



Concept Note

The Power of South-South Cooperation to Strengthen Multilateralism: A Roadmap for Reform on the Road to the 75th anniversary of the United Nations

Proposed Side Event during the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40 Conference) March 20th to 22nd – Buenos Aires, Argentina

This side event is a joint proposal of the following co-sponsors:

- Uruguay
- Republic of Uganda
- WFM-IGP
- CIVICUS
- Igarapé Institute
- The Stimson Centre
- Workable World Trust
- Fundación Friedrich Ebert – FES Argentina (TBC)

Format of the event: Panel discussion, Q&A to follow

Description of the event

The year 2020 will mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. With this milestone fast approaching there is a widely shared sense that the sustainability of a rules-based international order cannot be taken for granted and that multilateralism is under increasing threat. At the UN General Assembly last fall, world leaders and others repeatedly underscored the critical need of robust UN reform measures in order for the threats to multilateralism to be averted.

According to UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin, South-South and triangular cooperation are widely seen as contributing to a "new multilateralism" and driving "the revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development." South-South cooperation is also integral to the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to the 2030 Agenda, major frameworks such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Agenda for Humanity and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction have all highlighted the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in order for these agendas to be implemented. As the role of South-South cooperation continues to grow there is a need for institutional innovation to match this expansion. This side event represents an opportunity to address a range of structural shortcomings characteristic of our present system of global governance.



Over the last two years, a growing group of CSOs have facilitated discussions with many member states, secretariat officials and broader civil society networks on the need for a successful, well prepared 75th anniversary commemoration for the UN in 2020. The [UN2020](#) initiative drives these discussions, believing that this is an opportunity for a meaningful process of stocktaking, review and strengthening of the UN.

In line with the overarching theme of the Conference - *“Role of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: challenges and opportunities”* - participants at this side event will discuss how to further develop synergies and linkages between the different ongoing UN processes encompassing UN reform, climate justice, peace, human rights and sustainable development in the run-up to the expected September 2020 Leaders Summit.

Noting the aspiration of the General Assembly that this Conference will formalize and link South-South cooperation to the international development architecture, panelists representing UN missions, agencies and civil society organizations will be invited to lead a discussion on how best to expand South-South cooperation to achieve a people-centered multilateralism and use the opportunity of the UN's 75th anniversary to further develop progressive improvements to global institutions and policy, through a Summit dedicated for this purpose.

In order to fulfill the SDGs' pledge to leave no one behind, there is a need to maximize cooperation, to learn from what has been accomplished and build upon the lessons learned over the 40 years since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Action Plan.

As the conference intends to identify new opportunities in South-South cooperation, this side event will explore its potential contributions to the process of review and renewal of the United Nations system.

Proposed panelists

- H.E. Mr. Adonia Ayebare, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations and co-facilitator for High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation
- Representative of Uruguay at High level Conference
- Dr. Adriana Abdenur, Coordinator of the Peace & Security Division, Igarapé Institute
- Florencia Gor, UN2020 Representative and WFM Congress Chair