



OSG
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NOTIFICATION

South–South Cooperation for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Trade and Development Perspective

**Preparatory thematic consultation towards the
Second High-level United Nations Conference on South–South Cooperation**

Geneva, 5 November 2018

An informal thematic consultation, entitled “South–South Cooperation for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Trade and Development Perspective”, will take place on 5 November 2018, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., in room XXIII of the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

Background

The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 71/244, decided to convene a high-level United Nations Conference on South–South cooperation on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA+40). The overarching theme of the BAPA+40 Conference, to be held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019, is the role of South–South cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: challenges and opportunities. The BAPA+40 Conference will address the following sub-themes: (a) comparative advantages of and opportunities for South–South cooperation; (b) challenges and the strengthening of the institutional framework of South–South cooperation and triangular cooperation; (c) sharing of experiences, best practices and success stories; and (d) scaling up the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in support of South–South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

As preparation for the BAPA+40 Conference, the United Nations Office for South–South Cooperation, the secretariat of the Conference, invited United Nations entities to convene, contribute to and participate in preparatory processes for the BAPA+40 Conference in 2019, by providing valuable inputs that will inform deliberations of member States towards the adoption of an outcome document. In alignment with the proposed themes and sub-themes of the Conference, informal consultations should be structured around one or several of the themes presented above.

Against this background, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Argentine Republic in Geneva, is organizing an informal thematic consultation on 5 November 2018. The consultation’s overarching theme is “South–South Cooperation for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Trade and Development Perspective”.

Overall objective

The main objectives of the informal thematic consultation are to: (a) discuss the main challenges and opportunities in South–South trade, investment and financing issues and identify relevant policies; (b) discuss and identify opportunities for South–South cooperation for technology transfers and partnerships for technological innovation; and (c) discuss and identify challenges and opportunities and suitable policies for innovative South–South cooperation and partnerships in key emerging areas such as Industry 4.0. These three objectives are crucial to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Format

The consultation will combine all stakeholders in South–South cooperation through an interactive setting. Participants will discuss and share experiences in South–South cooperation in three thematic areas related to the objectives mentioned above. A summary, including non-binding recommendations from the discussions, will be prepared after the conclusion of the consultation. It is the intention of UNCTAD that the summary and its non-binding recommendations will inform and contribute to member States' negotiations towards producing a forward-looking outcome document, to be adopted by the BAPA+40 Conference in Buenos Aires.

Nominations and participation

Registration should be completed online by **31 October 2018**. To do so, please use the following link: [Thematic consultation](#). Nominations and related communications concerning representation at the meeting should be sent to the Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD Palais des Nations, CH-1211, Geneva 10; fax: 41 22 917 0042; email: candy.catala@un.org.

Background documents

In order to facilitate the discussion, the UNCTAD secretariat will make available the draft version of a report, tentatively titled *South–South Cooperation for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Trade and Development Perspective*. The draft report will be available in English only.

Further information and contact details

All other substantive enquiries should be addressed to Ms. Anida Yupari (anida.yupari@un.org, tel.: 41 22 917 1790).



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