Chapter 1. Overview of South-South Cooperation

A growing body of evidence suggests that learning and cooperation among developing nations is increasing in both frequency and complexity. The evidence suggests that their cooperation is expanding to include not only economic cooperation but now encompasses health, education, communication, research, and development. Brought together by shared backgrounds and common challenges, people in developing nations are banding together as peers to find new and innovative solutions to development issues. Reviews of technical cooperation suggest that South-South learning from sharing is often more effective in developing capacity than one-way knowledge transfers from the North. This brief identifies trends in this phenomenon and highlights some successful cases of South-South learning and cooperation.

1. Defining South-South Cooperation (SSC)

An internationally accepted definition of South-South Cooperation is yet to be formulated. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has defined South-South Cooperation in the context of achieving the goals set at the ICPD and the millennium development goals (MDGs). UNFPA defines South-South Cooperation in its Policy and Procedure Manual as “a means of development by an exchange of knowledge, experience, technology and information and capacity development between and among developing countries through governments, civil society organizations, academic institutions, national institutions and networks to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD agenda and achievement of MDGs in participating countries”.

Other organizations and individuals in the field have defined SSC in varied ways and these are listed below. These are meant to provide a broad perspective on the concept.

1.1 Commonly Used Concepts/Definitions of South-South Cooperation

- South-South Cooperation has been loosely defined as an exchange of expertise between governments, organizations and individuals in developing nations. Through this model, the developing countries help and support each other with knowledge, technical assistance, and/or investments.

- South-South Cooperation means countries of the South helping each other by sharing technical or economic knowledge and skills to facilitate development.
South-South Cooperation is a broader concept covering a very wide range of collaboration among developing countries, and is generally regarded as having three dimensions: political, economic and technical.

South-South Cooperation aims to promote self-sufficiency among southern nations and to strengthen economic ties among states whose market power is more equally matched.

South-South Cooperation is about developing countries working together to find solutions to common development challenges. Linked by commonalities of history, geography, and challenges, the countries of the South have important lessons to share, including many success stories from which other developing countries can learn.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), which is actively promoting South-South Cooperation, defines the term as "a means of promoting effective development by learning and sharing best practices and technology among developing countries."

Japan’s International Cooperation Agency’s (JICA) Task Force on South-South Cooperation has used the UNDP definition as a base from which to construct its own definition: "Mutual cooperation aimed at fostering self-sustaining development, involving deepening relations among developing countries while conducting technical and economic cooperation."

"South-South Cooperation is a conscious, systematic and politically motivated system, developed with the aim of creating a structure of multiple links between developing countries" (SEGIB, 2009).

South-South Cooperation inherently means southern countries taking ownership of development and leading technical cooperation, a goal which is espoused by development agencies around the world. It promotes the transfer of practical experience among contexts that, while certainly differing, often share characteristics and constraints. Southern solutions to development problems can often be better adapted to local conditions than northern-inspired solutions. (Rosseel et al. 2009: 18; Fordelone 2009: 7)

Perhaps most appealing to some is that, South-South Cooperation - “lacks the overtones of cultural, political, and economic hegemony that is sometimes associated with traditional North-South aid.” (Rosseel et al. 2009: 19)

South-South Cooperation refers to cooperative activities between newly industrialized southern countries and other, lesser-developed nations of the southern hemisphere. Such
activities include developing mutually beneficial technologies, services, and trading relationships. South-South Cooperation aims to promote self-sufficiency among southern nations and to strengthen economic ties among states whose market power is more equally matched than in asymmetric North-South relationships.

- South-South Cooperation means closer technical and economic cooperation among developing countries by employing experts from the South, sharing best practices from the South, and helping to develop a sense of ownership of the development process in the South. It also allows developing countries to diversify and expand their development options and economic links and is a powerful tool for building new partnerships, creating more democratic and equitable forms of global interdependence and global governance.

- As stated in the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) article 19d), “South-South cooperation on development aims to observe the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, equality among developing partners and respect for their independence, national sovereignty, cultural diversity and identity and local content” provides a good conceptual, operational and practice definition that could be adopted, expanded and developed into a policy and framework of engagement.

- In the Nairobi Outcome (2009), participants in the UN’s high-level conference on South-South Cooperation reaffirmed that South-South Cooperation differed from official development assistance (ODA) as “a partnership among equals, based on solidarity”, and must be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty and ownership, free of any conditionality.

1.2. **Partners in Population and Development’s (PPD) Definition of South-South Cooperation**

PPD was established in 1994 to promote and strengthen South-South Cooperation in population and development. Since its establishment, PPD has been implementing reproductive health, population and development programs in its member states through South-South Cooperation with resounding success. PPD defines South-South Cooperation as “an international cooperation strategy that aims at empowering developing countries to uplift the quality of life of their citizens in mutual respect and in recognition of the specificity and comparative advantage of each country in their ability to influence the development agenda.”
2. Difference between South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

Triangular Cooperation is the result of technical cooperation among two or more developing countries that is supported financially by northern donors or by international organizations. Triangular Cooperation often consists of a financial contribution from a northern donor together with technical skills provided by a southern donor, which is then implemented in a partner country. South-South Cooperation often consists of technical assistance on a project level, and at times it is implemented in the form of cost-sharing schemes. South-South Cooperation is not limited to “aid” as classified by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), since it includes other types of financial flows and technical cooperation.

2.1 Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC)

Technical cooperation among developing countries - known as TCDC - is essentially a process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual or collective development through cooperative exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how. Ideally, TCDC activities should be initiated, organized and managed by developing countries themselves with their governments playing a lead role while involving public and private institutions, non-governmental organizations and individuals.

TCDC is often cross-sectoral and can be bilateral, multilateral, sub regional, regional or interregional in character. The ultimate goal of TCDC is to promote national and collective self-reliance among developing countries while also encouraging global interdependence.

3. Distinctive Features of SSC within the Aid Effectiveness Agenda

Within the aid effectiveness agenda, the following distinctive features of SSC can be highlighted:

- **Capacity development**: South-South technical cooperation tends to strongly focus on capacity development as a process as opposed to a “product”; technical cooperation is embedded as a tool for mutual learning.
- **A broader choice of support, leading to horizontal partnerships**: South-South technical cooperation offers a different type of relationship and might improve the
diversity of choices for technical cooperation at the country and regional level, while also creating more horizontal forms of development partnerships.

- **Cost effectiveness:** Drawing on regional and national resources, South-South technical cooperation delivers superior value for money.

- **Demand-driven character:** Given the scarce resources and the horizontal relations between the partners, South-South technical cooperation is more aligned with recipients’ priorities and needs.

- **Adaptability:** Since recipient and provider share similar development challenges, South-South technical cooperation can generally provide highly-adapted and relevant solutions, especially in terms of relevant technology and cultural understanding.

- **Southern knowledge:** South-South technical cooperation diversifies knowledge and expertise beyond industrialized models.

South-South Cooperation should also be seen as an expression of the growing capacity of middle-income countries to contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals as aid donors, not only as recipients.

The political component of SSC should at no time be ignored, since one of the main objectives of SSC is reform of the international order and the global economic system. SSC is primarily a mode of cooperation, aimed at strengthening bilateral relations among the southern countries, and providing them with tools that will help the South develop and increase its collective bargaining power. SSC creates solidarity among developing countries and aims to ensure national self-sufficiency whilst providing support to the South as it becomes part of the global economy.

Factors which differentiate South-South Cooperation from traditional North-South Cooperation are namely a) non-interference in internal matters b) increased sensitivity to specific contexts c) equality between partner countries d) respect for their independence and national sovereignty e) promoting self-sufficiency f) diversification of ideas g) approaches and methods of cooperation h) preference for the use of local resources i) generating broader elements of ownership j) greater flexibility k) simplicity and speed of execution l) the preservation of diversity and cultural identity. These factors are further strengthened by their adaptation to national priorities. South-
South Cooperation is generally reckoned to be better value than traditional North-South Cooperation, it tends to be less expensive and has a greater impact.

South-South Cooperation has a distinctly different flavor from North-South Cooperation. It tends to be driven by mutual economic and commercial linkages, including access to dwindling natural resources and not by charity. It also has a greater emphasis on technical cooperation and knowledge transfer than conditionality-based project, programs or budget support.

In the thirty (30) years that South-South Cooperation has been in operation, there are still discussions around how to define South-South cooperation in respect to North-South Cooperation. These often include a disclaimer: “South-South cooperation is not supplementary to North-South cooperation but is complimentary to North-South cooperation”. South-South cooperation completes and balances international cooperation and is a necessary and valuable element of North-South Cooperation. Negations and devaluations should not be appended to the expected contribution of South-South cooperation to global/international cooperation.

4. **Principles of South-South Cooperation:**

As reaffirmed in the Ministerial Declaration of the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Group of 77 and China, in September 2009, New York, USA, the principles of SSC are:

- South-South Cooperation is a common endeavor of peoples and countries of the South and must be pursued as an expression of South-South solidarity and a strategy for economic independence and self-reliance of the South based on their common objectives and solidarity;
- South-South Cooperation and its agenda must be driven by the countries of the South;
- South-South Cooperation must not be seen as a replacement for North-South Cooperation. Strengthening South-South Cooperation must not be a measure of coping with the receding interest of the developed world in assisting developing countries;
- Cooperation between countries of the South must not be analyzed and evaluated using the same standards as those used for North-South relations;
- Financial contributions from other developing countries should not be seen as official development assistance from these countries to other countries of the South. These are
merely expressions of solidarity and cooperation borne out of shared experiences and sympathies;

- South-South Cooperation is a development agenda based on premises, conditions and objectives that are specific to the historic and political context of developing countries and to their needs and expectations. South-South Cooperation deserves its own separate and independent promotion;
- South-South Cooperation is based on a strong, genuine, broad-based partnership and solidarity;
- South-South Cooperation is based on equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit;
- South-South Cooperation respects national sovereignty in the context of shared responsibility;
- South-South Cooperation strives for strengthened multilateralism in the promotion of an action-oriented approach to development challenges;
- South-South Cooperation promotes the exchange of best practices among developing countries in the common pursuit of their broad development objectives (encompassing all aspects of international relations and not just in the traditional economic and technical areas);
- South-South Cooperation is based on the collective self-reliance of developing countries;
- South-South Cooperation seeks to enable developing countries to play a more active role in international policy and decision-making processes, in support of their efforts to achieve sustainable development;
- The modalities and mechanisms for promoting South-South Cooperation are based on bilateral, sub-regional, regional and interregional cooperation and integration as well as multilateral cooperation.

5. Types of South-South Cooperation

Numerous variations of South-South Cooperation exist. Depending on the criteria that have been used, several types of SSC can be differentiated. Examples of such criteria are: the way the cooperation is financed, the role of each stakeholder, the domain in which the cooperation takes place, etc. UNESCO describes a classification system which distinguishes between several types
of South-South Cooperation based on the activity of the cooperation. UNESCO differentiates the following types of cooperation as follows:

- **Sharing experiences and good practices:** one or more developing countries with experience and expertise in a certain domain exchange(s) this experience and expertise with one or more other developing countries.
- **Strengthening of networks:** several institutions from different developing countries form a network and work together within this network.
- **Capacity-building:** Capacity-building in the context of South-South Cooperation is about increasing the ability of a southern country to promote development. The southern countries help each other build up their capacity to promote development. For example, capacity-building can include the training of personnel and the purchase of equipment.
- **Partnership development:** the developing countries start a partnership and set up a common project to build on development.

### 6. Drivers of South-South Cooperation

Drivers of South-South Cooperation that developing countries have found to have long-lasting benefits and deserve further attention include:

- **Health:** South-South Cooperation in public health increases the collective ability of southern countries to fight inequality and to promote the highest attainable level of health for all. In the midst of different crises, the South has seen tremendous success in combating a number of infectious diseases. Data from the World Health Organization shows that 36 million cases of tuberculosis have been cured over the past 15 years and 8 million deaths have been averted. In the past 8 years, new HIV infections world-wide have been reduced by 17%, with a 15% reduction in sub-Saharan Africa, and a nearly 25% reduction in East Asia.
- **Education:** The developing nations have worked hard to provide education and skills to their respective work-forces.
- **Policy:** Effective policy frameworks in countries that have efficient governance and functioning economies could share their experiences with other developing countries whose weak policy-making structures and inefficient and often corrupt governments hamper their development.
• **Science & technology**: Developing countries are rapidly moving ahead to create hubs of knowledge based on bright and educated people and are looking for ways to exchange relevant technology across the South.

• **Institutional capacity**: The developing nations often have world class institutions owing to immense experience; numerous ways to develop institutional capacities have been tried and tested in the South.

• **Interdependence**: The South realizes that interdependence between individuals and their communities can go a long way to overcoming their development challenges.

• **Outlook towards globalization**: Many developing countries have been able to derive benefits from globalization. SSC provides a platform to exchange experiences and foster innovative developmental strategies.

• **Support of the North**: Shared goals (such as human development, security, peace etc.) can be achieved effectively if SSC can be supplemented in cooperation with the North (UN, 2004).
Chapter 2. South-South Cooperation: A Historical Perspective

1. History of South-South Cooperation

The concept of South-South Cooperation originated in South-East Asia more than 50 years ago and has been used for decades as a basis for academic research and voluntary cooperative efforts between southern countries to promote South-South trade and investment. The end of World War II provided impetus for identifying the underdeveloped regions of the world which, at that time, were neither industrialized nor socialist. These underdeveloped regions were comprised of countries struggling to overcome their colonial heritage while at the same time they were being pressed to take sides in the Cold War which followed World War II. An understanding of their common interests and of the mutual benefits of cooperation was the seed which led to the creation of institutional frameworks for South-South Cooperation.

Many developing countries, especially those emerging from colonial rule, began questioning the basis of the international system of economic relations and set out to jointly advance proposals for changing its structure and management. These developing countries realized that they were better off acting together rather than being allies of one or the other of the superpowers. The Bandung Conference, held in Indonesia in 1955 where Afro-Asian nations met and recognized the urgency of promoting economic cooperation among themselves, signaled the beginning of a trend which was to have a profound influence on future international cooperation. The founding of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in 1961 and the Group of 77 (G-77) in 1964 accelerated the developing countries’ drive for collective self-reliance.

Both the Non-Aligned Movement and the G-77 were instances of cooperative political mobilization and collective bargaining, wherein propositions such as a new international economic order were advanced. However, thus far the NAM and the G-77 have failed to yield the economic self-reliance and political independence that developing countries had sought.

The 1970s were marked by great optimism about the ability of the South to reshape the international structure of power and economic relations in a more equitable direction. The increased activism of G-77 and NAM during this period led to the adoption by the UN General Assembly of resolutions on the New International Economic Order and on new forms for technology transfer between countries. The UN established the United Nations Conference on
Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to assist the South in the area of trade policy and promotion.

The Commission for Science and Technology and the UN Fund for Science and Technology in Development (UNFSTD) were also established. In 1972, the UN General Assembly set up a working group to examine ways of intensifying technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC). This led to the establishment in 1974 of a Special Unit within the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to promote TCDC (SU/TCDC).

Between 1973 and 1977, the UN General Assembly adopted a number of resolutions calling upon the international community in general and the United Nations system in particular to assist the developing countries in their efforts to increase technical exchanges among themselves. In addition, in 1975, the Governing Council of the UNDP adopted a decision on new dimensions in technical cooperation, which called for increased emphasis to be placed on government execution and TCDC in the implementation of technical cooperation programs. These efforts culminated in the United Nations Conference on TCDC, held in Buenos Aires in 1978. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) adopted by the Conference sets out a comprehensive conceptual and operational framework for the promotion of TCDC. BAPA presents 38 practical recommendations for promoting TCDC, including specific instructions for supporting SSC, such as “international organizations and developed countries should provide financial and other assistance for developing countries (institutions) that can contribute to TCDC” and “review existing policies and procedures in order to improve the environment for TCDC and facilitate its widespread use.” BAPA represents a major milestone in the evolution of SSC and its support activities.

2. Global Trend Towards Supporting South-South Cooperation

NAM established the Group for South-South Consultation and Coordination (G-15) in 1989. The G-15 promotes bilateral South-South Cooperation by providing unified input to influence the policies of other international organizations such as the World Trade Organization and the Group of Seven rich industrialized nations.

These developments led to an increased interest in SSC as an instrument to promote a new system of participation and exchange among developing countries, not only to support their
overall development objectives but also to ensure their more effective participation in the newly emerging structure of international relations.

The G-77, held its first South Summit in Havana in April 2000. This summit set the groundwork for the 2003 Marrakech Declaration and the accompanying Marrakech Framework, which established long-term goals and strategies for participating countries. The Marrakech documents prioritized technology transfer and skill development, literacy, eliminating trade barriers, and direct investment, particularly in infrastructure and information systems. They also highlighted the need for assistance programs to help eradicate hunger and HIV/AIDS and to promote debt relief, environmental tourism and sustainability. A second summit was held in 2005 in Doha, Qatar where leaders of developing nations agreed to make a more energetic effort to deepen and revitalize South-South Cooperation to take advantage of the new geography of international economic relations while recognizing this cooperation as complementary to and not a substitute for North-South Cooperation.

This commitment to South-South Cooperation is contained in the Doha Declaration endorsed by the leaders. The summit also endorsed the Doha Plan of Action to ensure that their decisions could be implemented efficiently and effectively. The leaders stated that the role of South-South Cooperation in the overall context of multilateralism was a continuing process that was vital to confront the challenges faced by the South. They further agreed that SSC needed further strengthening, by enhancing the capacities of the institutions and the mechanisms that promote such cooperation. Additional follow-up meetings were planned to monitor the work program extending from this effort.

An international conference on financing for development held in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002, specifically encouraged South-South Cooperation, including through Triangular Cooperation, to facilitate exchanges of views on successful strategies, practices and experience and replication of projects. Further, it urged the strengthening of South-South Cooperation to deliver assistance. The Monterrey Consensus confirmed the target of providing 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) unconditionally for achieving the MDGs.

The World Summit on sustainable development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2002, adopted a declaration and an implementation plan that specifically endorsed South-South Cooperation and strong regional and sub-regional action. In December 2003, the United Nations
General Assembly adopted Resolution 58/220, declaring December 19th the annual United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. This declaration serves to focus attention on SSC and to promote more extensive participation in SSC efforts.

The General Assembly also urged all UN agencies and other multilateral organizations to mainstream SSC programmatically and to increase resource allocations to support SSC activities.

The Third United Nations conference on the least developed countries, held in Brussels in May 2001, emphasized the importance of South-South Cooperation in capacity-building and establishing best practices, particularly in the areas of health, education, training, environment, science and technology, trade, investment, and transit transport cooperation.

Most South-South and North-South activities occurred within the framework of regional and sub-regional arrangements. Many of these arrangements originated in Africa, which had been a staging ground for some of the most significant progress towards regional integration and partnership for development. The largest integration effort is the 53-member African Union (AU). Since January 2005, this body has focused its energy on a significant effort towards economic and political integration throughout the continent. During the last AU Heads of State meeting, held in 2005 in Abuja, a major topic of discussion was operationalizing a number of common institutions. The African Union has also established common governmental bodies such as the Parliament, the Court of Justice, the Human Rights Commission, and the Peace and Security Council.

The New Partnership for African Development, (NEPAD), has continued to grow during this period. NEPAD has gradually become a coordination mechanism for the continent’s development efforts and a leading interlocutor with external partners. NEPAD has introduced a new approach to African development by linking poverty eradication to governance issues such as democracy, human rights and corruption. In 2004, calls for the harmonization of the agenda of the African Union and NEPAD were made by a number of African leaders.

Regional and sub-regional economic communities continue to be the driving force of South-South Cooperation in Africa. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has been among the most dynamic sub-regional groupings in the past four years. South Africa has been the engine of this progress. Its economy has dominated the whole region and provided the main source of FDI flows to that sub-region.
In addition to the progress demonstrated across Africa, Asia too has taken a lead role in promoting South-South Cooperation through regional and sub-regional integration. The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) continues to lead in this area. Under a framework agreement signed in 2000, ASEAN members pursued increased digital readiness in the region. Subsequently, the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was also formed and today is comprised of 7 South Asian countries with similar objectives.

3. Recent UN Initiatives to Boost South-South Cooperation

The most important UN meeting on South-South Cooperation in decades highlighted growing political and economic ties within the developing world, as countries from the South assume leading roles in decisions on global issues ranging from economic recovery to food security and climate change.

Hosted by Kenya and held at the UN’s Nairobi headquarters in 2009, the conference sought to promote and sharpen the benefits of mutual support among developing and transition economies, as well as maintain support for the process from the developed world through Triangular Cooperation. It also reviewed 30 years of progress since the 1978 United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries held in Buenos Aires. By adopting the final text of the Conference, known formally as the Nairobi Outcome Document, the participants recognized the increasing power of South-South Cooperation in the decades since the Buenos Aires meeting. The meeting also recognized the record economic growth of some developing countries and the establishment of regional common markets, customs unions, inter-state transport, communications networks and bilateral capacity-building projects involving developing countries as well as middle-income countries or developed countries in Triangular Cooperation.

To realize the full potential of South-South Cooperation, particularly in the context of multiple world crises, the Nairobi Outcome invites developed countries to expand their participation in Triangular Cooperation, in particular capacity-building and training, and to follow-through on their official development assistance commitments. Echoing the words of many speakers during the Conference, the document stresses that South-South Cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South Cooperation.
It also encourages developing countries to assess the effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation while promoting the development of methodologies and statistics to enhance national coordination mechanisms. The document also emphasizes the importance of sharing lessons learned. It urges that United Nations funds, programs and specialized agencies take concrete measures to support South-South Cooperation by acting as catalysts for cooperation and strengthening the capabilities of regional organizations.

Welcoming the work that the UN is doing to foster SSC, the Nairobi Outcome reaffirms the importance of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation hosted by the UNDP, particularly in implementing that agency’s latest framework for cooperation. It encourages Member States to provide support for that effort.

4. Milestones in South-South Cooperation

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>March - The Arab League is established. Founding members were Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen. Currently there are 22 member countries. June - Representatives of 50 countries meet in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. The United Nations officially comes into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter was ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and a majority of other signatories.</td>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is founded to deal with the trade side of international economic cooperation and to join the two “Bretton Woods” institutions, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.</td>
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<td>1955</td>
<td>Asian-African Conference in Bandung, Indonesia. The “Bandung Conference” marks the launching point for large scale Afro-Asian relations in terms of economic and social cooperation. Twenty-nine countries representing over half the world's population send delegates. A consensus is reached in which &quot;colonialism in all of its manifestations&quot; is condemned, implicitly censuring the Soviet Union, as well as Western influences.</td>
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<td>1960</td>
<td>February – The Latin America Free Trade Area (LAFTA) is established by the Treaty of Montevideo (1960-1980); LAFTA is succeeded by ALADI in 1980. September - Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is set up among 13 of the world’s largest oil producing countries in order to stabilize and regulate oil production levels, processes, and investments, as well as pricing in international markets.</td>
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<td>Year</td>
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<td>1961</td>
<td>Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is set up at the Belgrade Summit, Yugoslavia.</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>Organization of African Unity (OAU) is established. In 2002 the OAU became the African Union (AU)</td>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>February – The First United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is held. At the end of the conference a group of 77 developing countries sign the &quot;Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries&quot; creating the G-77, the largest coalition of developing countries/least developed countries in the UN system. The G-77 currently has 131 member countries.</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is established. Founding members included Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. October – The First Ministerial Meeting of the G-77 adopts the Charter of Algiers with the basic principles of the group defined as the New International Economic Order (NIEO) package.</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>September – The Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) is set up following the summit of Islamic countries held in Rabat, Morocco. The OIC has 57 member countries. The Andean Community is created by the Treaty of Cartagena. Members are Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. (Chile and Venezuela withdrew in 1976 and 2006, respectively).</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>July - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is established under the Treaty of Chaguaramas. Founding members were Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago.</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is set up. Members include Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>Conference on TCDC in Buenos Aires</td>
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1980  
February – The ALALC is replaced by Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). Cuba becomes a member in 1999.

April – Southern African Development Coordination Conference – SADCC is founded as part of the Lusaka Declaration. Founding members are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

1981  
May – The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is set up. Members include Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

High-Level Conference of the G-77 in Caracas Venezuela adopts the Caracas Programme of Action on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries

1983  
November – Third World Academy of Science (TWAS) an autonomous international organization is created in Trieste, Italy, by a distinguished group of scientists from the South under the leadership of the late Nobel laureate Mr. Abdus Salam of Pakistan. The TWAS is officially launched by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar, in 1985.

December – The Perez Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (PGTF) is established in accordance with the UN General Assembly Resolution 38/21

1985  
South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is set up. Founding members include Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka

1987  
The South Commission, an intergovernmental body of developing countries is established. The inaugural ceremony is addressed by its chairman Julius Nyerere, former Tanzanian president.

1989  
April 1989 Ministerial Meetings of the Group of 77 - Agreement on the Global System of Trade Preferences Among Developing Countries (GSTP) enters into force. Forty-one countries ratify the Agreement.

September - G-15 is created at a Summit Level Group of Developing following the conclusion of the 9th NAM Summit in Belgrade
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<th>Year</th>
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| 1991 | March – The Treaty of Asuncion is signed creating the **Common Market of South Cone (Mercosur)**. Members Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. (Venezuela became full member in July 2006 – pending ratification by the Brazilian and Paraguayan Parliaments).  
Organization of African Unity Heads of State and Government sign the **Abuja Treaty** establishing the **African Economic Community (AEC)** at the 27th Ordinary Session of the Assembly. |
| 1993 | Japan is the first developed country to offer support for South-South Cooperation at the **TICAD** International Conference. |
International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo, Egypt. The Program of Action emphasizes the South-South Cooperation model for achieving the ICPD goals in reproductive health, family planning, population and development.  
April: **Partners in Population and Development**, an intergovernmental body of developing countries is established with 10 initial members.  
**September: International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)** |
| 1995 | **Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (NAM-CSSTC)**  
**First Board Meeting of PPD in Harare** |
| 1997 | June – **Developing 8**, founded through the Istanbul Declaration to further development cooperation amongst Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey. |
| 1998 | Non Aligned Movement (NAM) creates the **Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation (CSSTC)** located in Jakarta. |
| 2000 | April – The **First South Summit** is held in in Havana, Cuba with 132 member countries of the G-77 attending. The **Havana Plan of Action is adopted, calling members to improve South-South Cooperation**.  
September - The UN General Assembly Millennium Summit sets the **Millennium Development Goals (MDG)** to alleviate poverty and promote sustainable development in the developing world. |
October- I Ministerial Conference of the **Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)** held in Beijing. The FOCAC meets every three years and focuses on collective consultation and dialogue and a cooperation mechanism between the developing countries.

2001 June – **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** a permanent intergovernmental international organization is set up replacing the former Shanghai Five created in 1996. The SCO members are Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, China, Russia, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Observer members include India, Pakistan, Iran and Mongolia.


July –The **African Union (AU)** replaces the former **Organization of African Unity (OAU)**.

2003 June – India, Brazil and South Africa sign the Brasilia Declaration setting up the **IBSA Forum**. In 2004 the forum creates the **IBAS Fund** for alleviation of poverty and hunger in the South.

August - The **G-20 group of developing countries is established** at the WTO Ministerial Conference held in Cancun, Mexico.

September - The G90 is established at the WTO Conference in Cancun. This is the largest grouping of members in the World Trade Organization including the poorest countries from the African Union, LDCs and African Caribbean and Pacific and ACP group.

December - Resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003, the UN General Assembly declares 19 December, **United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation**. Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco, on South-South Cooperation, **G-77 Marrakesh Declaration** adopted.


2005 March - **Paris Declaration for Aid Effectiveness**

June – **Second South Summit** is held in Doha, Qatar.

September – **50th anniversary of Bandung Conference** adoption of Declaration on the **New Asian-African Strategic Partnership**

December - Hong Kong Ministerial Meeting of the **WTO Joint Declaration of the G-20, the G-33, the ACP, the LDCs, the African Group and the Small Economies** in order to develop a common approach to issues of common interest in the negotiations of the Doha Round.

2006 September - 14th **Summit of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM)** held in Havana, Cuba.
Leaders agree to set up institutions of the South such as the Bank of the South, World TV Network, Working Group in Energy Security, university system of the South.


2007 December - Bank of the South is established at a meeting of seven South American Leaders in Buenos Aires

2008 January - Common Market Gulf Cooperation Countries enters into force.

April - I Africa – India Summit held in New Delhi, India

September – The South-South Fund for Development and Humanitarian Assistance, is approved at the 2005 Second South Summit in Qatar, and is formally launched at a signing ceremony during the annual high-level ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 in September. The government of Qatar makes an initial pledge of 20 million dollars, with an additional 2 million dollars each from India and China. The Fund, to be hosted by Qatar, aims to assist the countries of the South in economic, social, health and educational development. It will also address the problems of hunger and poverty, as well as lessen the impact of natural disasters on developing countries

September- Accra Agenda

2009 UN High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation in Nairobi, Kenya, 1 December 2009
Chapter 3. South-South Cooperation: Opportunities and Threats

1. Opportunities

Whilst general understanding and agreement exists on the value of South-South Cooperation as a means of sharing knowledge and experiences that originate in the South, discussions at the UN and other high-level meetings tend to focus on conceptual and political aspects of South-South Cooperation, examining whether South-South Cooperation is complementary to North-South Cooperation or whether it should serve as a substitute for traditional North-South Cooperation. Practical aspects of South-South and Triangular Cooperation tend to be neglected or touched on only superficially on such occasions.

There is ample room for improving South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the following areas:

- A comprehensive information bank should be set up to track South-South and Triangular Cooperation efforts
- A regional framework is in place to promote knowledge sharing about best practices of South-South Cooperation, but there is a need for inter-regional and global frameworks to gather best practices about South-South Cooperation.
- Good practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation should be better communicated to the international community; there is a low degree of understanding about the nature and effectiveness of South-South Cooperation.
- The efforts of bilateral donors, international financial institutions and UN organizations to support South-South Cooperation should be coordinated to avoid overlaps.

South-South Cooperation is important for two reasons. First, SSC contributes to economic advances in southern nations, especially in Africa, Southern Asia and South America. Second, SSC lacks the overtones of cultural, political, and economic supremacy sometimes associated with traditional North to South transfers from the North.

The increased engagement of the international community in South-South Cooperation means that there are more resources available for developing countries to pursue their national development plans and to meet the Millennium Development Goals. This is important, not least because many development assistance committee donors are failing to meet their aid
commitments and aid levels are declining because of the financial crisis. While the crisis may also affect South-South Cooperation negatively, such cooperation could play an important role in seeking common solutions among developing countries. South-South Cooperation is also generally better value than traditional North-South Cooperation, has lower transaction costs, is less donor-driven and comes with fewer conditions than assistance from many traditional donors.

A number of developing countries are experiencing economic growth. Their increased wealth could provide more resources for South-South Cooperation which in turn could help strengthen the economic, environmental, cultural and social advances that are being made.

The new dynamics of globalization are failing to produce the desired results at the moment, because the benefits and costs of globalization are unevenly distributed. However, those dynamics can be seen as opportunities. Globalization produces possibilities that can be, with some assistance, translated into real opportunities. These possibilities include: a) access to development capital and financial services) access to global markets) access to appropriate technology and know-how to improve productivity) access to successful development solutions and access to infrastructure support and other basic services. South-South Cooperation can help translate these possibilities into opportunities and then into benefits by serving as the foundation of a new global and inclusive partnership that represents the interests and commitment of the public and the private sector, civil society entities and the general public.

Another opportunity for South-South Cooperation is the awareness of all involved parties about the pitfalls of foreign aid. In North-South Cooperation, donor countries often do not recognize the lack of uniformity among the donor recipients, resulting in poorly prescribed policies. These differences cannot be ignored. For example, two recipient countries could have vastly different ways of handling regulatory policy. Regulatory policy is important for donors when determining their cooperation strategy. This case shows how more generally, the donor strategy must be tailored to the country’s regulatory standards in order to be effective. South-South Cooperation puts donors and recipients on the same level which means that the recipient can help set the donor strategy that will lead to results that are desired by the donor and beneficial for the country.

2. Threats
Developing southern nations have increasingly turned to each other for economic development assistance to complement North-South aid. This has contributed to substantial economic growth in developing countries.

As countries like Brazil, China, India and South Africa emerge as regional players, the traditional ODA is being challenged. In a move that is challenging the supremacy of the North, these countries are providing increasing support and assistance to other southern countries. With considerable economic clout and an aggressive strategy of forging partnership in new markets, China has emerged as a *defacto* leader in South-South Cooperation. India and Brazil have also worked hard to promote South-South Cooperation. With the help of their fellow southern countries, the South is increasingly able to make its voice heard in international forums and claim their share of the benefits that accrue as the South becomes more developed.

South-South Cooperation and North-South Cooperation is complementary; South-South Cooperation does not have southern hegemony as its goal. The Secretary-General of UNCTAD argues that the North has been much more of a partner than a competitor in the success of the South and that it will share in the dividends of the success of the South; consumers worldwide he contends benefit from the low-cost, high-quality products and services now on offer from the South.

The new dynamism of the South is a cause for celebration not for fear. With this in mind, it is important to note that:

- First, the North has been much more of a partner than a competitor in the success of the South. It has shared in the dividends of that success and will continue to do so.
- Second, a stronger South will generate demand for exports from other countries and boost investment opportunities with higher returns.
- Third, consumers worldwide are already benefiting, and will do so increasingly, from the low-cost, high-quality products and services now on offer from the South.
- Fourth, the fact that more and more developing countries are becoming competitive participants in global production chains and labor markets is likely to have a net job-creating impact in the South and the North alike.
- Fifth, the more successful developing countries set good examples for others to follow, enabling them to avoid repeating past mistakes and embark on development models that have already been proven to work.
• And sixth, emerging countries in the South can join the ranks of other nations in confronting such global challenges as migration, environmental threats, HIV/AIDS and other pandemics.

### 3. SWOT analysis of South-South Cooperation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Learning from each other</td>
<td>▪ Benefits are not evenly shared among developing countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Economic, environmental, cultural and social advances</td>
<td>▪ The gap between North and South will remain for a long time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Changing North-South relations and changing balance of power</td>
<td>▪ Lack of resources and ineffective coordination</td>
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<td>▪ Lower transaction costs</td>
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<td><strong>Opportunities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Threats</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ SSC will still increase</td>
<td>▪ Complications about ownership or management</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Opportunities as a result of globalization</td>
<td>▪ Northern fears of the rising South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▪ Increased awareness of the differences among developing countries will have a positive impact on policy</td>
<td>▪ Political problems are an obstacle for cooperation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>▪ Trade barriers and intellectual property rights</td>
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Chapter 4. South-South Cooperation in Reproductive Health, Family Planning and Population

1. South-South Cooperation and ICPD

South-South Cooperation in the areas of reproductive health and other population related activities is based on two premises; one, that a number of developing countries have in the last several decades acquired considerable expertise and experience in the design and implementation of highly successful and effective national family planning and reproductive health programs. Two, that the sharing of this expertise and experience among developing countries will help enrich and strengthen the entire range of their population-related policies and programs. The most recent catalyst was provided by the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and its preparatory processes. But its antecedents can be found in several developments described in this paper that took place in the 1970s and the 1980s.

The first was the establishment of the International Committee on Management of Population Programs (ICOMP) as a Third-World organization in 1973. This was inspired by an idea very similar to that of promoting South-South Cooperation. The ground work for ICOMP was laid at several preparatory meetings among family planning program managers from developing countries.

The second of these developments was the decision of Indonesia, which had developed a highly successful family planning program under the leadership of Dr. Haryono Suyono, to launch bilateral exchanges with other developing countries. In the 1980s, Indonesia began offering short-term fellowships to program managers from Bangladesh under a USAID funded project. Some 400 Bangladeshi nationals participated in Observation/Study Tours of Indonesia and by all accounts the observations in Indonesia and the activities undertaken by the participants on their return to Bangladesh led to major improvements and innovations in Bangladesh’s family planning program.

A ministerial-level meeting of the NAM states, which was organized by Indonesia at the initiative of the Minister for Population, Dr. Suyono and with the support of the Rockefeller Foundation and UNFPA, in Bali in November 1993, strongly emphasized the South-South modality for future cooperation on population issues among developing countries.
The third was the initiative taken by the Rockefeller Foundation, in consultation with UNFPA, to organize in Bellagio, Italy a high-level consultation on how to generate political and financial support for family planning programs in developing countries. This meeting was seen as part of the ICPD preparatory process. The importance of South-South Cooperation in the context of population issues and reproductive health issues was further underlined in the draft final document prepared by the ICPD preparatory committee in April 1994 for submission to the Cairo Conference.

2. Partners in Population and Development (PPD): A South-South Initiative

Following the suggestion made at the Bellagio Forum, the Rockefeller Foundation organized another consultation in Bellagio in April, 1994 this time on the specific theme of Partnership for Population and Development. In order to decide on and carry out a follow-up to the Bellagio agreement, the participants agreed to constitute a working group with six developing countries (Indonesia, Egypt, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh and Morocco) and seven donors (USAID, EU, Japan, Germany, World Bank, UNFPA and IPPF). The working group chaired by Minister Dr. Haryono Suyono met in New-York in June, 1994 and came up with a set of specific and well-defined proposals for future cooperation among developing countries on population. It proposed a new South-South initiative called Partners in Population and Development (PPD).
Chapter 5. Partners in Population and Development- a South-South Initiative

Since ICPD, South-South Cooperation has maintained its momentum thanks to integration movements in regional and sub-regional communities from the South. Exchanges within and across regions have been reinforced while intra-south development is picking up due to major contributions from developing countries. At the same time, intergovernmental bodies like PPD are providing the framework for better interregional exchanges. Meanwhile, new trends in South-South Cooperation have emerged, including better organization of major developing countries in the delivery of development assistance, a more systematic approach to South-South Cooperation, and improved integration of population and development in South-South Cooperation. Concurrently, new fields have been tested, such as environment, health and more integrated policies to improve the reproductive health sector.

While agreeing to the formation of PPD as a new intergovernmental group, the participants of another meeting in Jakarta (August, 1994) underscored the following points:

a. PPD should be a South-led initiative, but with close ties and involvement with bilateral donors and multilateral institutions.

b. PPD programs should complement and reinforce existing South-South activities and support structures.

c. PPD should focus on developing long-term collaborative exchanges between countries for creating opportunities for mutual benefit. The emphasis on a comprehensive program of technical exchange which would strengthen field capacities to offer family planning and reproductive health assistance in both the near and long term is what would make PPD’s program stand out from the currently available South-South opportunities.

d. PPD is not a funding mechanism, but will advocate and campaign for the increased flow of resources through existing channels.
1. Launching of PPD

PPD was launched at a press conference on September 9, 1994 in Cairo during the United Nation’s International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). The concept of South-South Cooperation also received a strong boost in the Program of Action (PoA) adopted by the ICPD that same year. Paragraph 14.16 proposes that “More attention should be given to South-South Cooperation as well as to new ways of mobilizing private contributions, particularly in partnership with nongovernmental organizations. The international community should urge donor agencies to improve and modify their funding procedures in order to facilitate and give higher priority to supporting direct South-South collaborative arrangements.” Finally the PoA states that “South-South at all levels is an important instrument of development. In this regard, such cooperation- technical cooperation among developing countries- should play an important part in the implementation of the present PoA (para. 16.19).” The ICPD thus endorsed fully the concept of South-South Cooperation and underlined the need to fund specific programs aimed at implementing this concept.

2. PPD: A Unique Organization

The concept of South-South Cooperation in the fields of population and development is not new. However, earlier exchanges of experiences and technical know-how between developing countries tended to be adhoc and consisted mostly for short-term training and study tours. Usually, these were donor-initiated and donor-driven exchanges. Unlike other organizations, however, PPD does not merely incorporate or add a South-South dimension to its program, but develops mechanisms that help institutionalize South-South Cooperation and thus taps considerable, but still underutilized resources for development in a systematic way. In fact, PPD is the first and only organization devoted entirely to fostering long-term South-South partnerships in reproductive health and family planning. It is important to note that PPD does not confine its activities to its members alone. On the contrary, it is the organization’s explicit philosophy to reach out to NGOs, civil society actors, training institutions and governments of other developing countries to share available resources, capacities and experiences.
3. Membership in PPD

PPD welcomes new members to multiply the impact of its efforts. Full membership is open to governments of developing countries and countries in transition who have demonstrated a strong commitment to the ICPD PoA. Members contribute a minimum of US$ 20,000 annually to the organization’s budget and must also be prepared to invest human and financial resources in support of their participation in the agenda to fulfill the ICPD and MDG goals. China, India and South Africa contribute between US$ 40,000-US$ 80,000 each yearly and others are encouraged to act likewise.

Member countries appoint a representative to the PPD Board, usually the highest ranking officials in charge of reproductive health matters, i.e. ministers or government leaders of similar rank. They also designate an official to function as Partner Country Coordinator (PCC). The PCC is the focal point for developing and implementing South-South Collaborative programs in Member Countries.

4. Vision and Mission of PPD

4.1 Vision

To drive the global reproductive health and population agenda to attain sustainable development.

4.2 Mission

To assist each member country and other developing countries to address successfully the sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning and HIV/AIDS, population and development challenges through South-South collaboration by raising a common voice and sharing sustainable, effective, efficient, accessible and acceptable solutions considering the diverse economic, social, political, religious and cultural characteristics of our countries.
5. Focus of PPD:

All member countries (MCs) are committed to the implementation of the PoA agreed upon in Cairo. This includes, among other things, moving people out of poverty, the advancement of gender equality and equity, the empowerment of women through education, training and awareness of their rights, universal access to quality reproductive healthcare and services, the promotion of freedom of choice and the absence of coercion in family planning programs.
Within this overall framework, PPD gives priority to the following program areas:

1. Integration of ICPD goals and MDGs
2. Promotion, integration and strengthening the prevention and care for those with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS within reproductive health care structures
3. Provision of family planning and reproductive health services aimed at the special needs of male and female adolescents
4. Improving reproductive health commodity security (RHCS)
5. Improving gender equality
6. Strengthening adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH)

In addition, there are several crosscutting areas including the empowerment of women and concerns for female children as well as the prevention and eradication of all kinds of violence against women.

6. PPD: An Organization Building on Comparative Advantages

As a result of its governance structure and geographical spread in 25 countries of the South that cover 57 percent of the world population, PPD has a unique comparative advantage in activities that require advocacy, sharing and exchange and capacity building. The collective consensus and commitment emanating from the Board, represented by ministers of the countries themselves, provides a distinct advantage in promoting South-South exchange on a wide variety of experience including that of safe motherhood. PPD Board Meetings offer excellent opportunities to generate enthusiasm and commitment for policy action. Independent from government or UN bureaucracy, PPD can act quickly, strategically and in a focused manner to address critical policy and program issues.

PPD has gained valuable experience on how to identify the elements of successful programming and how to organize the cross-cultural transfer of best practices. In this regard, PPD has developed a systematic and scientific methodology for documenting best practices and has so far developed ten best practices which are being produced and disseminated. PPD, as a representative of countries in the South, is well placed to undertake South-South Cooperation, and its southern membership allows PPD to deal with sensitive issues. PPD could serve as an honest mediator in, for example, disputes between North and South countries regarding program models which are
deemed unacceptable by southern countries.

PPD also has a network of 22 Partner Institutions (PIs) as centres of excellence, which through a series of PPD sponsored systematic, analytical and consultative processes, developed generic modules on ICPD recommended thematic areas, institutionalized them and established a mechanism for networking among them. These PIs are readily available resources for PPD’s skill development and capacity building activities.

The annual forum for policy dialogue, organized in conjunction with the Board meetings, has proved to be an effective platform to facilitate bilateral agreements among member countries to share experiences and exchange expertise through longer term institutional arrangements. In this context, PPD has been able to generate, on an increasing scale, willingness by the more advanced countries of the alliance (e.g. China) to provide support for such sharing and exchange activities, as reflected in three MOUs signed between PPD and China.

In addition to the above, PPD has the following distinct comparative advantages:

1. Through its Board Members who are ministers from member countries, PPD has the political commitment of member countries (MCs) behind PPD’s work to improve reproductive health and family planning in a self-determined and sustained manner.
2. PPD’s culture of mutual trust, respect and openness places it in a unique position to address culturally sensitive subjects. PPD was established on the premise that scarce resources need to be pooled and shared for maximum cost-effectiveness.
3. PPD’s Observer status at the UN provides a platform for MCs to voice their opinion on global issues and advocate in favor of issues that are of interest to them.
4. PPD members are willing to commit their own resources to help improve capacities not only within their own but also within other developing countries.

7. PPD’s Value Added

In addition to the uniqueness of its mission, mandate and structure, PPD adds value for its members in several other ways:

1. PPD takes a long-term approach to cooperative research, training and information exchange.
2. PPD develops programs and projects that the countries themselves desire. This invariably brings the kind of political commitment necessary for impact and sustainability.

3. Since PPD Board Members are ministers, they can easily engage in dialogue with counterparts in other countries. Because of their positions, PPD Board Members not only possess the most relevant knowledge and overview of their countries’ priority needs and opportunities, they are also in the best position to facilitate action.

4. Through its Board Members, PPD is most advantageously placed to have an impact on policy improvement - another crucial element for developing successful programs.

5. PPD has a country coordinating mechanism comprised of senior government officials and focal institutions from MCs, which helps ensure the efficient implementation of PPD’s South-South Programs at the national level.

6. PPD does not work with governments alone. It strives to engage the whole spectrum of civil society, from research and training institutions (Partner Institutes or PIs) to the private sector, by forming partnerships to improve the sexual and reproductive health of the poor. By working through PPD, donors too are able to have access to partnerships throughout society.
7. PPD has long term and effective collaborative partnerships with the premier level training and research institutes which help capacity development at the individual, institutional and systems level of the MCs.

8. PPD has the capability to mobilize reproductive health commodities between the MCs to improve access within the developing nations.

9. PPD is in a unique position to address highly sensitive cultural issues, such as the involvement of religious leaders in reproductive health programs, or adolescents’ sexual and reproductive rights - still considered taboo in many societies. Such issues do not hamper PPD’s intentions to promote reproductive health and family planning within different cultural settings.
8. PPD’s Systematic Efforts to boost South-South Cooperation

With limited financial resources, PPD has, since its inception, devoted itself to promoting and supporting a number of South-South initiatives in the areas of development, reproductive health and family planning at the international, regional and national levels. At the initial stage, these initiatives have involved a relatively small number of individuals and institutions. However, the experience PPD has acquired in implementing these initiatives has made it increasingly clear that they will be much more successful and effective if they are backed by well-organized national support structures in its member countries for South-South Cooperation in population and development.

It is in this context that in the last couple of years, the Secretariat of PPD has encouraged and supported the organization of national events in several member countries. So far, Pakistan, Yemen, Uganda, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Senegal, Indonesia, the Gambia, South Africa, India, Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Benin have organized such events, and Mali and Vietnam are planning to organize similar events.

The national events organized by member countries have, broadly speaking, aimed at promoting better understanding and appreciation of the concept of South-South Cooperation and strengthening national support for South-South Cooperation in the areas of reproductive health, population and development.

A national event which brings together representatives of all these sectors at least once a year serves to provide briefings on:

a. Latest developments on the population and development scene;
b. The latest activities and plans of PPD;
c. The role played by the member country concerned in implementing these activities and plans; and
d. Future challenges and opportunities.

As appropriate, such an event can also provide an opportunity to discussion coordination among national institutions including university and research institutes as well as NGOs on activities in research, training, policy dialogues, exchange of information, and technical cooperation in relation to equipment and supplies. Regional and sub-regional cooperation is also discussed at
such events. The PPD Secretariat is represented at such events whenever possible and the involvement of print and electronic media in the events are encouraged with a view to drawing public attention to the concept and practice of South-South Cooperation in reproductive health, population and development.

Reports of such national events are widely circulated, with a view to informing concerned government ministries and departments as well as universities and research and training institutions about the national activities and plans in the area of South-South cooperation and the work of PPD. The organization of a national event on a regular basis has led to the formation of inter-ministerial/inter-departmental committees (National Task Forces for South-South Cooperation) and networks of training and research institutions as well as to the establishment of collaborative arrangements with parliamentary institutions and NGOs.

The objectives and terms of references of the National Task Forces are noted below;

1. To coordinate with the government and other stakeholders in the field of population, reproductive health and development;
2. To promote knowledge and information sharing, documentation and dissemination of lessons learnt and best practices on reproductive health, population and development programs;
3. To advocate for an enabling environment to promote reproductive health through South-South cooperation;
4. To facilitate national capacity building, including training and research on reproductive health, population and development;
5. To increase PPD’s visibility and to promote the concept of South-South Cooperation.

So far, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nigeria have constituted National Task Forces for South-South Cooperation, and China, Ethiopia, Thailand and Ghana have integrated the concept in their existing committees for reproductive health, population and development.

**8.1 Inventory of Products and Services available for Reproductive Health and Family Planning**

In 2008, PPD initiated a process of collecting, compiling and reporting on the products and services related to reproductive health, family planning, population and development among its
members and other developing countries. Since then three reports have been prepared and shared with the member countries. Member countries overwhelmingly chose to participate in the stock taking and the results were well received by the member countries. The aim of this activity is to develop an inventory of products and services exchanged among member countries and with other developing countries. It also aims to develop a format for the systematic collection and compilation of information on such exchanges on a regular basis.

9. Future Focus of Partners in Population and Development to promote South-South Cooperation

The first objective should be to continue to promote and strengthen political commitment and support for South-South Co-operation at the highest levels. PPD as an intergovernmental organization involves senior political leaders and policy makers in its policymaking bodies. Many ministers and senior government officials regularly participate in PPD’s Board and Executive Committee meetings. PPD should work with these senior officials, supporting them as they promote South-South activities in their home countries. To further facilitate the growth of South-South cooperation, PPD can organize inter-ministerial or inter-departmental bodies to deal with South-South activities within the countries and can also organize bi-lateral visits of senior policy makers between and among member countries.

A few years ago India set up a steering committee including representatives of several ministries as well as academic institutions and NGOs to coordinate activities relating to South-South Cooperation. Action along these lines will help secure high-level and broad-based political agreement and cooperation towards translating into reality the potential benefits of South-South co-operation.

1. Non-governmental organizations of the South can play a similar advocacy and networking role vis-à-vis program managers and leaders of other NGOs. Regional networks of NGOs which are now being established in Asia and Africa to promote South-South activities at both the national and regional levels may indeed complement and, in many ways, strengthen the work done by national governments as well as PPD.

2. The member countries must devote more of their own financial and technical resources to South-South Cooperation. In recent years, the economic crises facing several of the
member countries since the ICPD have reduced or limited their capacity to do as much as they wanted to do in this area. But as these countries begin to emerge from the crisis, they should consider giving South-South Cooperation the priority it truly deserves in the allocation of domestic resources. On the other side of the equation, there are several member countries which now have the financial means to contribute much more than in the past to South-South Cooperation.

3. In 1995, PPD’s mission was defined in its by-laws as follows: to expand and improve South-South collaboration in the fields of family planning and reproductive health; to strengthen institutional capacity to undertake South-South exchange activities and to rapidly expand the number of South-South training and consultative programs, with particular emphasis on long-term collaborative arrangements; and to provide through PPD’s Secretariat a central point for networking among Partners and for identifying opportunities for South-South exchanges and sources of financial support. These tasks remain as valid today as they were in 1995. However, PPD’s future strategy will focus on establishing specific priorities within each of the program areas, taking into account the experiences gained and the lessons learned in the past ten to twelve years. PPD will also look to develop global conceptual frameworks for its own contribution to capacity building, research and exchange of information - the three major modalities for South-South Cooperation.

4. The time has come to broaden the scope of training and research programs conducted nationally so as to include not only in-country experiences but also relevant experiences and lessons learned from other developing countries. A truly global approach in formulating the content and framework of the training programs will enable participants from a much larger number of countries to benefit from such programs, though special activities focusing on the needs and requirements of individual countries will continue to be a priority. Institutions in developing countries that have the capacity to organize short and medium term training suited to the needs and requirements of officials and program managers from other countries should be identified. Technical and financial assistance to enable them to strengthen their curriculum and faculty should be a continuing priority for PPD as for other agencies involved in promoting South-South Cooperation.
5. In the area of research, the focus should be on promoting inter-country collaborative efforts among research and academic institutions on those topics and themes that have been identified through consultations between researchers and policy makers as being relevant to the operational priorities of South-South co-operation.

6. In the area of exchange of information, the objective should be to bring to the attention of policy makers, program managers and others concerned relevant experiences and lessons learned on a continuing basis using both print and electronic media.

7. Many of the member countries also expect the PPD Secretariat to help raise funds for their regular programs. The experience so far indicates that the Secretariat, given a rather small staff, can be of limited assistance in this regard. Members of the Secretariat may help best by facilitating contacts between potential donors and program countries and recommending qualified consultants. PPD should also work closely with UNFPA country support teams in this regard.

8. Donors should consider including South-South programming in their country aid packages, in line with the recommendations adopted by the General Assembly special session. UNFPA is already encouraging its country representatives to do this. It is to be assumed, in this context, that countries will request the inclusion of such components as appropriate.

   Donors should consider increasing the use of consultants and experts from the South in the project planning stage. Joint consultations between experts from both donor and program countries could also strengthen the implementation of such activities.

9. Continuing international support for Partners in Population and Development as the major South-South initiative (as urged by the 1999 special session of UN General Assembly) is also needed, with the understanding that the member countries will demonstrate their commitment by increasing their own contributions to the core budget of PPD.

In the end, sustained political commitment, strong advocacy, pro-active networking and well-prepared and properly implemented research, training and information exchange programs can become the key elements of an increasingly successful and effective South-South Cooperation. While developing countries that are committed to South-South Cooperation must provide the bulk of the resources required, major donor countries have a key complementary role to play.
The international community should provide both financial and technical support to innovative international and regional efforts in the area of South-South Cooperation and to third country programs that bring together two or more developing countries to work on collaborative projects.

10. Milestones in PPD’s Endeavors

1994  Dr. Haryono Suyono, Minister for Population in Indonesia, at a press conference announces the formation of PPD

1995  The First Board Meeting of PPD held in Harare, Zimbabwe, a board is constituted. The board unanimously decides to locate its Permanent Secretariat in Dhaka, Bangladesh

1996  The Permanent Secretariat is established in Dhaka

The board agrees on annual membership contribution to PPD fixed at US$ 20,000

1997  Prof. Nabiha Gueddema, together with Minister Salauddin Yusuf from Bangladesh formally inaugurates the Permanent Secretariat in Dhaka

1998  The first strategic framework of PPD is developed for promoting South-South Cooperation

PPD’s fellowship program is approved as an innovative modality for accelerated capacity development of professionals from member countries

An NGO Forum with participation of more than 100 NGO representatives meets in parallel sessions to the Board Meeting

1999  PPD develops its first communications strategy

2000  PPD launches its Global Leadership Program which improves the leadership capacity of 892 professionals from 81 developing countries

PPD adopts a statement on Accelerated Access to Reproductive Health Care and Essential Commodities at its Sixth Board Meeting in Beijing

PPD develops and adopts its first five year Strategic Plan
2001 PPD emerges as an autonomous organization separate from UNFPA Administration

KOCHI Declaration. At a technical consultation in Kochi, India, PPD adopts a five year action plan for improved access to high quality and affordable Reproductive Health Commodities

PPD establishes the Visionary Leadership Program

2002 The UN General Assembly confers Permanent Observer Status to PPD with support from over 100 countries and agencies

2003 PPD’s liaison office in the United Nations is established in New York

The Government of Bangladesh accords Diplomatic status to PPD Secretariat

2004 PPD develops a 10 year Strategic Plan

PPD observes South-South Day and its 10th anniversary in Wuhan China

2005 PPD starts networking with generic drug manufacturers in a meeting with the leading manufacturers, held in India

PPD undertakes a study on experiences and lessons learned from South-South Cooperation implementation process including 16 capacity development initiatives in 5 selected countries

2006 PPD opens a program office in Taicang, China, PPD and the Government of China sign a MoU in the areas of capacity building, sharing of expertise, attaining commodity security and supply and technology transfer

Workshop for Senior Officials on Capacity Building in Program Management on Population and Development, Beijing, China

2007 PPD opens a Regional Office in Kampala, Uganda

PPD Africa Regional Office develops its five year Strategic Plan

International Forum on “Universal Access to Reproductive Health for the Attainment of ICPD Goals and MDGs”, Rabat, Morocco

Rabat Declaration is adopted

2008 PPD Secretariat develops a four year Strategic Business Plan

PPD organizes the first International Forum in line with the 15th Anniversary of the
adoption of ICPD to assess the progress in its implementation, Kampala, Uganda

Kampala Declaration adopted

2009  PPD celebrates its 15th Anniversary

Bangladesh donates land for PPD

PPD launches a Policy Dialogue among Parliamentarians and policy makers from Africa and Arab world

5th Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health and Rights, Beijing, China


PPD organizes International Conference on Promoting Family Planning and Maternal Health for Poverty Alleviation, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Yogyakarta Declaration adopted
Chapter 6: Tunisia-Niger Family Planning Initiative; An example of South-South Cooperation

Since its creation in the 1970s, the Tunisian Board of Family Planning has been working to promote social welfare and ensure reproductive health for all citizens. Over the years, the success of the population and reproductive health program brought national and international recognition to the institution. Over the past 30 years, over 1,600 international candidates have been trained in the fields of contraceptive technology, communication for reproductive health and family planning, management of reproductive health programs and research.

Niger has one of the highest population growth rates in the world, around 3.6 per cent, coupled with a fertility index of 8 children per woman. If this rate is maintained, the number of inhabitants will rise to more than 50 million by 2050. Health indicators are a cause for concern: the infant mortality rate is 159 per 1,000 births, maternal mortality in 2000 was 590 per 100,000 live births and about 50 per cent of the children were under-nourished. Faced with these challenges, Niger was in search of a model that was relevant to the local context and that could address the need for quality and regular reproductive health services for the population. The Tunisian model for reproductive health and family planning was identified as easily transferable and adaptable to the Nigerien context.

The Tunisia-Niger Family Planning Initiative had eight specific objectives:

- to ensure reproductive health and family planning services for 80 per cent of the population of Kollo Province in Niger;
- to increase contraceptive prevalence from 1.5 to 10 per cent;
- to increase complete prenatal visits from 10 to 40 per cent;
- to increase medical birth delivery from 5 to 10 per cent;
- to protect 70 per cent of children 0 to 11 months of age through full vaccination coverage;
- to train 100 traditional midwives;
- to ensure that 100 per cent of the health centers could provide urgent obstetrical services; and
- to prevent sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and AIDS.

The project strategy is centered on the transfer and adaptation of operational mechanisms that had proved to be efficient in Tunisia. In particular, it was the experience of addressing similar problems within a similar social, cultural and religious context that made the Tunisian model relevant for Niger.
Activities under the project included health services such as antenatal and post-natal visits, vaccination of children 0-11 months of age, health care and sensitization of pregnant women and women of reproductive age, growth surveillance for children 0-11 months old, contraception prescription, treatment of sexually treated infections and HIV prevention, medically assisted birth delivery, advocacy and sensitization activities.

Sustainability and innovation by the project were observed in three key areas:

- **Education/awareness:** The initiative had a strong communications aspect. Through daily sessions with the population, strong emphasis was put on gender, school enrolment of young girls, late marriage, men’s responsibilities, family size and poverty, and Islam and family planning.

- **Leadership building:** The initiative succeeded in developing leadership commitment for reproductive health/family planning. Within the Ministries of Health and of Population and Social Affairs, a group of senior managers worked on enhancing commitment among political and community leaders.

- **Community involvement:** The communities were involved from the early stages of the project design. Many meetings were held with religious leaders, heads of villages and NGOs. Local leaders were involved in the debate on Islam and family planning and provided strong support to the initiative.

Overall, the project demonstrated the benefits of using a South-South collaboration model to address a culturally sensitive development topic such as family planning.
Chapter 7. Way Forward: South-South Cooperation

Developing countries account for a major proportion of the people in the world, and in the current financial crisis many economists are looking to these developing countries as catalysts for growth in the world’s economy. As the South unites into a single mass, they can voice their opinions and concerns as a large economic, moral, political and social force (Doha, 2005). In this scenario, SSC is well placed to play a pivotal role in the arena of development.

South-South Cooperation is characterized by the principle of “non-interference in internal affairs”. Development assistance committee donors, by contrast, have a tradition of applying conditionality to loans and grants. Both approaches have been criticized from different perspectives: the former for disregarding key social and environmental standards and perspectives beyond the governmental sphere; and the latter for overriding national democratic ownership and priorities by imposing conditions. The final version of the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) recognizes the noninterference principle in the context of South-South cooperation. As a follow-up, there is a need to agree on what the principle of non-interference means in practice and how it relates to widely agreed-upon social and environmental standards and aid effectiveness principles.

The lack of adequate implementation, systematic follow-up and institutional support has been one of the shortfalls of South-South Cooperation. Many ambitious plans of action and promising schemes and ideas remain largely on paper. One of the principal and continuing challenges for the developing countries remains how to make such implementation effective. A regular global overview/report on the state of South-South Cooperation would be an essential tool in the efforts to monitor, energize and promote South-South Cooperation.

The countries in the global South need to have clear national policies and institutional frameworks so that South-South cooperation can operate effectively. This is of greater importance for the countries that seek to benefit from South-South Cooperation. If South-South Cooperation is to have greater impact, beneficiary countries should take leadership in the strategic use of South-South Cooperation, identifying the development models, technical and technological initiatives for which they would want to garner support. The countries in the global South that are seeking
to benefit from South-South Cooperation must conduct their due diligence and identify appropriate South-South Cooperation initiatives that would strengthen their development and poverty reduction plans. The beneficiary country should also allocate resources – manpower and funds – that would enable them to gain maximum return on the cooperation. South-South Cooperation offers a means for recipient countries to control the manner in which they receive aid, but recipient countries must do their own due diligence and be drivers of the process. A focus on demand-driven initiatives as described above will enhance ownership and result in greater impact.

The beneficiary countries should plan for and review their South-South Cooperation initiatives at the strategic level and not just at the operational level. Donor countries also need to reinforce this by taking a stronger line when assessing needs and shaping programs from a strategic point of view. On the beneficiary side, there should be a clear national policy and institutional framework, allocation of budget and annual reviews. There should be clear expectations at the outcome and impact levels, with targets on poverty reduction, gender equality and development. Results should not be limited to short or medium term outputs at the project or program level. South-South Cooperation should promote good practices of transparency and accountability through systems which enhance accountability and transparency.

Nevertheless, there is no accountability and transparency in the absence of participation. Involvement of other stakeholders is key to ensure transparency. Regular public disclosures of programs, finances and human resources allocated to South-South Cooperation would enhance transparency and accountability.

South-South Cooperation should no longer be allowed to be discriminated against, disregarded, under-funded, or shut out from the necessary institutional support in international organizations. Some recent developments, including the establishment of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation and the outcomes of UNCTAD XI which assigned central importance to South-South flows and exchanges, give reason to hope that the situation is changing for the better.

Over the last few years, greater attention has been paid to the benefits of South-South Cooperation in general and for less developed countries (LDCs) in particular. Some developing countries have become important markets, emerging as significant investors in or suppliers of technology, producers of generic medicinal drugs, and providers of technical assistance and financial aid to LDCs. Nevertheless, emerging developing countries should do more for LDCs
through the provision of investment, trade opportunities, technical cooperation and other relevant resources in order to promote poverty reduction and foster sustainable development.

In particular, developing countries—especially China, India and Brazil—can make immense contributions to the weakest members of the global community by gearing policy action in their countries to the special needs of LDCs. By opening more of their markets to LDC exports, cancelling their debts, investing in them over the long term and providing technology transfer and technical assistance, these and other emerging developing countries could make the slogan “trade not aid” a reality for many, if not all, LDCs.

There is no shortage of networks to identify best practices and development innovations on the part of institutions in developing countries, but mechanisms that can effectively facilitate the actual transfer of knowledge from one southern country to another are sorely needed.

The stage is set for SSC, but certain points should be kept in mind:

- The need for a more central role for the South in international economic decision-making is increasingly being recognized. The G20 Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy invited a number of southern leaders to participate in the summit on equal basis. The international community has also begun to recognize that without the contribution of southern countries, the spreading financial and economic crisis cannot be reversed. However, the developing countries must ensure that this initial widening does not lead to another, slightly larger, but still exclusive club.

- A large number of southern countries are still struggling on the margins with enormous development challenges. A challenge for the North, the South and the international community is how to change that situation especially in this time of resource scarcity.

- The full voices of developing countries, including that of the least developed countries and other specially disadvantaged southern countries, must be heard. This is the most pressing issue before the international community. It must remain a key task for South-South Cooperation to ensure fundamental change in the global financial and economic governance structure.

- Best approaches to advance the interests of developing countries are critical. One approach which has emerged is a region-by-region approach to articulate southern views. These could then be synthesized through established mechanisms such as the G-77 and
China and negotiated into global positions. The strength of the larger group still needs to be leveraged.

The demand driven growth currently being experienced by a number of southern countries could help avert a widespread, prolonged and deep recession. This demand driven growth - a matter of great importance for South-South Cooperation – could also help the less advantaged developing countries to remain firmly on the development path.

- An approach which brings practical initiatives together on a regional, inter-regional, or more global basis, where appropriate, could multiply their development impact. There should also be space to bring initiatives together on a triangular basis where collaboration with the North could add critical elements to the South-South Cooperation initiative.

- The input of the South can also be in the form of ideas and experiences. In the late 1990s, East Asian countries, for example, learnt important lessons from the financial and economic crisis that erupted in 1997. Many of these lessons concerned the centrality of getting the balance right between the State and the market, including guarding against excessive and too rapid deregulation and liberalization, especially in the financial sector. Latin American and Sub-Saharan African countries also have lessons to offer on coping with financial crises. Taken together, this represents a rich body of knowledge that the South could contribute to global policy discussions surrounding the current crisis. This knowledge could also be used to further South-South Cooperation.

- In addition to broad economic and financial sector policy, several other sectors hold great potential for South-South Cooperation. These include:
  - Mechanisms for promoting innovative approaches to social investments; these could also facilitate the actual transfer of knowledge from one southern country to another
  - Improving reproductive health, and promoting gender equality
  - Public-private partnerships, especially for more effective delivery of public services as well as development of products for the poor
  - Technologies addressing climate change and disaster mitigation, including biodiversity conservation, and
  - The cultural or creative economy
  - Climate change and disaster risk management.
- Strengthening South-South communication, including media initiatives.

- More innovative thinking on mechanisms for expanding South-South Cooperation is urgently needed. Among other things, the concept of Triangular Cooperation needs to be re-defined to embrace two parallel processes. First, triangular support should promote Northern support for South-South Cooperation endeavors. A second approach should focus on generating new partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society, especially in the context of poverty alleviation and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

- In the context of all this new thinking, both within the UN system and outside, the organizations working to establish and improve South-South Cooperation have a central role to play in programming collaborative activities and promoting the dynamism needed at this time. They have a vital role to play as a policy entrepreneur. They need to develop ideas and guidelines for the expansion of South-South Cooperation at the global, regional and country levels. In order to effectively discharge this responsibility, their capacity needs to be appropriately strengthened.

- The media has a major role to play in shaping, facilitating and promoting South-South Cooperation. Basic communication infrastructure is now available in most countries of the South. There are, therefore, great opportunities to establish networks at the working and systems levels for direct linkages. These should be encouraged and facilitated both by governments and the southern media.

- Action along these lines could take the form of forging a NewGlobal Partnership Compact for South-South Cooperation.

- There has been meaningful South-South action on one aspect of global warming: climate-related natural disasters. This is part of an effort to improve disaster preparedness that began in the 1990s, and it has changed international policy significantly: disaster relief is no longer seen as an *ad hoc* activity, but one that needs to be planned and incorporated into programs for sustainable development. The approach requires South-South Cooperation, for the efficacy of disaster relief is heavily dependent on the speed and appropriateness of delivery. It emphasizes a proactive policy on informing, motivating and involving people in all aspects of disaster risk reduction in their own communities.
It involves learning from past disasters to improve risk-reduction measures. The enabling framework for this approach is provided by the 1994 Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction launched by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council as an inter-agency framework in 2000 (General Assembly resolution 54/219), and by the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.
Chapter 8. Conclusions

Countries in the global South, particularly those that will benefit from South-South Cooperation are largely low income countries. This implies that if the rules of global South development cooperation are not set out clearly, the beneficiary countries may begin to experience unequal relationships and conditions that will not promote the initial aim of South-South Cooperation. It is an accepted fact that throughout the global South, there is an enormous wealth of innovative, successful and scalable development solutions. South-South Cooperation is a win-win situation for the nations involved and it is not a mere add-on to the existing unbalanced development efforts.

South-South Cooperation is a vital force in world economic developments today. India and China, long considered net recipients of aid, are now emerging as net donors, focusing their aid efforts on southern nations. South-South trade is growing at an estimated ten percent annually. U.N. ex-Secretary-General Kofi Annan once noted that over 40% of developing country exports are themselves headed to other developing countries. Some economists predict that economic growth rates in southern countries will outpace those of the North for the next several years - from five to eight percent a year, compared to 2-3% in the north.

This newfound economic power could alter the balance of political power as well. As they grow less dependent upon northern markets for their economic well-being, southern states are emerging with new power and a stronger voice in the international arena. Future agreements on important international and multilateral issues in the areas of trade, environmental protection, and human rights will require broader outreach to achieve true international consensus. Northern nations, accustomed to leading on the international stage, will need to take into account Southern priorities.

SSC promotes closer technical and economic cooperation among developing countries by employing experts from the South, sharing best practices from the South, and helping to develop a sense of ownership of the development process in the South. It also allows developing countries to diversify and expand their development options and economic links and is a powerful tool for building new partnerships, creating more democratic and equitable forms of global interdependence and global governance.
During its participation in South-South and Triangular Cooperation in developing countries, PPD has accumulated experience that can be used to make South-South Cooperation even more effective than it is today. PPD would recommend that the following principles should be adhered to for more effective South-South and Triangular Cooperation among PPD Member Countries.

**First, respect for the members:** No cooperation should be conducted at the cost of sovereignty, interest or dignity of any country. The opinions of both sides should be given equal weight when setting up the framework for a project.

**Second, be pragmatic:** Attention should be paid in such cooperation to combine generally accepted good practices with specific conditions of the member countries to arrive at a tailored solution that meets actual needs. It is important to remember that a “one-size-fits-all” approach often results in solutions that are neither practical nor effective.

**Third, step by step:** Projects should start small and be scaled up, incorporating lessons learned in the next and broader iteration of the project. Bear in mind the proverb “More haste, less speed”.

**Fourth, everyone should use their comparative advantage:** The key to success of South-South and Triangular Cooperation is to let each party do what they are best at. When developed countries are involved in the Triangular Cooperation, their financial strength should be combined with developing countries’ advantages in applicable technologies and their low cost of inputs.

**Fifth, efficiency:** PPD’s efforts to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation should make full use of existing cooperative mechanisms, such as the United Nations development assistance mechanism, to avoid overlaps that waste resources as a result of setting up too many new mechanisms.

In a world of ever-deepening globalization, developing countries should understand that helping other developing countries is helping themselves. PPD is ready to take an active part in South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, and make its contribution to international cooperation to help give less developed countries a stake in their own development and a voice in the international arena.