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**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION *AS AN ACCELERATION TOOL FOR
ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS***

21-23 February 2017, Cotonou (Republic of Benin)

CONCEPT NOTE

November 2016



I. Background and justification

South-South and triangular cooperation offer the potential for developing countries to transform their policies and approaches to development by providing solutions which are effective within the local context and are adapted to each country.

African countries are searching for solutions to evolve from being raw materials suppliers and importers of finished products. In the context of globalization, they must demonstrate the ability to promote new forms of development, so that economic relations with emerging countries ensure that other challenges such as climate change, energy and the environment are addressed.

The global new development partnerships require exchange of knowledge and development solutions between all countries, regardless of their stage of development. This provides a forum for partners who share the same principles and whose commitments are clearly set. This new space allows the players involved to work together to achieve tangible development results, exploring complementarities and improving the transparency and responsibility of local participants in these national processes.

It is within this dynamic that, in November 2012, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Government of Japan and United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) launched the project “Capacity Development in Management of South-South and Triangular Cooperation” aiming to strength the capacities in order to improve the management quality and financial assistance for South-South cooperation programmes.

Despite this initiative and others in capacity strengthening, there is a strong perception that a lack of instruments for the management of South-South and triangular cooperation in African countries in general and especially those in Africa South of the Sahara exists.

In Benin, the Centre of Partnership and Expertise for Sustainable Development (CePED) is still challenged to mobilize all national participants for the elaboration and implementation South-South and triangular cooperation projects and programmes despite its experience in the field and best efforts.

Indeed, from 2008 to 2011, Benin, Costa Rica and Bhutan implemented a Programme for South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development among those three countries executed by CePED. This program, financed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands, enabled the implementation of 19 projects in 34 municipalities in 12 departments in Benin. This programme ended in 2011. Moreover, from 2008 to now, CePED has always participated,

alongside the other countries of the South, in fora such as the Global South-South Development Expo and activities under the ABC/UNOSSC/JICA capacity development project activities.

In October 2016, CePED participated in the technical visit organized by the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) on its experience in formulating a development law, mobilising federal institutions and also developing systems for delivery of development cooperation. It was clear from the presentations that while a lot of progress has taken place in Latin America, this is not the case in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Following this participation, Benin, through the Ministry of Planning and Development, requested UNOSSC and other partners to afford African countries in general and Benin, in particular, to strengthen its partnership in South-South cooperation. CePED proposed to organize an inter-regional workshop entitled South-South and Triangular Cooperation as Acceleration Tools for Sustainable Development in the West African Region.

II. Workshop Objectives

The objective of this workshop is primarily for African countries to exchange their experiences and further exchange knowledge with other countries and intergovernmental organisations from other regions, particularly on how they have organised capacity development in management of South-South cooperation as acceleration tools towards achieving the sustainable development goals.

Specifically, Benin will do the following:

- Invite countries in the West African region to constitute the core of the meeting;
- Invite selected countries and intergovernmental organisations from Latin America and Asia to broaden the knowledge exchange;
- Invite countries from Latin America and Asia which have already set the cooperation frameworks and tools for the management of South-South and triangular cooperation; and
- Invite technical and financial partners to participate in the exchange.

III. Expected results

After the workshop, the following results are expected:

- Sub-Saharan countries have the interest and knowledge to develop the tools for the management of project and programs of South-South and triangular cooperation;
- The African countries have networking promoting hubs for the exchange of knowledge;
- Technical and financial partners' awareness to the needs of African countries increases;
- Similar consultations carried out in East and Southern Africa by countries that participate in the Benin workshop; and
- Progress on designing data management for South-South and triangular cooperation.

IV. Methodology

Participants will be asked to present papers in different categories. Meeting will probably be divided into four segments.

The meeting will be designed, so that there will be a lot of time for discussion.

The working language will be French with translation into English and Spanish.

An outcome document will be published out of this meeting.

V. Date and place

The workshop will be held from 21 to 23 February 2017 in Cotonou (Benin Republic).

VI. Criteria for selection of participants

Maximum of 25 countries and regional institutions are expected to attend this technical workshop.

The participants will be the Directors who are the focal points of the agencies in charge of the management of South-South cooperation. Travel cost, accommodation and per diem will be provided for LDC participants. Per diem and accommodation will be provided for middle-income country participants.

Based on the application form and submission of documents, the selection of participants will be conducted.

VII. Proposed Organisers and Invitees

Organizers

- Centre of Partnership and Expertise for Sustainable Development (CePED), Benin;
- United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC);
- UNDP Country Office in Benin; and
- Other UN Agencies

Invited countries

Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo

Arab States: Algeria, Bahrain, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia

Asia and the Pacific: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Viet Nam

Europe and the CIS: Kazakhstan

Latin America and the Caribbean: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico

Invited intergovernmental or regional organisations

- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);
- East African Community;
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA);
- New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD);
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA);
- Ibero-American Program of strengthening South-South cooperation (PIFCSS) and other partners.

VIII. Budget and source of financing of workshop

The total budget of this workshop will be met with resources from the Government of Benin, UNOSSC and participating countries.