

Bogota Statement (version 12 March 2010)

We, representatives of partner countries, multilateral and bilateral development organizations and civil society, recognize that South-South cooperation (SSC) is an important instrument of effective and inclusive partnerships. We [will meet] [have met] in Bogotá, Colombia, at the High Level Event on South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development, to acknowledge its role in building capacity and advancing development, take stock of the lessons of experience and identify challenges, and outline the way forward. Our purpose [is] [was] to implement the mandate of the Accra Agenda for Action and promote a greater role for, and increased effectiveness in, SSC. With this in view, we commit ourselves to promote and implement good practices from SSC and capacity development to support countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and tackle emerging global development challenges.

1. A Southern-led process: Towards effective and inclusive development partnerships

- a. South-South cooperation is a natural expression of collaboration and mutual interest between partner countries, at global, regional and country level. SSC is a historical process, with unique characteristics, which reflects solidarity, adapts to local contexts and capacities, and promotes mutual benefit and win-win outcomes and horizontal partnerships. South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but a complement to North-South development cooperation, with triangular cooperation acting as a bridge between South-South and North-South cooperation.
- b. Although representing a long tradition of collaborative work among partner countries, the current economic and social environment provides opportunities to foster mutual learning across all partners. South-South learning for all countries in all phases of development is key to capacity development through sharing of experience and learning, knowledge exchange, technology and skills transfers – all of which are important components of SSC.
- c. As a Southern-led initiative, we have established a process to implement the mandate provided by the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) contained in paragraphs 19 and 14b. We aspire to enrich and adapt the aid effectiveness principles with the diverse experiences and good practice from SSC and further explore complementarities and synergies between SSC and North-South Cooperation. While recognizing the need to respect the uniqueness and particularities of SSC, we also recognize the value and relevance of these principles in the practices of SSC.

- d. SSC is gaining momentum. Partner countries, particularly Middle Income Countries, are increasingly contributing to development cooperation, generating important changes in the global development architecture.

2. Building up evidence:

- a. In preparing for the Bogotá High Level Event and complementing the work of other platforms dedicated to addressing SSC issues, a unique approach has been promoted by the Task Team on South-South Cooperation at the DAC-hosted Working Party on Aid Effectiveness; we can already draw on a rich source of experiences, generated in more than 110 case stories, produced mainly by practitioners from all over the developing world. In this process, many champions and leaders have also been identified and were brought together to share their experiences and views on development cooperation.
- b. While recognizing that this process is only beginning, and additional rigorous evidence needs to be generated, our findings so far have shown significant potential and challenges in the practice of South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development:
 - i. Enabling environments and adequate policy frameworks and institutional conditions in partner countries are key to successful strengthening of SSC.
 - ii. Partnerships need to be based on trust, confidence and respect.
 - iii. Successful SSC experiences have the flexibility to adapt to particular contexts.
 - iv. Southern-based practitioners and technical experts need to share their experience not only at the country level, but also at the regional and global levels, to facilitate mutual learning and capacity development.
- c. Our findings have also underlines a few important challenges in SSC practices:
 - i. There is a lot to learn from aid effectiveness principles and their implementation. SSC practices can be further enhanced by adapting the lessons in the aid effectiveness context, especially by improving transparency and accounting for results through strengthening capacities for information management and mutual accountability, especially at country and local levels.

- ii. There is room to improve coordination and promote synergies between partner countries and traditional donors, including through triangular cooperation and reducing transaction costs.
- iii. To derive maximum benefits from SSC requires to deepen ownership through the participation of civil society, parliaments, private sector and other nongovernmental actors in development matters
- iv. There is much scope to bring together in a coordinated manner, the global and regional platforms addressing SSC – such as the UN ECOSOC and the UNDP Special Unit on South-South Cooperation - to generate synergy, benefit from enriching diversities and collectively develop a strong Southern-led agenda on development cooperation effectiveness. These platforms should be linked to regional communities of practice, as a means of disseminating and applying good practices and sharing experiences

3. Towards Seoul: From Aid effectiveness to Development Effectiveness

- a. In looking forward to the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, to be held in Seoul, Korea in 2011, we are committed to build on the lessons of experience to promote and improve the effectiveness SSC to support countries in achieving their development objectives and to assist in tackling emerging global development challenges.
- b. We urge all development actors to address capacity bottlenecks as a major impediment to aid and development effectiveness, by adopting a broader view of what it takes to develop capacities and by promoting horizontal learning and knowledge exchange. The process created for Bogota HLE offers enormous potential for identifying and sharing Southern-led experiences, which showcase the benefits and challenges of horizontal cooperation.
- c. We shall continue to engage in the global dialogue on development, to promote the integration of aid effectiveness principles and good practices as advocated by the Paris and Accra High Level Forums and by the positive experiences emerging from SSC practices, with the ultimate goal of reaching consensus on a complementary set of e principles contributing to overall development effectiveness.

c. We highlight key outcomes of our roundtable discussions, and encourage all development actors to put to action the recommendations emerging from these discussions:

- i. Improve the monitoring and transparency of information on SSC by learning from successful experience and using innovative mechanisms to support country-level initiatives.
- ii. Draw on and invest in existing structures and regional platforms—such as communities of practice, the TT-SSC, CD Alliance, Nepad’s African Capacity Development Strategic Framework and others—to promote policy dialogue and generating knowledge.
- iii. Explore and promote greater collaboration and synergies among all development actors through triangular cooperation, and building capacities to obtain maximum development results
- iv. Strengthen existing mechanisms to promote coordination among stakeholders supporting SSC
- v. Promote innovative initiatives to gather evidence, foster mutual learning among southern-based practitioners, and facilitate knowledge management and learning on SSC for capacity development.
- vi. Take actions to engage CSOs, parliamentarians and the private sector in implementing successful SSC, to tap their respective comparative advantages, and by doing so in close coordination with government actors.