

# South–South Collaboration and The Imperatives for Globalisation

Tewodros Melesse  
Regional Director,  
International Planned Parenthood Federation  
Africa Region

From choice, a world of possibilities

# Overview of Presentation

I. Perspectives on Globalization

II. Key Trends in Globalization

- Economic
- Socio-cultural
- Technical-legal

III. The Imperative for Globalization

IV. South-South Collaboration and Globalization

# Perspectives on Globalization

## Globalization

The vast changes that have taken place over the past decades in the international economy introduce new dimensions into the international cooperation in general and south–south cooperation in particular.

## Perspectives on Globalization

- A complex series of economic, social, technological, cultural and political changes
- Increasing interdependence, integration and interaction between people, organizations and countries

# The Emotions of Globalization

Is globalization a positive engine of growth and prosperity or is it an engine of turbulent change? Globalization has its roots in the old imperial wars, colonization and cold war. Current institutions and instruments designed to address globalizations are inherited from this history.

# Globalization: Economics and Beyond

## ■ Economic Globalization

- Increase in international trade: Imbalance and inequity
- Increase in international capital flows and out flows
- Development of global financial systems, but to whose advantage?
- Creation of global international agreements, institutions and instruments: Power of negotiations

# Globalization: Economics and Beyond

- Development, Socio-Cultural Globalization
  - International development co-operation Who defines the parameters of cooperation?
  - International cultural exchange or domination?
  - Global social and cultural movements and events

# Globalization: Economics and Beyond

- Technical/Legal:
  - Global telecommunications infrastructure
  - Global copyright and patent laws
  - Global legal systems e.g. the International Criminal Court

# The Imperative for Globalization

- Trends from globalization from the early 1980s have shown that
  - Developing countries exports are earning less and less for their products
  - Increased poverty, trade imbalance and wider gap in incomes
  - Increased economic growth
  - But the benefits are unevenly distributed

# The Imperative for South–South Cooperation

- Globalization is here to stay
- The imperative for a “South–to–South” renaissance
- Common social and economic challenges
- Focus on human and social development
- Similar goals in international trade negotiations
- Driven by individual countries as opposed to multi–lateral agencies

# Enhancing South to South Cooperation in the Context of Globalization

- Creating synergies in development approaches
- Synchronizing development approaches such as the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), African Renaissance and other South Initiatives is critical.
- More interdependence, more cooperation and collaboration but continued need for robust institutional frameworks
- Developing common approaches and agendas for international agreements
- To have a common approach for the UN Reform is critical
- To have strong institutions and economic base is an imperative to be heard

# The Agenda for Action

- Adopting and implementing a strong and enabling policy framework for South–South cooperation
- Ensure that the South has fair and equitable voice and representation at international organizations
- Strengthen the role of international organizations, bi–lateral agencies and others for an enabling environment for South–South cooperation
- Reinforce capacity building for better South–South cooperation

## The Agenda for Action (cont..)

- Strengthen country frameworks for democracy, good governance and accountability: Defining common and shared parameters for these is challenging and important
- Identifying platforms to articulate common issues for human development
- Ensuring equity, equality and dialogue within South to South collaboration
- Avoiding the challenges/inequities of North–South collaboration efforts