

Session 1

Day 1, 17 March 2021

Taking Stock of Achievements for South-South and Triangular Cooperation since BAPA+40: How Far Are We in Achieving the Goals Set in the Outcome Document?

MODERATOR

- **Ms. Anida Yupari Aguado, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**

PANELLISTS

- **Remarks from the host of BAPA+40 country: Mr. Juan Roccatagliata, Minister Counsellor, General Directorate of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina**
- **Ms. Anita Amorim, Head, Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit, International Labor Organization (ILO)**
- **Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur, Senior Partnership Officer (South-South and Triangular Cooperation), Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Division, External Relations Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

Ms. Anida Yupari Aguado, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Secretary General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

The main objective of the first session was to take stock on what had been achieved so far in obtaining the goals set out in the BAPA+40 outcome document, with a particular focus on arrangements and roles of development cooperation agencies.

Case 1: Argentina

Mr. Juan Roccatagliata, Minister Counsellor, General Directorate of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina

BAPA+40 is considered as a roadmap to achieve the goals set in the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, we have been facing big challenges to advance towards the implementation of BAPA+40 recommendations in the context of the COVID-19.

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are highly important in the moments of crisis. BAPA+40 outcomes document recognizes the significance of the international development cooperation in its contribution to economic growth and international trade. Even in moments of major economic expansion and prosperity of international trade, the role of the international cooperation development is essential to achieve an inclusive well-being for all and to complement the benefits of this economic growth.

In the context of the pandemic, Argentina worked closely with UNOSSC, UN agencies, funds and programmes in the country with the aim to address the challenges posed by the pandemic. Several interesting issues were particularly highlighted:

- Different country programmes which link the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development and the needs and interests of Argentina at the national level were approved for its implementation in the coming years. In this respect, one of the main challenges that the international development cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, would be to find funding lines to allow the implementation of actions and programmes.
- Some of the main mandates of BAPA+40 are: building strong institutionalization; the improvement of efficacy and inclusive partnerships for sustainable development; the sharing of practices and experiences in the field of science and technology; the fostering of the UN system including the increasing of funding lines from much of its funds, programmes and agencies for the international cooperation; and the pursuit to establish similar methodologies among different countries and regions to measure the impact of South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and other international development cooperation in the overall development process of countries.
- Argentina would be the chair of the 20th session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. The country expects to work together with the different countries and regions to conduct a broad-based discussion related to the implementation of the BAPA+40 goals and recommendations.

International cooperation development should have a fundamental role in addressing the challenges posed to mankind at the present day. Accordingly, the international cooperation development would play a critical role to prevent and overcome the negative impact on what some people in the academia refer to as “glass ceiling”.

Case 2: ILO

Ms. Anita Amorim, Head, Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit, International Labor Organization (ILO)

Since BAPA+40, ILO has reaffirmed the concept of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation modalities in its operational work. ILO works not only for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation but with some sub-modalities such as city-to-city cooperation, fragile-to-fragile cooperation and regional and sub-regional cooperation.

The role of ILO in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation is oriented towards reinforcing the capacities of interested stakeholders to make progress in attaining the objectives set out in BAPA+40. In this regard, ILO acts as a knowledge broker and facilitates activities to enhance strategies, policy dialogue, research and the identification and dissemination of good practices. ILO advocates for leading dialogue and reaching consensus to build strategic partnerships for South-South and triangular cooperation activities. Moreover, ILO collects good practices that promote South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation following the criteria of adaptability, mutual benefit, peer learning, effectiveness, results and innovation.

With respect to the actions that ILO implemented to advance towards the achievement of BAPA+40 recommendations, ILO supported for the exchange of good practices on innovative policies and approaches between countries. ILO has been contributing to the South-South Galaxy systematically and ILO's South-South meeting point platform (www.southsouthpoint.net) through sharing good practices and information on South-South and triangular cooperation from several regions. Some examples from the regional level approach are the social protection network in Africa, the climate resilience small island developing states (SIDS)-SIDS cooperation or the Samoa Action Plan in Asia; a regional initiative on free of child Labor for the Latin American and the Caribbean and its support for refugees among Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Furthermore, ILO has been strengthening South-South cooperation exchanging experience among sub-regional and regional groupings, including working with the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Arab Maghreb Union, among other sub-regional groupings.

ILO is particularly focused on increasing partnerships under the United Nations System Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development with the aim to boost the impact on these fields. A key example includes knowledge sharing among the countries of Brazil, Russia, India and China for building responsive, inclusive and comprehensive solutions towards transition to formal economy.

Other key initiatives that ILO has undertaken to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation were the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme (PCCMHS) for Pacific government officials and non-governmental stakeholders, which provided training courses on labor migration governance; the promotion of gender equality and equal opportunities and treatment for all in the world of work to strengthening the agency of women through economic empowerment and financial inclusion; and the fostering of skills and the inclusion of young people and women in vulnerable situations.

ILO has been implementing South-South and triangular cooperation based on its strategy and frameworks, including its development cooperation strategy 2020-2025, together with various partners. Recently, ILO has developed a new platform on SDGs, United Nations reform and South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, which constituted a key resource tool providing interactive self-learning modules on (a) SDGs and South-South and triangular cooperation linkage; (b) decent work and South-South and triangular cooperation; (c) United Nations reform and South-South and triangular cooperation; and (d) South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation step by step.

Case 3: IFAD

Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur, Senior Partnership Officer (South-South and Triangular Cooperation), Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Division, External Relations Department, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

IFAD's commitment to South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation has been highlighted in its 2016-2025 Strategic Framework, which led to the adoption of several key institutional arrangements. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation were featured as modalities to enhance country-level programmes, to expand partnerships and to increase access to knowledge. In the past years, the corporate agenda focused on four principal priorities: mainstreaming South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in operations; promoting knowledge exchange; strengthening and broadening South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation partnerships; and improving the monitoring of the contribution of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

IFAD implemented programmes and projects in line with national governments' strategies. To ensure the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in IFAD's operations, a number of specific guidelines to assist and facilitate the incorporation of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in country strategies were established in 2019. As a result, this fact led to the development of clear South-South and triangular cooperation narrative for the multi-annual strategic programmes of nine countries in 2020. An outstanding example of mainstreaming South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation was the Atlas Mountains Rural Development Project (PDRMA) implemented by IFAD's Near East, North Africa and Europe Division, which fostered knowledge exchanges and technical cooperation among Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Morocco and Tanzania.

To support IFAD's overall operations to alleviate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the call for proposals of the Facility established in 2018 by IFAD with funding from the Government of China, would be valuable to support the generation and exchange of innovative solutions and methodologies in the post-pandemic recovery period.

Promoting knowledge exchanges was a particularly relevant topic in the framework of IFAD's South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation strategy. Since BAPA+40, over 30 knowledge sharing and capacity building workshops on sustainable agriculture, rural financing, water management and market access have been held. IFAD has greatly been benefited from the institutional set-up of three South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation knowledge centers in Addis Ababa, Beijing and Brasilia.

The Rural Solutions Portal, a web-based platform dedicated to smallholder agriculture and rural development, was a key example of the work implemented by IFAD on development solutions and innovations. This portal included over 70 innovative agricultural and rural development solutions, covering a wide large range of topics, such as fisheries development, youth, climate, environment, innovation, technology and gender empowerment.

In relation to the role that development cooperation agencies could play in the process of enhancing South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, a number of areas for further discussion were noted to bring up further analysis: promoting rural productivity; adapting to climate change, introducing new technologies, and strengthening farmer's organizations. These activities would contribute to IFAD's

overall goals of promoting inclusive and sustainable rural transformation as a unique way to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Question and answer session

During the question and answer session, all panelists addressed the issue of the key role that development cooperation agencies play in promoting and facilitating South-South cooperation.

Mr. Juan Roccatagliata, Argentina, highlighted that cooperating with the private sector plays a key role to successfully implement South-South and triangular cooperation projects and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Nevertheless, it is usual to face difficulties regarding financial issues, procedures and rules, which slow down the implementation of triangular cooperation projects. Mr. Roccatagliata also stressed that it would be important for multilateral agencies to advance towards more agile and flexible systems in order to further facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation activities. The significance of the concept of corporate social responsibility was particularly outlined to improve funding lines from the private sector with the aim of strengthening the implementation of BAPA+40 recommendations in the future.

Ms. Anita Amorim, International Labor Organization (ILO), noted that the COVID-19 could hamper the ability to achieve the BAPA+40 recommendations as it is hard to build networks without face-to-face meetings. Moreover, the digital gap deepens the vulnerability of those populations that cannot reach digital technologies, particularly in rural areas. The problems that existed before the pandemic, such as child labor, the discrimination of migrant workers or trafficking, have been exacerbated. Ms. Amorim explained that ILO had implemented much work on COVID-19 response and adaptation with the aim to address and mitigate the pandemic impact. ILO had adapted all its training courses and training of trainers into a digital format. On the other hand, ILO conducted specific responses in terms of funding to integrate the COVID-19 pandemic issue on new projects.

Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), shared that regarding the issue of how the United Nations could play a role in bringing together producers, practitioners and researchers from Southern countries, it is indispensable to discuss how the United Nations agencies and the international financial institutions (IFIs) could productivity facilitate enhancing joint ventures and investments for developing countries.

responded to the question of accelerating progress in the implementation of the BAPA+40 outcome document during the pandemic stressing that all the following areas strongly support the inclusive and sustainable rural transformation:

- To encourage other countries to address climate challenges to be more resilient, for instance, initiating sub-regional climate adaptation networks for countries sharing common characteristics;
- To exchange successful climate change adaptation strategies and technologies, such as water and resource saving techniques, drought resistant and or salt-tolerant crops, climate smart agriculture, among other topics of interest;

- To spread innovative, resource-saving and productive enhancing technologies generated in the Global South, such as robots or precision agriculture.; and
- To find a way to establish a platform for facilitating exchange and cooperation among farmers in national, regional and global levels. IFAD established the Rural Solutions Platform, where it supported exchange of knowledge and experiences and promoted agriculture trade, especially bringing in the private sector.

Mr. Tarik Iziraren, Deputy Director, UNOSSC, noted that all panellists had emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships to advance the SDGs and that a key example in relation to this topic had been the development of the COVID-19 vaccines. The needs to ensure the fair and equitable access to vaccines was particularly stressed.