

IBSA International Conference on South-South Cooperation

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MGNREGA –Day Care center
(Photo Anita Amorim)

“South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy adopted in the Governing Body: 22 March 2012”

The Programme and Budget for 2012-2013, adopted by the ILC in 2011, places particular emphasis on SSTC as a means of achieving the Organization's objectives. The 2009 Nairobi outcome document, endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2010, calls for horizontal cooperation in the social, economic, environmental and political fronts. The ILO has taken this further to promote the Decent Work Agenda, while enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation and solidarity between nations (GB.313/POL/7).

The ILO Governing Body adopted on 22 March 2012 an ILO SSTC strategy . Its first outcome will allow the ILO to have greater institutional capacity to identify and implement SSTC, with a view to establishing and implementing an initiative on SSTC. Secondly, it envisages that the Decent Work Agenda is advanced through SSTC with the engagement of an increasing number of governments, social partners, UN agencies and non-state actors. The Governing Body also requested the outcome indicators of this strategy to be reviewed in November 2012.

Innovations in Public Employment Programmes and Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

IBSA International Conference on South-South Cooperation

IBSA, the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) trilateral development initiative, has been a major driver of South-South cooperation and exchange. The bridges between IBSA and the ILO were paved in the 4th summit of Heads of States and Government. On 15 April 2010, IBSA leaders reiterated the need to promote a job-intensive-recovery and create a sustainable growth.

On 1-3 March 2012 the Government of India hosted and organized a high-level conference on the role of South-South Cooperation in promoting employment and decent work through public employment programmes and other innovation schemes. The Conference aimed at building capacity and facilitating sharing of knowledge among the developing countries. It attracted some 40 high level delegates, from 22 countries, including 10 ministers.

India's own experience is setting the path: the country has enjoyed steady growth, contributing to global dynamism while the world was threatened by economic and financial downturn. This trend has, however, not been matched by a parallel growth in employment (see the 2012 GET report).

In this context, India has taken a number of steps to ensure quality employment and the extension of social security to the unorganized sector. The flagship Mahatma National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) assures 100 days of guaranteed employment for rural households. India supports the idea of a social protection floor. It has made skills development a major national priority for youth. A coordinated plan has been framed with a target of 500 million skilled persons by 2022.

MGNREGA changed the lives of rural communities : “through wages, employment and income security

for rural households. The scheme has contributed directly to livelihood security of the poor and vulnerable groups, in particular women. It has acted as a wage floor in rural parts of India, has helped increase average wage rates for agricultural daily labour, and generated work for over 54 million rural households across the country in 2010-2011 (Address by Dr Sachiko Yamamoto, Director, ILO Regional Office Bangkok). Two programmes similar in scope were also highlighted: Brazil's Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (Bolsa Familia) was introduced by HE Carlos Sobral Duarte (Ambassador of Brazil to India); and South Africa's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and Community Works Programme was introduced by Dr Kate Philip.

Three thematic sessions allowed for wider knowledge sharing: training for mass employment generation and poverty alleviation with experience from South Africa, Ethiopia and India; asset creation, green jobs and climate change with projects from Nepal, Indonesia and India; and income security and decent working conditions, with experience from Cambodia, India and South Africa.

The recommendations adopted at the end of the Conference encouraged partners from the South, and among them IBSA countries, (1) to further develop and promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation to implement the Decent Work Agenda; (2) to enhance policy dialogue and exchanges between IBSA, all countries of the South and the ILO; (3) to ensure better appreciation of policy issues relevant to public employment programmes, employment guarantees, green jobs and other innovative social schemes; (4) to provide and obtain guidance on the design of effective policies and exchange these experiences among countries of the South; and (5) to support and work with ILO's South-South and Triangular Cooperation Initiative to foster greater solidarity and enhance equality among countries and peoples in the world of work.

Concluding the two-day conference, José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs (ILO Executive Director, Employment Sector), emphasized the crucial role to be played by SSC and SSTC in the field of employment and decent work. He encouraged greater institutional coordination and increased use of appropriate technologies. He also reiterated ILO support for knowledge sharing through SSC and SSTC.

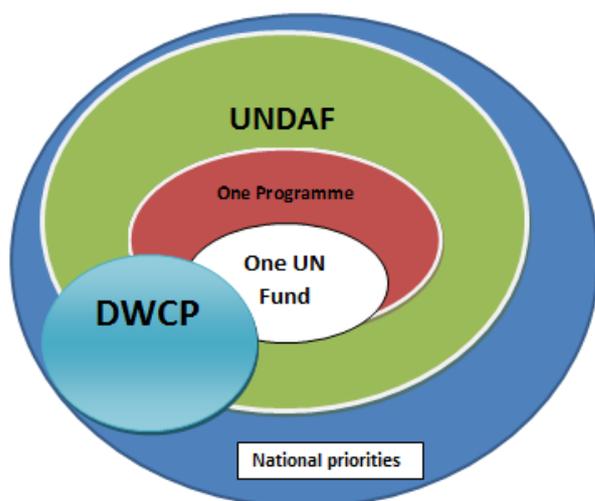
ILO engagement in 'One UN' operational activities and UN funding opportunities



The ILO's engagement in the operational activities of the United Nations system contributes to an increased effort for system-wide coherence. Through its participation in UN coordination processes, the ILO has gained better access to financial resources for enhancing the quality and impact of its technical support in a number of countries. Participation in certain key UN entities has helped to strengthen partnerships and the articulation of the Decent Work Agenda with UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), 'Delivering as One' initiatives and UN joint programmes.

UN programming and funding opportunities for the ILO

Some 66 contributors/development partners, ranging from bilateral donors to private sector enterprises, have committed, for the period 2009 to 2015, significant financial resources for UN system programmes. There are 48 UN Multi-Partner Trust Funds with US\$ 5.8 billion; (ii) 29 Joint Programmes with US\$233 million; and (iii) the National Yasuni ITT Trust Fund with US\$ 3.4 million. The MPTF Office of the UNDP is the Administrative Agent (AA) of all these funds.



Between 2004, starting with the Iraq Trust Fund, and February 2012, US\$ 101.5 million was approved for ILO technical cooperation. Of that amount, US\$ 95.8 was transferred to the ILO, which has been the lead agency for delivery of some joint programmes and has participated with other UN agencies in delivering others.

The experience with DaO pilot countries and UNDAF rollouts in 2010 has strengthened the alignment of ILO Decent Work Country Programmes with UN frameworks and enhanced cooperation with other agencies and national implementing partners. The ILO has benefited from these 'One UN' funding mechanisms. This has been particularly advantageous in some countries where there is no ILO office and where UNDAFs, and/or 'One UN' programmes include priority areas for the ILO's constituents. (taken from a note to ILO Governing Body on ***ILO engagement in One UN operational activities and UN funding***)

On 22 March the ILO Governing body discussed two critical documents: a South-South strategy for the ILO; and the "Regional perspectives on technical cooperation, the African region". It endorsed a resource mobilization strategy for Africa.

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