilitators, based on the beneficiaries' ownership with a common vision shared by all, is important to make cooperation more innovative, flexible, effective and sustainable - taking into account the local context, development stage and comparative advantages of all partners.

3. How G20 can promote effective triangular co-operation

3.1. The G20 has already confirmed the relevance of triangular co-operation, particularly in the context of addressing emerging common challenges and the new realities and perspectives of global development where the role of emerging and developing economies is growing. At the event in Tokyo, the speakers from facilitator and pivot countries, expressed their willingness to further promote platforms for policy dialogue, like the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on Effective Triangular Co-operation,



knowledge-sharing and peer learning in order to encourage a wider implementation of effective triangular cooperation.

3.2. Based on discussions in Session 2, some speakers recognised that inductive approach based on practical examples is effective to identify key success factors and challenges, and the proposed typology approach helps the discussion to be more informed and structured. It is also emphasised that triangular cooperation is complementary tool to South-South, North-South, and other types of cooperation.

3.3. Some speakers also stressed the importance of elements that ensure effective triangular co-operation, such as beneficiary country's ownership, demand-driven and result-oriented approaches, common vision shared by all stakeholders, alignment with beneficiary country's national development strategies and with Agenda 2030, multi-stakeholder approach including a private sector, as well as establishing clear coordination mechanisms. Some participants also made the case for better contextualisation of triangular cooperation in beneficiary countries' policy and technological environment. While the importance of monitoring and evaluation was highlighted by several participants, it needs further discussion to find a common ground.

3.4. The discussion in Session 2 also highlighted the importance of continuous joint learning, sharing knowledge, practical expertise and experience at all levels and the role the G20 can eventually play in serving as a discussion space for knowledge-sharing and peer learning, with the final objective of better responding to Agenda 2030. It also emphasised the importance of gathering more evidence and data on triangular co-operation and encouraging countries and international institutions to report their activities with a view of increasing transparency and accountability and assessing impact.

4. Way forward

The participants expressed the following ideas on way forward:

4.1. The G20 may continue to offer opportunities for sharing expertise, knowledge and practical experiences of the South-South and triangular cooperation under the following presidencies in order to serve as a platform for peer learning with the view of achieving the 2030 Agenda. The OECD, its Development Centre and the UN are well-positioned to continue supporting the G20 with their analysis and advisory services from practical experiences.

4.2. It is also fundamental to consolidate the foundation of a common understanding, common framework for collaboration, and shared values for effective triangular cooperation, and to broaden the supporters for such common understanding,



through events organized inside and outside the G20 DWG.

4.3. These common understandings may feed into the Second United Nations High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) and G20 DWG outcome document on the 2030 Agenda.

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