

Concept Note

Enhancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation: “Institutional Arrangement for Effective Development and Monitoring”

2017 Round Table Implementation Meeting (RTIM) Pre-consultation
7th November 2017, Conference Hall Level 6
Ministry of Planning and Investment

1. Introduction

- The 2017 Round Table Implementation Meeting (2017 RTIM) organised towards the end of November 2017 will feature **a dedicated panel discussion and a plenary policy dialogue** on enhancing south-south and triangular cooperation: institutional arrangement for effective development and monitoring. At global level, the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation provides **key recommendations** to accelerate support to special aspects of south-south cooperation that have the greatest potential to contribute to meeting various targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Please refer to Annex 1 of this note for measures to harness South-South Cooperation as stated by the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation. At the same time, commitments made in Busan, Mexico and Kenya during the global high level conferences on partnerships for effective development cooperation have also been calling for greater engagement of south-south partners for effectiveness of development cooperation.
- At the country level, the Vientiane Partnership Declaration and its Country Action Plan 2016–2025 (VDCAP II), endorsed by over 30 partners under the Round Table Process in 2015 and 2016 respectively, promote the **principles of development effectiveness** in alignment with the Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and **give special importance to south-south and triangular cooperation**, which are identified as essential for progress towards the achievement of the National Social Economic Development Plan (NSED) and the SDGs.
- While the Vientiane Declaration and its Country Action Plan call for enhanced and enriched engagement of south-south partners for greater assistance, accountability and technical exchange. Although south-south cooperation in Lao PDR, particularly, operated on bilateral basis, has been established since the early 1970s, there is no concrete framework and mechanism in place to guide how the cooperation and monitoring mechanism could happen systematically. Towards 2025, the VDCAP II highlights that over the time, the profile of the development partnership with south-south partners will have clear coordination and reporting mechanism. Therefore, **over the longer term**, the Government **intends to develop a formal framework for South-South and Triangular Cooperation** to transition from ad-hoc South-South and Triangular Cooperation exchanges to a more systematic identification of opportunities and exchange, through a start-up mechanism for coordinating and monitoring. To help **identify practical actions and develop key messages** to be conveyed by the Government and development partners at **the panel discussion and plenary policy dialogue during the 2017 RTIM**, the pre-consultation will be **led by**:
 - Ministry of Planning and Investment (with theme on project/program coordination, management and monitoring);
 - With technical support from some key development partners who have been actively involved in the topic and were consulted during the finalization of the 2017 RTIM guidance note such as: Japan, UNDP, UN RC and UNOSSC.
 - With lead facilitation support by TBC

2. Objectives

- Come up with recommendations for a policy and institutional framework for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.
- Identify of inspired south/south co-operation initiatives that fit with the priority themes of the RTIM.
- Develop a set of policy recommendations and potential support on south-south and triangular cooperation to be conveyed at the RTIM and further activities and way forward.
- Identify further linkages between south-south cooperation initiatives and the Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

3. Date and Venue: 7th November 2017, Conference Hall (Level 6), Ministry of Planning and Investment

Provisional agenda

- 08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**
- 09:00 – 09:10 **Opening remarks – Chair of the Meeting**
H.E. Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment
- 09:10 – 09:40 **Main presentation – Enhancing South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation: “Institutional Arrangement for Effective Development and Monitoring”**
By Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment
- 09:40 – 10:00 **“Global Overview of South-South Cooperation and Triangular and How This Could be Applied in Lao PDR”**
Ms. Sirithon Wairatpanij, Advocacy Advisor, Asia-Pacific Regional Office
United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
- 10:00 – 10:30 **Comments and interventions (five minutes each)**
1. National perspective (TBC) – Ministry of Education and Sport
 2. Regional perspective 1 (TBC) – Japan
 3. Regional perspective 2 (TBC) – Thailand
 4. Global perspective (TBC) – United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
- 10:30 – 10:45 **Coffee Break**
- 10:45 – 11:50 **Open Discussions**
- 11:50 – 12:00 **Wrap-up and Closing remarks – Chair of the Meeting**
H.E. Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment

Annex 1

Key recommendations by the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation (2016)

There have been broad and significant advances towards the institutional and capacity-building goals of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy and the Nairobi outcome document. Since the findings in the present report reaffirm that South-South and triangular alliances currently form an important complementary part of the global partnership for sustainable development, members of the United Nations system should, within their respective competencies and mandates, accelerate support to specific aspects of South-South cooperation that have the greatest potential to contribute to meeting various targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. Measures to harness South-South cooperation to this end would, inter alia, require:

- (a) **Strategic action** on the part of South-South and triangular partnerships to meet the transnational challenges of climate change, energy, health and food deficits by, among other things, making **optimal use of the new information and communication technologies** to bridge knowledge gaps and to build broad awareness of remedial policies and technologies that should be widely shared across the South through the Technology Facilitation Mechanism;
- (b) **Effective implementation** of the increasing number of **subregional, regional and interregional South-South frameworks**, particularly those focused on **strategic initiatives** such as the provision of transport, communication, and energy infrastructure, as well as coordinated policies to bolster agricultural productivity, flows of South-South trade, investment and technology transfer in addition to the application of science, technology and innovation to development, including the acceleration of industrialization in Africa;
- (c) **Establishment or strengthening of institutions** to improve access to essential goods and services in the global South through robust South-South and triangular coalitions, as exemplified by the recent launch of the New Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and similar entities that should complement existing institutional arrangements to help meet various targets of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (d) **Identification of challenges** particular to the developing world and **taking of remedial collective action** to address them via South-South alliances, such as the efforts of BRICS countries to concertedly address neglected or communicable diseases and to improve access to high-quality education;
- (e) **South-South peer learning** advanced through effective mapping and sharing of Southern development solutions such as the policies that have proven to work in reducing poverty and socioeconomic inequalities; and
- (f) **Periodic assessment of the development impact** of South-South cooperation and the setting of its future direction that should be publicized at key milestones, such as the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in 2018.