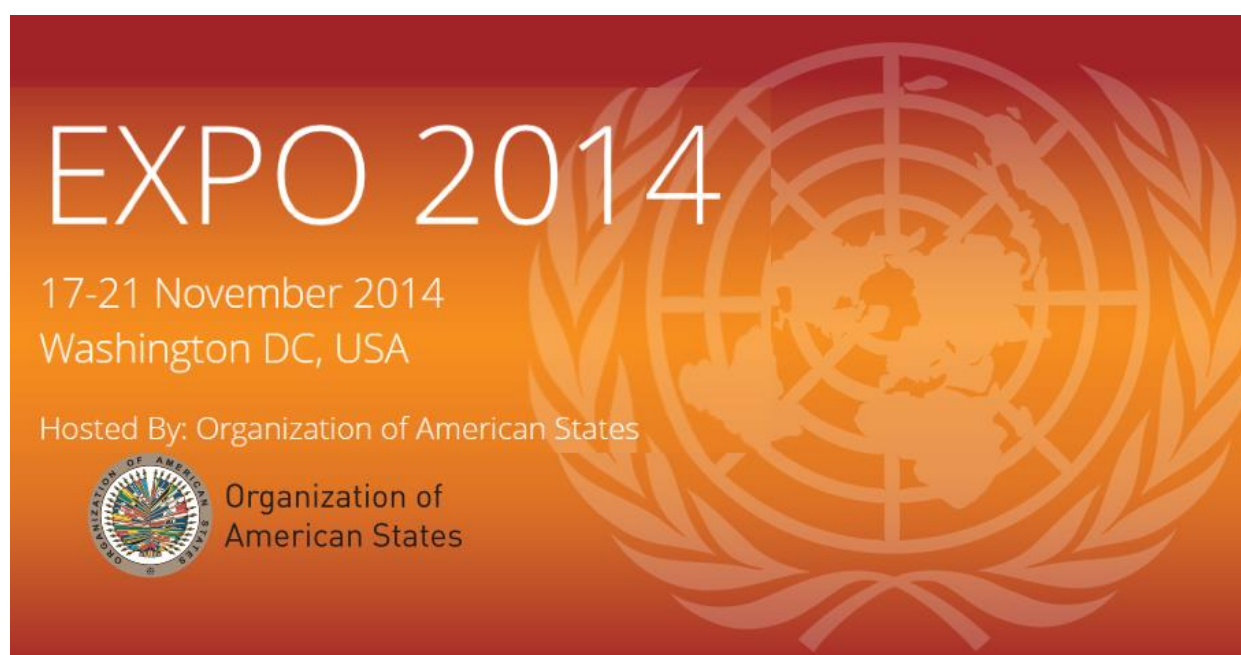

Global South-South Development Expo 2014

Washington, DC, 17-21 November 2014

ILO Solution Forum: South-South cooperation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Decent work solutions

19 November 2014, 09:00-10:30, OAS, Washington DC



Report on the Proceedings

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I. Introduction

The **Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo** is the United Nations' annual high-level forum for the promotion of South-South Cooperation between UN agencies, constituents and partners. The GSSD 2014 brought together representatives of governments, workers, employers, civil society organizations, and academia to present development solutions to tackle current international development challenges. Participants shared good practices in different countries and contexts where local actors had received support to develop and implement effective policies for sustainable development. The event opened a wide range of opportunities for networking and building partnerships to make it possible to replicate such initiatives from the Global South.

II. ILO Solution Forum

In the framework of GSSD 2014, the ILO organized a Solution Forum aimed at presenting and disseminating South-South and triangular development solutions identified as good practices. This year the overarching themes of the [ILO Solution Forum](#) were social protection, social and solidarity economy, combating child labour, social dialogue and fragile-to-fragile cooperation. The themes were organized in four segments, as follows.

1. Launch of the publication *Global South-South Development Expos: Decent Work Solutions (2010-2013)*

The first segment was devoted to the launch of the ILO-UNOSSC joint publication [Global South-South Development Expos: Decent Work Solutions \(2010-2013\)](#). It was moderated by Ms Anita Amorim, Head of the ILO Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit, who highlighted the importance of joining efforts to advance the Decent Work Agenda through the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation. The UNOSSC was a key partner for the ILO.

Mr Yiping Zhou, Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation, stressed that the UNOSSC and the ILO had collaborated actively in joint activities and been solid partners in the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation. The ILO and the UNOSSC joined forces to organize Solution Forums aimed at promoting a series of South-South development exchanges, placing particular emphasis on issues related to the world of work. In the post-2015 development framework South-South exchanges would continue to be scaled up, and the close

collaboration between the UNOSSC and the ILO would be of the utmost importance to promote development cooperation, including horizontal knowledge transfers and social justice. The joint publication was the result of constant support to South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and addressed the need to scale up the initiatives showcased during previous GSSD Expos.

Mr Jürgen Schwettmann, Director of the ILO Department of Partnerships and Field Support, emphasized that a commitment to promoting South-South and triangular cooperation was made in the strategy adopted by the ILO Governing Body in March 2012, entitled “South-South and triangular cooperation: the way forward”.¹ The ILO strongly believed in South-South and triangular cooperation as a path to efficient solutions to development challenges. The ILO had been an active participant in the GSSD Expos since 2009, having hosted the 2010 edition at its headquarters in Geneva. Close collaboration between the ILO and the UNOSSC was highly valued. As a result of that collaboration, the joint initiative on “South-South and triangular cooperation – Implementation of gender sensitive Social Protection Floors at country level” had been successfully implemented.

Mr Schwettmann also stressed that the joint ILO-UNOSSC publication was a response to the objective of the 2014 Expo to scale up solutions presented over the history of such expos. It had an inspirational value, giving visibility to southern solutions in the world of work and making them accessible to different countries.



Book launch: Yiping Zhou, Jürgen Schwettmann, Helder da Costa and Ben Quinones

¹ http://www.ilo.org/gb/GBSessions/GB313/pol/WCMS_172577/lang--en/index.htm

2. South-South and triangular cooperation and Follow-up to the III Global Conference on Child Labour, leading to the Regional Initiative: “Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour by 2020”

The second segment was moderated by Ms Anita Amorim, who described current efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean to eradicate child labour through South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC), building on experience and solutions already existing in the region.

Ms Paula Montagner, Deputy Secretary at the Ministry of Social Development of Brazil, presented the outcomes of the III Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brazil in October 2013.² One of the most important political results of the Conference was the “Brasilia Declaration”³ which:

- acknowledged the progress made
- renewed the commitment towards the goal for 2016
- noted that the violation of rights cannot be used as a trade advantage
- reinforced the need to accelerate the pace of elimination
- acknowledged the role of governments, decent work policies and cooperation
- brought attention to the concept of sustained eradication of child labour
- emphasized the need for appropriate legal and institutional frameworks
- highlighted the importance of accurate and disaggregated statistics
- pointed the way to the next conference to be held in Argentina in 2017.

Ms Montagner highlighted another important result of the conference, the *Declaration by adolescents participating in the Conference*, an appeal to all countries to ratify the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) by the next Conference in 2017. Several important needs were emphasized in the Declaration:

- strengthen public policies aimed at child labour, with special attention to agriculture and domestic child labour
- broaden income transfer programmes to eradicate poverty
- establish governments’ commitment to integral education, vocational training, culture, sports, and leisure



Maria Carmen Velasco, Ecuador, Paula Montagner, Brazil, Yiping Zhou, UNOSSC, Jürgen Schwettmann, ILO

² <http://childlabour2013.org/>

³ <http://childlabour2013.org/the-brasilia-declaration-on-child-labour/>

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- integrate education, healthcare and social assistance policies to identify child labour and other violations of rights
 - ensure the participation of children and adolescents in the policy decision-making processes.

Among the follow-up actions of the III Global Conference was the consolidation of the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour by 2020, which aimed to accelerate the pace of elimination of child labour in the region. Its impact would be enhanced through a joint approach by multiple countries sharing experience, practices and common interests. In addition, it encouraged an attitude change and promoted institutional strengthening among the participating countries.

Employers' Network to Eradicate Child Labour in Ecuador

Ms Maria Velasco, Manager of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Labour's Programme on the Eradication of Child Labour, presented the public-private initiative of an Employers' network to eliminate child labour in Ecuador. Its main objective was to promote joint work between the Government, the private sector and civil society in order to eliminate child labour in Ecuador by 2020, the time-frame set in the Regional Initiative.

This involved a public-private partnership whereby companies undertook to develop corporate policies based on zero tolerance of child labour, with the primary objective of transferring these policies to their value chain by implementing a CSR model based on Key Project Indicators (KPIs) related to the prevention and elimination of child labour. It was launched in July 2012 by the Ministry of Labour with the sponsorship of UNICEF, support from the ILO, and the commitment of 28 private companies. The initiative had been recognized as a good practice in the region, but Ms Velasco emphasized that successful PPPs had to be accompanied by strong political will, commitment from all parties, joint work and relations based on trust.

Among the key achievements of this Ecuadorian initiative, the representative of the Ministry of Labour emphasized the following:

- the model had been transferred to Colombia and Costa Rica and had also raised interest among several other countries willing to replicate the initiative (including Paraguay, Venezuela, Brazil, Bolivia, and Jamaica), particularly in the framework of the Regional Initiative
- several joint initiatives have been developed between member companies
- all parties involved have been actively participating towards the achievement of the networks' goals
- 90% of companies have set zero-tolerance policies
- more than 8,500 certified employees and suppliers contracts include specific clauses regarding child labour
- a web page was launched
- annual network reports and CSR reports are developed on a regular basis

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- 100% have mapped the major risks in their value chains.

The benefits of SSTC within this initiative include time saving, promotion of solidarity between countries, and building bridges for further exchanges. Experience with Colombia was an evidence-based example of the benefits of South-South cooperation, particularly because in Ecuador the process to consolidate the network had lasted three years, but building on the good practices and lessons learned from Ecuador, Colombia could develop a similar network in seven months.

3. South-South Cooperation and Social and Solidarity Economy and Cooperatives in Asia and Africa

The third segment was moderated by Mr Jürgen Schwettmann, Director of the ILO Department of Partnerships and Field Support, who stressed that SSTC was an instrument to strengthen social and solidarity economy and decent work. The convergence between Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and SSTC arrangements was a strategy for the ILO to promote social and economic inclusion in the framework of the post-2015 development framework. SSTC was based on a spirit of solidarity, whereby developing countries were able to provide sustainable solutions to their own problems at a lower cost. In this sense, South-South Cooperation initiatives – including the identification of good practices and their adaptation and replication in other countries – were fundamental to the dissemination of decent work outcomes under the ILO’s four strategic objectives.

Mr Benjamin Quinones, Chairman of the Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC), described the links between the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) and SSTC in the Asian context. SSE was governed by ordinary people and based on cooperation between organized groups of producers and consumers. It represented a “triple-bottom line” approach to development, as it sought to meet people’s social development needs, preserve the environment, and ensure a sustainable society.

At the macro level, SSE could function as a means of development cooperation with the State and the private corporate sector towards inclusive and sustainable development. A conducive public policy environment for SSE as well as private companies’ support for SSE products and services can improve the “triple bottom line” of the government’s development programme and the private sector’s CSR programme, respectively.



Mr Quinones introduced the SELJ, a solidarity project by civil society organizations (CSOs) in Asia engaged in socio-economic development. Aimed at enhancing the concept and practice of SSE in Asia, the project had received funding support from the Charles Leopold Mayer Foundation for Human Development (FPH) during 2006-2010, which enabled partner CSOs from various Asian countries to exchange SSE information and experience. The SELJ started with the First Asian Solidarity Economy Forum in Manila in October 2007, which was

henceforth organized every two years. The participating CSOs engaged in a process of mutual learning about the concept and practice of SSE.

In 2011 the collaborating CSOs established the Asian Solidarity Economy Council (ASEC). Since then ASEC national chapters had been established in Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal and the Philippines, enabling South-South exchanges of experience. Regional coordinating centres had also been set up in South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia. ASEC verified SSE concepts against reality in the field through case studies and dialogue with local people, deepening CSOs' reflections on SSE, and establishing in the process more trust and confidence among them. Together, participating CSOs undertook a participatory process of prototyping to translate visions into concrete models of SSE supply chains.

Among the benefits of SSTC in the development of SSE organizations (SSEOs), Mr Quinones underlined the following:

- *Vibrant knowledge sharing on SSE*: Sharing of best practices and experience in: a) the development of SSEOs and their value chains, to address the post-2015 development goals of social development, ecological conservation, and economic sustainability; b) linking the informal sector with the formal sector in triple bottom-line value chains (e.g. fair trade, community supported agriculture, bank self-help group linkages); c) job creation and entrepreneurial development for youth, women, the elderly, and vulnerable groups – SSE is an instrument for generating work, employment, and income; d) investment programmes by SSEOs aimed at attracting investments from overseas contract workers.
- *Broader knowledge and greater understanding of the concept and practice of SSE*. This was demonstrated at the 5th RIPESS International Meeting of SSE held in Manila in October 2013 where over 400 participants from Asia actively participated in elaborating a global vision of SSE and in formulating the SSE recommendations for the post-2015 goals, which was submitted to the UN High Level Political Forum in July 2014.
- *Establishment of ASEC chapters or focal points in Asian countries*. ASEC chapters have been established in Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal and the Philippines. Regional coordinating centres have been set up for South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Asia.
- *Producer-Consumer Solidarity Projects*. ASEC chapters in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines are developing producer-consumer solidarity projects involving their respective national SSE networks.
- *ASEC SSE Course*. ASEC designed an SSE course for the purpose of training a team of SSE advocates and organization development (OD) specialists. Its 6 modules reflect the SELJ learning process.

Regarding the sustainability of linking SSTC and SSE initiatives, the ASEC SSE course, combined with the periodic round table discussions on SSE, has improved the sustainability of ASEC's advocacy and networking activities at the country level. A core group of SSE practitioners and advocates has emerged in some Asian countries. In addition the SELJ had paved the way to a new SSE innovation, the ASEC Solidarity project – a multi-stakeholder undertaking aimed at

scaling up SSE value chains. The project stakeholders include social enterprises, CSOs, academia, government and intergovernmental agencies, and international actors.

The ASEC SSE course and the RTD-SSE could easily be replicated by national SSE networks. Project costs can be customized to the resource capacities of participating organizations. At the Asian regional level, partnership with an international funding agency remained an essential element for cross-country sharing of knowledge and expertise.



Mr Quinones also emphasized the contribution that SSE made to local economic and social development: SSE promotes a participatory development process that brings together local government, the private sector, civil society organizations and local communities. It also strengthens the organizational capacity of communities. SSE organizations can influence transaction costs, and have greater resilience in integrating unschooled youth or persons with disabilities into gainful employment. SSE builds the capacity of communities to overcome poverty. SSEOs are designed to overcome collective action problems, such as underdevelopment and poverty. In communities where SSE organizations are few and weak, village people are unable to extend cooperation beyond the nuclear family. Finally, SSE facilitates territorial development.

Mr Quinones listed various ways in which SSTC can strengthen SSE –

- *Horizontal dimension of cooperation:* SSTC can strengthen cooperation between countries in SSE knowledge sharing, training of human resources or replication of strategies
- *Triangular dimension of cooperation:* SSTC could bolster the cooperation of a country of the North with two or more countries in the South in supporting SSE development

- *Cooperation in promoting innovation*: SSTC could support SSE innovations that increase the productivity of local resources and/or enhance the effectiveness of development programmes
- *Cooperation in promoting adaptable/replicable strategies and approaches*: SSTC could support SSE strategies or approaches whose features were transferable to other contexts or situations
- *Cooperation in enhancing sustainability*: SSTC could support the replication of SSE practices whose benefits remain effective in the medium and long term
- *Cooperation in enhancing social inclusion*: SSTC could support partnerships between SSE stakeholders that are inclusive and which involve a multilateral approach to the integration of the Decent Work Agenda
- *Cooperation in building SSE value chains*: SSTC could help build SSE value chains, especially due to the difficulty of entering chains formed by other enterprises in the traditional economy
- *Cooperation in the development of international policies*: SSTC could support SSE initiatives that contribute to the development of international policies and to increased visibility within the UN system.

Microinsurance Innovation Facility

Mr Yoseph Aseffa, Project Coordinator of the ILO Microinsurance Innovation Facility (MIF),⁴ presented the Facility, which was launched in 2008 to explore better ways to protect the lives and enhance the livelihoods of low-income people.

The initiative responded to the following needs: enhanced policies, skills development, enterprise and cooperative management, and financial inclusion (financial literacy; saving for asset building; access to credit and insurance; grants; and access to markets).

He highlighted the benefits of microinsurance, which can be scaled up through SSTC mechanisms: microinsurance



protects low-income households and enterprises against economic losses arising from illness, death, accident, disability, loss of assets, loss of crops or livestock, at an affordable cost. Microinsurance serves as collateral for lending to low-income borrowers; it protects lenders against the risk of unpaid debts; microinsurance also enabled low-income businesses of youth and women to succeed without fear of enterprise risks; it helped in savings mobilization for development by covering shocks that force the poor to cash in their savings and sell assets; it

⁴ <http://www.microinsurancefacility.org/>

formalized traditional funeral and social insurance schemes with efficiency and reduced cost; and when combined with enterprise development and cooperatives, it became a powerful tool for sustainable MSE business development and job creation.

The promotion of microinsurance and SSTC was a powerful tool to advance the Decent Work Agenda. In this regard, partnerships and experience sharing were actively been undertaken in Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique in the framework of the MIF.

Among the microinsurance activities undertaken in Ethiopia were training of the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Unions to form viable financial cooperatives providing savings, credit and insurance; supporting the Federated Cooperative Agency to strengthen its regulatory and market development capacity for urban and rural cooperatives; working with rural coop unions to help them better manage their members' insurance needs; working with microfinance institutions to provide better microinsurance value, strengthening their savings and loans programmes; and providing training of trainers for insurers, microfinance institutions, cooperatives and NGOs.

Microinsurance activities had also made it possible to introduce viable cooperative business models for women NGOs and prisons; create partnership models for microfinance institutions and cooperatives; and provide technical support to partners that provided rural agricultural insurance pilot projects for crop and livestock insurance. To date a huge growth in numbers had been recorded: 4.1 million households accessing insurance and covering their financial risks while ensuring the sustainability of a large number of MSE enterprises and households that provide quality jobs.

Regarding the Mekelle Prison Cooperatives in Ethiopia, the regional government had made policy decisions to introduce producer coops in prisons with a limited financial inclusion programme. Through the microfinance facility cooperative management, financial education and a variety of improved skills training were introduced. It helped them to establish active cooperative businesses in prison. Currently 31 cooperatives provided decent work and skills. Prisoners were net savers with good



balances, and many sent remittances to support their families in towns and villages. They were insured for death, accident and disability, and asset insurance would soon be introduced.

The prison was a workplace where prisoners acquired skills, produced quality products and retained the profits. Training for prison officers, both locally and internationally, in prison management, conflict resolution, negotiation and communication was an added value. Exchange visits with South African prison services provided lessons that demonstrated the advantage of the Ethiopian model, since in prison business initiatives in South Africa the profits were not shared with inmates.

Mr Aseffa also introduced WISE, an umbrella NGO for 12,000 self-employed women, 10,000 of them organized under producer, marketing and SACCO cooperatives. The ILO supported cooperative management and business skills training, financial education and microinsurance. In addition, activities to promote knowledge sharing with sister NGOs and training institutions in India and Kenya, as well as with regional women groups from different parts of Ethiopia had been organized. Innovation grants were provided for women entrepreneurs that introduced successful ideas to create sustainable businesses. Moreover, such cooperatives provided training for other women groups from all parts of the country, and could be useful partners for other ILO activities. Management development and exposure visits for senior staff of WISE to India and Kenya provided opportunities for cross learning.

WISE has created an active and vibrant network of marketing and commodity exchanges, knowledge sharing and community support. The WISE CO-OP weekly bazar facilitated exchange products and services, learning from successful innovative business practices, and led leadership and motivational sessions.

Another MIF beneficiary, the Lidet Farmers Cooperative Union, had 115,000 members, all rural farmers in the Amhara region of Ethiopia. The Union provided production, marketing and financial services to its members. Insurance was introduced in early 2014 with support from the ILO. Cooperative management and insurance training was provided to 11 union employees and over 100 cooperative leaders. With the introduction of a voluntary microinsurance scheme where at least 90% of members have joined, the insurance cover provides: credit life, accident and disability insurance cover for the amount borrowed, covering the borrower and spouse, if married; funeral cover, a flat amount of Birr 1,500 covering the borrower and spouse, if married; asset and limited health insurance would be introduced in 2015; and agricultural insurance covering crops and livestock was being introduced in collaboration with commercial insurers.

The MIF initiative had achieved scale and efficiency by providing insurance services to hitherto unserved low-income businesses at an affordable cost, exchanging experience with a number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa and positioning microinsurance in national financial inclusion programmes. In addition, the Microinsurance Innovation Facility was a provider of knowledge through the South-South exchange of good practices and lessons learned between countries by making them available on its online platform to over 3,000 stakeholders.

4. Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation and Social Dialogue

The fourth segment was also moderated by Mr Jürgen Schwettmann who introduced the segment pointing out that SSTC was first and foremost based on the principle of solidarity and non-conditionality and aimed to provide an innovative response to global challenges that better adapts development policies to the needs of countries. Therefore, the objectives and practices of SSTC are in alignment with the principles of national ownership and self-assessment of fragile-to-fragile cooperation mechanisms as outlined in the Dili Consensus of the g7+. The ILO and the g7+ had signed a Memorandum of Understanding which was an important stepping stone, since it stated that the “ILO will support and promote fragile-to-

fragile cooperation between the g7+ Member States and with other developing countries, as well as South-South and triangular cooperation”.

Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation in the framework of the g7+

Mr Helder da Costa gave an introduction on the basic facts of the New Deal for fragile States agreed in Busan in November 2011. The g7+ was a platform for conflict-affected states internationally inspired by the Accra Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (2008), and formalized in Dili in April 2010.



The permanent secretariat of the g7+ was in Dili, Timor Leste, based on an MoU signed with the Timorese Government in February 2014. The g7+ supported peer-to-peer learning through fragile-to-fragile cooperation, and promoted collective action and advocacy through engagement with development partners and international organizations (UN, WB, IMF, ILO, G20, INCAF/DAC, bilateral donors, and CSOs).

The core mission of the g7+ was to promote peacebuilding and state building as the foundation for transition out of the margins of conflict to the next stage of sustainable development. Mr da Costa presented several facts concerning fragile States: 1.5 billion people lived in conflict-affected and fragile States; about 70% of fragile States had been in conflict since 1980; basic governance transformations may take 20 to 40 years; 50% of ODA was spent in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. He emphasized that many fragile States would not achieve the MDGs by 2015, as transitioning out of fragility was a long process and required country leadership and ownership.

In this regard, Mr da Costa pointed out that fragile-to-fragile cooperation was also beneficial to raise a single voice vis-à-vis the global development agenda by having a common vision and a uniform plan. In 2013, the g7+ started promoting the idea of ‘Fragile to Fragile’ (or F2F) cooperation, which consisted in sharing good practices and experience to promote peaceful societies and to place common issues and goals in international agendas and forums.

Mr da Costa pointed out the importance of partnering with the ILO to advance the Decent Work Agenda in fragile States. Between 2004 and 2013, the ILO had implemented over 360 TC projects in 38 States considered “fragile” aiming at: a) Strengthening the capacity of ILO constituents to play a greater role in supporting recovery and development processes in

communities affected by fragility and disaster situations; b) Creating jobs and extending social protection under a coherent and comprehensive policy framework for socio-economic reintegration and poverty alleviation of households and communities.

Following the discussion on fragile States in its Governing Body, the ILO had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the g7+, taken part in the Fourth International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, and taken steps to initiate new TC programmes in countries affected by fragility. The MoU signed between the g7+ and the ILO in March 2014 aimed at facilitating peer learning among the g7+ and with other developing and least developed countries, with a focus on fragile-to-fragile cooperation between the g7+ Member States as well as South-South and triangular cooperation. In addition, the MoU sought to enhance coordination between development partners and g7+ Member States on matters of international labour migration policy, as well as the socio-economic reintegration of refugees and other citizens of fragile States, particularly within the same region and in neighbouring States. Finally, it aimed to develop and provide national, regional and international labour market statistics.

Mr da Costa highlighted the importance of promoting cooperation between fragile States and countries in transition. The g7+ provided a forum for such countries to discuss their shared development challenges and to advocate for better international policies to address their needs. Peer learning and experience sharing between member States were major elements of the g7+ forum.

Through the support and guidance of its Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit (ESPU), the ILO had been building a strong partnership with the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), which had been formalized in 2004 through an MoU that fostered knowledge exchange and networking, joint awareness campaigns, harmonized approaches to issues of mutual relevance and support to capacity building. The ILO-CPLP partnership was thus a bridge to enhance fragile-to-fragile cooperation among the g7+ in the field of decent work and sustainable development.

Mr da Costa described the prospects for SSTC in fragile States. The objectives and practices of SSTC were aligned with the principles of national ownership and self-assessment of F2F cooperation mechanisms, as outlined in the Dili Consensus of the g7+. These countries faced similar challenges and situations, and as they developed solutions to cope with current difficulties, the potential for South-South Cooperation increased, taking into account the sharing and adaptation of these solutions into analogous contexts. Through peer sharing and lessons learned, their successes and failures informed a new and better understanding of their own conditions and necessary steps for transition. Finally, adaptive and innovative aid modalities and policies to overcome unique and rapidly shifting challenges were emerging from the forum to guide international actors for results-based outcomes.

5. Closing Remarks

Mr Schwettmann explained that the sixth panellist, Ms Rabiadou Sérah Diallo, Honorary President of the National Confederation of Workers of Guinea, had been unable to attend. Ms Rabiadou had played an important role in the promotion and consolidation of democratic values. She had been, throughout her personal and professional life, an active supporter of civil liberties, human rights, and workers' and women's rights. The ILO's contribution for solving fragile situations was underpinned by the principles of national leadership and ownership. Thus, collaboration with constituents was fundamental for the ILO in the process of supporting national partners in the promotion of social justice. Within this framework, the ILO's Decent Work Agenda established social dialogue as a cornerstone to achieve social peace. Close cooperation with workers' organizations was essential to promote employment opportunities, vocational training and social protection, which were vital areas to the pursuit of sustainable development.

The ILO web page on the Solution Forum,⁵ included all the presentations and an audio interview with Ms Rabiadou Sérah Diallo. Other information regarding the ILO Solution Forum, and ILO's involvement in the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation was also available on the ILO website.

Mr Schwettmann concluded by reaffirming that the ILO would continue to promote Fragile-to-Fragile and South-South and triangular cooperation as means to advance the Decent Work Agenda. He expressed his gratitude to all the panellists for their presentations and the audience for their participation and interest in the ILO Solution Forum.

Further information

http://www.ilo.org/pardev/south-south/WCMS_315037/lang--en/index.htm

http://www.ilo.org/pardev/south-south/WCMS_319497/lang--en/index.htm

⁵ http://www.ilo.org/pardev/south-south/WCMS_319497/lang--en/index.htm