

Strengthening Indian Development Cooperation Policy  
Towards Promoting South-South Cooperation



**September 2020**

## BACKGROUND

The Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), launched on 15 January 2013 in New Delhi, has been engaged in exploring nuances of India's development cooperation programme, keeping in view the wider perspective of South-South Cooperation in the backdrop of international development cooperation scenario. It is a tripartite initiative of the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, academia and civil society organisations.

## OBJECTIVES

The FIDC aims to encourage detailed analysis of broad trends in South-South Cooperation and contextualise Indian policies by facilitating discussions across various subject streams and stakeholders based on theoretical and empirical analysis, field work, perception surveys and capacity building needs.

At the domestic level, the FIDC would work towards raising awareness about various dimensions of the development cooperation policies through seminars, discussion meetings and publications, and would focus on sectoral analysis in the areas of agriculture, health, education, HR development, infrastructure projects, environment and other social areas including gender and humanitarian assistance. The Forum would establish dialogue with the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs and other relevant government agencies. With a focus on South-South Cooperation, the FIDC would also establish linkages and dialogue with international agencies and subject experts as well. Special focus would be extended to countries in the sub-region where India has major development assistance projects.

## ROADMAP

- The FIDC provides a platform to discuss India's development cooperation programme and policies. For this, seminar/regional consultations are being organised.
- This is supplemented by analytical work on modalities related to India's development cooperation with other developing countries.
- The FIDC also engages concerned academia, civil society representatives and non-governmental organisations active in the field of economic, social and human development outside India and having interests in such issues.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

- Patrons** : • **Dr Mohan Kumar**, Chairman, RIS  
• **Shri Rahul Chhabra**, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs
- Chairperson** : • **Mr Rajesh Tandon**, President, PRIA
- Members** : • **Shri Akhilesh Mishra**, Additional Secretary, DPA, MEA  
• **Professor Anuradha Chenoy**, formerly Professor, JNU  
• **Mr Harsh Jaitli**, VANI  
• **Professor Gulshan Sachdeva**, JNU  
• **Dr Ruchita Beri**, IDSA  
• **Mr Amitabh Behar**, OXFAM  
• **Mr Kaustuv Bandyopadhyay**, PRIA
- Convener** : • **Professor Sachin Chaturvedi**, Director General, RIS
- RIS Team** : • **Ambassador Amar Sinha**, Distinguished Fellow  
• **Professor Milindo Chakrabarti**, Editor, Development Cooperation Review (DCR)  
• **Dr Sushil Kumar**, Consultant, RIS  
• **Ms Aditi Gupta**, Research Assistant

## CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

### Programme on Learning South-South Cooperation

In recent years, the global dialogue on South-South Cooperation (SSC) has become more prominent in discussions on international cooperation, highlighting the importance of SSC in the global arena. The desire of Southern economies to harness the potential of their cooperation has led to the conception and formalisation of several platforms such as India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS), BRICS, IBSA, New Development Bank and Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) including many others. There is evidence that substantial attention is being paid to discussions on SSC including intensified inter-governmental dialogue on SSC in the United Nations as well as at the High Level Forums (HLF) on Aid Effectiveness of the OECD/DAC, where a larger role for SSC is being discussed. In these discussions, there have been serious efforts at viewing SSC as a process that is distinct from the North-South Cooperation (NSC).

SSC takes different forms and modalities for extending assistance to partner countries. They include technical assistance, capacity building programmes, knowledge sharing, production cooperation financial assistance and technology transfer. The SSC is often perceived by the partner countries to be more receptive and adapted to their needs and priorities. As a result, expectations from the SSC have increased manifold.

The present course on Development Partnership held at Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi is intended to familiarise the participants to a broader concept of SSC particularly on the Development Cooperation in the context of ongoing resurgence of the economies of the South in the wake of major changes being witnessed in the global aid architecture. The programme would, among other things, focus on rationale, concepts and contours of SSC by building on the individual accomplishments of the respective countries, thus explaining the benefits from and barriers to their collective engagements. It would also throw light on the key principles, policies, modalities (that includes national sovereignty, national ownership, independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference and mutual benefit) and practices that are evident across SSC and respond to how the policy orientations or the strengths of SSC can be practically applied.

### Programme on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In this capacity building programme participants are given a comprehensive orientation of the SDGs to help them absorb the priorities and inter-linkages of sustainable development in their development plan in a holistic manner. The emphasis would be to make the participants understand the technical features of the Agenda 2030 and their application in national contexts. The training programme seeks to expose the participants to the nuances of the sustainability debate. Programme would focus on local challenges and opportunities for implementation of SDGs in their sub-national strategies, regional context and their integration globally.

The programme emphasises on specialised areas like formulation of local plans, creating knowledge and information base (data and indicators) and tools for assessment. The programme would also encourage interaction and conversation among participants about grassroot issues and the way forward for implementing the SDGs by 2030. The course would create an important platform for interactions and exchange of ideas as the course lectures would be complemented by study tours and field visits that would provide practical and learning exposure.

### Programme on Trade and Sustainability

The key objective of this programme is to expose the participants to the challenges of the trade and sustainability debate with emphasis on various issues in the context of trade in environmentally sensitive goods and services; environment related trade barriers and measures; access to environmentally sensitive technology; Trade and environmental quality including pollution haven hypothesis; strong conceptual framework on sustainability and deliberation on environmental issues in bilateral, regional and multilateral forums, particularly in regard to the protection and promotion of the interest of the Global South. The emphasis would be to make the participants understand the technical features of trade and environment and its application in national contexts. The intent of the course is to offer knowledge and skills to integrate sustainable trade practices in their policy framework and managerial decision.

### Other Capacity Building Programmes

- International Economic Issues and Development Policy (IEIDP)
- Science Diplomacy
- RIS-EXIM Bank Summer School on International Trade Theory and Practices

# FIDC PUBLICATIONS

## REPORTS/BOOKS



**Republishing: Raul Prebisch and Development Strategy**  
Sachin Chaturvedi,  
Milindo Chakrabarti  
New Delhi, 2019



**Key Takeaways: Delhi Process V-South-South and Triangular Cooperation**  
New Delhi, 2019



**Five Modalities of Development Compact Shaping South-South Cooperation**  
New Delhi, 2019



**Together Towards a Healthy Future India's Partnerships in Healthcare**  
New Delhi, 2019



**Global Issues and Local Actions in South-South Cooperation**  
New Delhi, 2019



**FIDC Regional Consultations**  
New Delhi, 2019



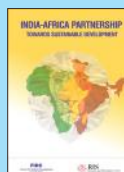
**The Logic of Sharing: Indian Approach to South-South Cooperation**  
Sachin Chaturvedi,  
Cambridge University  
Press, 2016



**Resurging South: Stylized Facts**  
Prof. S. K. Mohanty, Dr. Priyadarshi Dash,  
Dr. Sabyasachi Saha, Dr. Sushil Kumar and  
Ms. Aastha Gupta  
RIS, New Delhi, 2016



**South-South Cooperation 2016:**  
Conference Proceedings  
New Delhi, 2016



**India-Africa Partnership Towards Sustainable Development**  
New Delhi, 2015



**India-Africa Partnership in Health Care: Accomplishments and Prospects**  
New Delhi, 2015



**CSOs Directory Profile of Indian Voluntary Organisations 2013**  
New Delhi, 2013

## Development Cooperation Review



## POLICY BRIEFS

- #10 : International Humanitarian Aid and the 'Localization' Debate: Why is it important to have "Local Funds" for "Local Organization"?
- #9 : TOSSD: Southernisation of ODA
- #8 : Development Compact – The Cornerstone of India's Development Cooperation: An "Externalities" Perspective
- #7 : Indian Development Cooperation: A Theoretical and Institutional Framework
- #6 : FIDC Regional Consultation at Jaipur
- #5 : South-South Cooperation and India: Insights from FIDC Multi-Stakeholder Policy Dialogues
- #4 : DAC Members and Engagement with CSOs: Emerging Experiences and Lessons
- #3 : Post -2015 Development Agenda: An Indian Perspective
- #2 : India-Africa Cooperation in Agriculture Science, Technology and Innovation: New Avenues and Opportunities
- #1 : Features of South-South Cooperation and Global Dynamics

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