

Going Far & Fast, Together: Key Outcomes from Side-Event on Scaling Innovations in Public Service Delivery at the 71st UN General Assembly in New York

The stage of development in terms of public service innovation that Bangladesh has attained could have been achieved much faster and using far less resources if there was a collaborative south-south and triangular cooperation network focused on empowering southern countries to identify vital innovations and scale novel solutions to public service challenges. The expectation therefore is that countries facing common thematic challenges and seeking to achieve similar strategic goals – such as the SDGs – can make faster progress through shared learning and experiences.

On 20 September 2016, a2i, UNDP and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) convened a high-level meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Scaling up Innovations in Public Service Delivery on the sidelines of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly at the United Nations headquarters. Respected heads of states and governments from Bangladesh and Sweden, ministers from Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Maldives, and the Netherlands, and the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the UN in NY highlighted cases of innovations in respective countries that could be adopted in other countries.

Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina proposed the need for a collaborative network to share these good practices and find ways to adopt them in other countries. Heads of UNDP, ITU, UNCDF, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation and UNOSSC endorsed the concept of a global collaborative network that would focus exclusively on identifying innovative practices on making governments more effective, transparent, accountable and citizen-centered and proliferating these practices globally.