

DECENT WORK PARTNERSHIPS FOR DECENT WORK

Newsletter



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(March 2012, New Delhi)

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[Report on the meeting: Brazil's Contribution to the ILO's South-South Cooperation Strategy - An overview: 2010-2012](#)

[ILO Strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation](#)

[Report of the IBSA International Conference on South-South Cooperation](#) (March 2012, New Delhi)

[IBSA-ILO Declaration of intent](#)
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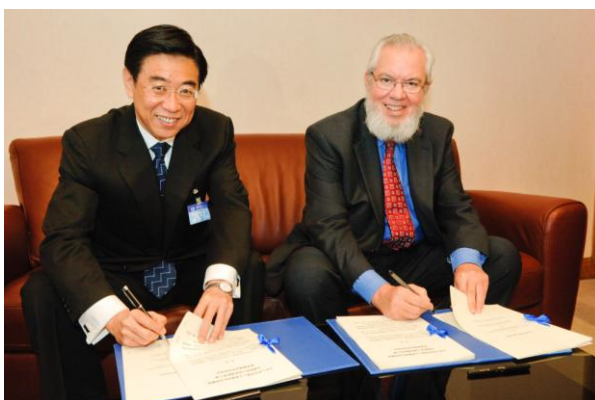
[ILO portal on South-South and triangular cooperation](#)

South-South and Triangular Cooperation at ILC 2012

A new partnership agreement with China and reaffirmed commitments by India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) during the June 2012 International Labour Conference enhanced the visibility and relevance of South-South Cooperation in the ambit of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

China supports South-South cooperation in partnership with ILO

The Vice Minister of Human Resources and Social Security of the People's Republic of China Wang Xiaochu and ILO Director-General Juan Somavia signed a South-South cooperation partnership agreement on 12 June 2012 as the culmination of negotiations involving various ILO technical departments. Under the "Partnership Agreement for Promoting Technical Cooperation with a Focus on South-South Initiatives", China has committed US\$1 million to support innovative South-South cooperation projects and initiatives to



promote the Decent Work Agenda over a period of three years. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security aims to assist developing countries in Asia to raise their capacity for self-development under the principles of equality, solidarity, mutual development, and local ownership.

The ILO will provide advice for the possible scope of technical cooperation, and assist the design of the cooperation projects and the preparation of project documents, based on the Decent Work

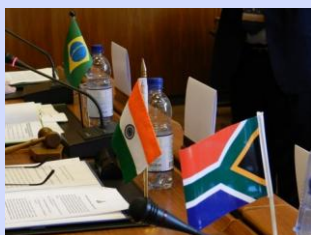
Country Programmes and needs expressed by the partner countries that will benefit from such mutual cooperation. The design and implementation of the technical cooperation projects will focus on efficient use of resources and shared experience, giving special importance to effectiveness, replicability and international good practices.

IBSA Declaration gives fresh boost to South-South cooperation

The Ministers of Labour and Employment of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA), signed a joint Declaration to reaffirm their commitment to South-South cooperation and the Decent Work Agenda. The signing ceremony took place on 12 June 2012 as a part of a side event during the International Labour Conference. The Minister of Labour of South Africa Ms. Nelisiwe Mildred Oliphant, the Minister of Labour and Employment of India Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge and the Minister of Labour and Employment of Brazil, Mr. Carlos Brizola Neto exchanged views on measures to implement the four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda. They discussed measures to accelerate employment creation, reduce informality and create sustainable enterprises.

South-South cooperation is a framework for cooperation between two or more developing countries. Based on principles of solidarity, equality, and non-conditionality, developing countries can provide sustainable solutions to their own problems at lower cost and with better results.

Triangular cooperation refers to the cooperation of 'North' countries and 'South' countries, where the contribution from the North could be in the form of financial or technical assistance.



The Declaration reaffirmed the commitment of the three countries to promote a job-intensive response to the global economic crisis and enhance local capacity in other developing countries in the area of decent work through mutual cooperation and sharing of best practices. Furthermore, it recognized that decent work can benefit from South-South cooperation, which can be useful in the promotion of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Global Jobs Pact and the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization. The Declaration also proposed to create an IBSA tripartite Working Group on Decent Work, to meet at least once a year during the ILC, in order to promote exchanges in the area of decent work and South-South cooperation initiatives and foster dialogue between IBSA governments, workers and employers.



Brazil – ILO partnership

The sixth Annual Review meeting between Brazil and the ILO, held in Brasilia 17-18 May 2012, emphasized the connections between a social

“Social and solidarity economy refer to collective practices of sustainable development that contribute to building a more just and egalitarian world(...) by linking economy to society, local to global, labour to investment, and production, consumption and the environment.”

(Paul Singer, Secretary for Solidarity Economy, Ministry of Labour and Employment)

and solidarity economy, South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) and development. A social economy can foster development, helping meet needs inadequately addressed by the public or private economy. According to the Director of the ILO Brasilia Office, SSTC can contribute to economic growth, poverty reduction and inequality and social inclusion, permitting countries to develop their own solutions aimed at economic independence and self-reliance. PARDEV organised a briefing to report on the sixth annual review in Brasilia during the ILC, attended by the Minister of Labour and Employment of Brazil, members of the Brazilian tripartite delegation and representatives of the ILO regional office and sectoral departments, to discuss

progress made in the country and ongoing South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives. The meeting on 13 June 2012 highlighted the impact of the partnership on the elimination of child labour, the promotion of social protection for all, emerging areas of labour inspection and green jobs, through two-way learning and the advancement of horizontal cooperation between developing countries. Examples of ongoing projects were mentioned, such as exchanges of expertise helping Paraguay to ratify the Employment Policy Convention (No. 122), and the reform of pension systems in Timor Leste, as well as areas of future cooperation, such as adapting Brazilian initiatives in the Caribbean. The ILO-Brazil Partnership for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation began in 2005, focusing on the prevention and elimination of child labour in Portuguese-speaking African countries. Cooperation has gradually covered all four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda. Since 2010, new programmes have emerged to support ILO’s work in the fields of green jobs, gender equality, elimination of forced labour, labour inspection and promoting horizontal cooperation between workers’ organizations in the Americas and Africa. Triangular cooperation with of Brazil-US initiatives in the Americas involves Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay, and covers the scope of Brazilian Programme for the Eradication of Child Labour (PETI) and the Bolsa Família, inspection of child labour, public health, and policies for young workers aged 14-17 years.

NGLS Round-Up: ILO, Rio+20 and South-South Cooperation

The June issue of the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service’s RoundUP focuses on sustainable development from a South-South perspective in the context of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). SSTC fosters development through the transfer of knowledge and technology, and exchanges of good practices. An IBSA Conference in New Delhi showcased environmentally-sensitive and job-intensive social protection schemes. Obstacles faced by developing countries tend to be similar in nature, scope and complexity. Thus, partnerships in which all parties teach, learn and join efforts, can generate fresh and innovative responses. “Countries might be more confident to commit themselves to South-South initiatives related to Rio+20 outcomes, because horizontal cooperation is, in principle, protected from difficulties that might emerge in the context of North-South negotiations, especially when deciding “what comes first” in terms of the three different dimensions of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental”, underlined the Director of the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation in an interview. In Latin America, the ILO-Brazil partnership promotes exchanges of good practices to contribute to the prevention and eradication of forced labour and stimulate the generation of decent work and green jobs in Peru, Paraguay and the Caribbean, and a knowledge management platform has been established at the Centro Interamericano para el Desarrollo del Conocimiento en la Formacion Profesional, (CINTERFOR, Montevideo).

In July the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) holds its Annual Ministerial Review in New York to assess progress in the international development agenda, with a special focus on the promotion of productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth. The ILO will be represented by its Director-General Juan Somavia, whose keynote address is scheduled for 2 July 2012 (more information will be provided in Newsletter 31).

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