



University  
for Peace



## **Side Event to the 24<sup>th</sup> Session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development**

### **Good Practices in Operationalising the Right to Development in South-South Cooperation**

Organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)  
and the University for Peace (UPEACE)

**Thursday 18 May 2023  
13:30 – 15:00 hours CET  
Room XXIV, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland  
(Hybrid format)**

#### **Background**

The 1986 United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development (DRTD) enshrines development as a universal and inalienable human right of all individuals and peoples in all nations, to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development. The Right to Development (RTD) envisions a development discourse, process and practice aimed at the constant improvement of human well-being of everyone, everywhere. It makes development itself a human right and requires full respect, protection, and fulfilment of all human rights in the development process. The transformative vision of the DRTD calls for a holistic paradigm to improve the human condition, through an enabling environment for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development free of all obstacles at all levels, while advancing all human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political, and social. The human rights conception of this development model requires people's free, active, and meaningful participation in development, and fair distribution of its benefits, both locally and globally.

The RTD is based on the fundamental premise that development can only be realised through cooperation and solidarity among States. International cooperation is a vital means of implementation of all the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Among different streams of development cooperation, South-South Cooperation has a rich

legacy of realising demand driven development for the South and by the South. The principles of SSC, such as respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, partnership among equals, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs, and mutual benefit, have developed organically over time through the consistent practices of countries in the Global South that manifest their shared histories and expressions of solidarity. The related practice of Triangular Cooperation (TC) takes place when a Northern country or an International Institution funds cooperation among two developing countries.

These principles are also reflected in the normative framework of the RTD which rejects the lens of development as charity or privilege and recognises instead that self-determined development is a right of all human beings and peoples, the realisation of which requires international cooperation and solidarity. These complementarities make SSC and the RTD natural partners with a mutually reinforcing relationship. While effective SSC can undoubtedly help realise the RTD of individuals and peoples in partner countries, an appropriate operationalisation of the normative framework of the RTD in the planning, programming and implementation of SSC can also help ensure its success.

To explore the mutually reinforcing relationship between SSC and RTD, the University for Peace, in collaboration with OHCHR, conducted an initial analysis based on three case studies:

- a. India's healthcare and communication related resilient and sustainable restoration of public infrastructure project in Antigua and Barbuda. This completed project worth USD 1 million has been carried out under the aegis of the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund (India-UN Fund).
- b. South Africa's agriculture related resilient and sustainable genesis of production and commercialisation project in the Comoros Islands. This project worth USD 1.8 million has completed its first phase and is part of the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund).
- c. Brazil's water sanitation and hygiene related resilient and sustainable restoration and construction of public infrastructure project in Angola (metropolitan area of Luanda and city of Viana). This project worth USD 1 million is part of Brazil's Triangular South-South Cooperation / Trilateral Cooperation (TSSC), with support from UNICEF, and is being funded by the IBSA Fund.

### **Objectives:**

- To discuss what and how the operational principles and practices of SSC can contribute to the wider debate around international cooperation for realising human rights
- Using case studies on transformative development projects, to consider how good practices in SSC can help to realise RTD and promote a dialogue on SSC and RTD
- To reflect on how the normative principles of the RTD can be operationalised in the policy and practice of SSC, share experiences, good practices and lessons learned
- To explore how the mutually reinforcing relationship of the RTD and SSC can contribute to realising human rights and sustainable development including the SDGs.

### **Format**

This hybrid side event will be moderated, with interventions from thematic experts and representatives of partnering States on issues which cut across the RTD and SSC. The discussion will share findings so far of this ongoing study on SSC and RTD and invite

participants to engage in a constructive dialogue with a view to sharing experiences, lessons learned and good practices in this intersecting area. This is intended to encourage a process of collecting, compiling and sharing good practices in a mutually reinforcing manner, towards strengthening implementation of both the RTD and SSC frameworks in practice.

**Moderator: Ms. Shyami Puvimanasinghe**, Human Rights Officer, Right to Development Section, OHCHR, Geneva

### **Presentation of the study**

**Mr. Pratyush Sharma**, Ph.D. candidate at UPEACE and lead researcher, UPEACE-OHCHR study on *Good Practices in Operationalising the Right to Development in South-South Cooperation* with the guidance of **Dr. Mihir Kanade**, Head of the Department of International Law and Director of the Human Rights Centre at UPEACE; Assistant Professor in Global Studies at Amrita University, Kerala, India; and Consultant for G-20

### **Discussants**

**H.E. Ms. Priyanka Chauhan**, Ambassador & Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of India to the United Nations Office in Geneva

**Mr. Zachary Phillips**, Crown Counsel at the Attorney-General's Chambers in Antigua and Barbuda

**Dr. George Chirima**, Research Team Manager, Agricultural Research Council, South Africa

**Mr. Saand Youssef Ahmed Abdallah**, Energy and Environment Expert, UNDP-Comoros

**Mr. Benhur Peruch Viana**, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations Office in Geneva

**Mr. Edson Monteiro**, Wash Project Officer, UNICEF, Angola

**Ms. Yuefen Li**, Senior Advisor on South-South Cooperation and Development Finance, The South Centre, Geneva

### **Participants**

Member States, UN agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia, human rights advocates, development practitioners and other relevant stakeholders.

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