

Asian Approaches to Development Cooperation
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The salience of South-South Cooperation is increasing. The South needs greater understanding and support from the international community to continue to contribute and do more for the development agenda. In this context, it is important for us to understand the moorings, the genesis and the context of South-South Cooperation to help place the paradigm in the correct perspective in the global development agenda.

- South-South Cooperation a different paradigm: It was born out of the desire of the South countries to share their national building experience, capacities and resources with fellow developing countries. Its foundation was based on solidarity and shared values of helping each other.
- It is a partnership among equals based on solidarity, respect for national sovereignty and ownership
- Free from conditionality; demand driven and what the recipients want
- Proximity of experience of developing countries make this paradigm very effective
- The Nairobi document on S-S Cooperation fully captures these ideas. The present discussion on what South can do must be placed in the above context. For South to do more, it is important that it grows within its own space and in accordance with its principles.
- The Nairobi document overrides any other understanding. Interestingly, even the BUSAN Outcome recognizes the distinct identity of S-S Cooperation:

Para 2: The nature, modalities and responsibilities that apply to South-South Cooperation differ from those that apply to North-South Cooperation. At the same time, we recognize that we are all part of a development agenda in which we participate on the basis of common goals and shared principles. In this context, we encourage increased efforts to support effective cooperation based on our specific country situations. The principles, commitments and actions agreed in the outcome document in Busan shall be the reference for South-South partners on a voluntary basis.

India's S-S Cooperation

- Capacity Building has been the key strategy of India's S-S Cooperation: Partnering 161 countries, 9000 trainees under ITEC (2012); 2300 scholarship

annually for degree course, special courses at request on subjects such as election management, WTO studies, parliamentary practices and public-private partnerships.

- ITEC (1964), Special Commonwealth Assistance for Africa Programme(SCAAP), and the Technical Cooperation scheme of Colombo Plan; Pan African E-network- flagship programme, Virtual University proposed for Africa: focus on human resource development, institutional building and productive capacity development;
- In their structure and diversity, our cooperation programmes do not have many parallels in traditional North-South Cooperation. Donor agencies and multilateral developmental organizations are now building socio-economic development programmes and training in Indian institutions into their aid programmes.
- Engagement with LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs and countries in Africa
- Bilateral development assistance has been broadened in recent times: consists of preferential market access, Lines of Credit, grants, concessional loans to boost infrastructure development, economic activity and trade. Indian private sector also playing an important role; 150 Lines of Credit worth US\$9.5 billion(60% to Africa) financing drinking water schemes, irrigation, solar electrification, power plants, railways, technology parks. 500 projects under execution in various parts of the world.
- Development projects under grant assistance – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Myanmar. ICT/ SMEs
- We have committed to establish 100 institutions in different African countries
- Our engagement demand driven and responds to the developmental priorities of our partner countries.
- Ensuring sustainability of asset created; avoid duplication; streamlining procedures for identifying development priorities. These are objectives on which we are willing to engage bilaterally and multilaterally.
- Focus on delivery: DPA created in January 2012

South-South Cooperation and IBSA:

India, Brazil and South Africa launched IBSA Fund 2004. The Fund is managed by the Special Unit of UNDP on SSC and is being utilized to undertake projects under the South-South umbrella in various parts of the World: Haiti, Guinea Bissau, Sudan, South Sudan, Cambodia, Laos, Burundi etc. The IBSA Trust Fund projects operate through a demand driven approach.

Saliency of S-S cooperation:

- South remains firmly committed to the Post 2015 agenda.

- Discourse and advocacy of the salience of South-South (S-S) Cooperation must be commensurate to its activities and abilities. At present, the Rise of South discourse seems a little imbalanced.
- S-S is a complement and not a substitute. Its rising contribution must not be a premise for the North to withdraw from its obligations and commitments.
- Its principles and identity must be respected then only it will be effective and meaningful.
- If S-S increasing, must encourage North-South cooperation to augment as well
- Moreover, for S-S Cooperation to do well, it is important for developing countries to continue to grow. This is critical for South-South investment and trade flows to play a larger role.
- Development landscape has changed. Involvement of private sector, philanthropic foundations have increased. They must also learn from the success of S-S Cooperation.

South-South and governance

- Needs greater institutional support in the UN system and outside. Its salience must reflect itself in the governance structures. Must have a greater say.
- The new reality of South-South Cooperation (SSC) must be accepted by the UN Funds and Programmes and they must see how they could leverage its experiences.
- The South-South Unit on SSC needs greater recognition and resource support
- SSC must be allowed to set the development agenda and its successes must be replicated.
- Greater support from IFIs.
