Community of Practice on Measurement and Quantification of South-South Cooperation
Meeting on current global challenges to measurement and quantification
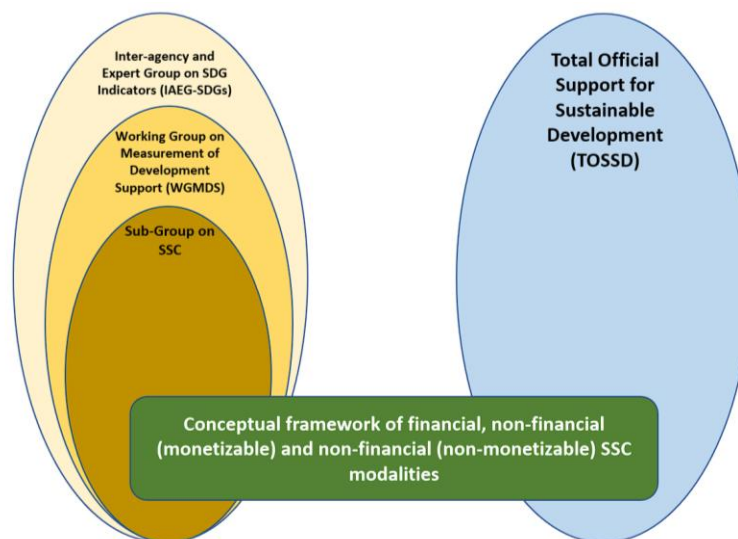**June 29th, 2022**
(The meeting's recording can be accessed at this link)
(The presentation used by the moderator can be accessed at this link)
(The presentation used by Camilo Méndez, DANE, can be accessed at this link)
(The presentation used by Camilo Gamba, TOSSD Taskforce, can be accessed at this link)

On June 29th, 2022, APC-Colombia convened the third meeting of the Community of Practice on Measurement and Quantification of South-South Cooperation (CoP). After a previous session which revolved around geopolitical frameworks and established approaches for measuring and quantifying SSC, the third meeting of the CoP focused on two global exercises expanding into SSC: the work of the United Nation's Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and the OECD's Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) initiative.

To inform the research and discussion agenda of the CoP, a panel was held with representatives from Colombia, Mexico and the TOSSD Task Force Secretariat, hosted by the OECD, interspersed with important observations by official representatives from Brazil and researchers from the audience.

Agenda:

1. Opening remarks and recapitulation of previous work. Luis Roa, APC-Colombia.
2. Panel about current global challenges for measuring SSC:
   a. **Camilo Méndez**, Coordinator for National and International Relations, National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), Colombia.
   b. **Fabiola Soto**, Director of Planning, Cooperation and Information Systems, Mexican Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID), Mexico.
   c. **Camilo Gamba**, Policy Analyst, TOSSD Task Force Secretariat/Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD.

3. Q&A and discussion.

Opening remarks and recapitulation of previous work

Mr. Luis Roa from APC-Colombia provided a quick recapitulation of the work of the CoP, for attendants who had not participated in the first meeting organized in December 2021.

He mentioned that the CoP gathers knowledge professionals to discuss how SSC is quantified/measured/assessed in 2022, with the aim of **producing** a **benchmark document** summarizing the past, present and potential future of measurement and quantification methodologies for SSC.

Mr. Roa highlighted that APC-Colombia see's value in promoting this discussion in the context of rising expectations for developing countries (characterized by the concept of "Development in Transition"), as measuring helps take action:
1) to **showcase** what is being done;
2) to **improve** actions (doing more, better);
3) to **promote narratives** about how SSC advances the 2030 Agenda, at its half-way point in 2022.

He recalled that the CoP conducted an opening event on December 7th, 2021, in which the following topics were discussed:
1. Measurement for management and making risky bets (presented by Catalina Quintero, APC-Colombia).
2. Key Performance Indicators for nurturing entrepreneurship in Colombia (presented by John Hardy, Palmira Chamber of Commerce in Colombia).
3. TOSSD eligibility criteria and global public goods from the perspective of SSC (presented by Paulo Esteves, global researcher).
4. 'Meaning' as a conduit for exploring definitions, objectives and approaches to conducting SSC (presented by Emmanuel Letouzé, Datapop Alliance).

Participants were also polled to identify key readings to create a virtual library, and the following documents were gathered and analyzed:

Year	Author	Name
2009	United Nations	Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
2014	Southern Voice	Dialogues on South-South Cooperation in the context ofGlobal Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
2015	PIFCSS	Management guidelines for implementing Triangular Cooperation in Ibero-America
2015	World Bank	The Art of Knowledge Exchange
2016	Chaturvedi	Development Compact: A theoretical construct for South-South Cooperation
2016	PIFCSS	Valorización de la Cooperación Sur-Sur: Avances y retos en Iberoamérica

Year	Author/Org	Title
2016	PIFCSS	Valorización de la Cooperación Sur-Sur: Estudios de caso Brasil, Chile y México
2017	Silva & Waisbich	Guia para o monitoramento e mensuração da cooperação sul-sul brasileira
2018	OECD	Toolkit for identifying, monitoring and evaluating the value added of triangular co-operation
2019	GPI Triangular Cooperation	Triangular Cooperation in the era of the 2030 Agenda. Sharing evidence and stories from the field
2019	Besharati	Measuring Effectiveness of South-South Cooperation
2019	United Nations	BAPA+40 Outcome Document
2019	Letouzé et al	Harnessing Innovative Data and Technology to Measure Development Effectiveness
2020	UNDP	Metodología de Evaluación Modular (MEM) para la Cooperación Sur-Sur
2021	UNOSSC	The role of institutional arrangements for South-South Cooperation. Experiences from Ecuador and Sri Lanka
2021	CCONG	Infografía sobre Entidades Sin Ánimo de Lucro (ESAL) en Colombia
2022	Waisbich	'It Takes Two to Tango': South–South Cooperation Measurement Politics in a Multiplex World

The library of documents can be consulted at the website for the CoP, in this link.

Mr. Roa mentioned that, after reviewing the documents, a pattern was identified in the timeline of knowledge. The presented list has been color-coded according to these criteria:

Established approaches in measurement and quantification
Current challenges in 2022: data convergence and divergence between ODA and SSC
Experimental approaches to account for actors and data

During the May 26th webinar, a keynote speaker and four panelists discussed established approaches for measuring and quantifying SSC:
- Laura Waisbich, from Articulação SUL, spoke about Southern countries entering other spaces while upholding southern identity, due to internal and external pressures.
- Cristina Xalma, from SEGIB, spoke about measurement frameworks as a response to country needs, built by consensus, sparking debates and increasing visibility for SSC.
- Luis Flores and Enrique Oviedo, from ECLAC, discussed iterative approaches for moving political consensus by developing frameworks and generating evidence.
- Sabyasachi Saha, from the RIS, spoke about the Development Compact, long term prosperity, macroeconomic stability, and about increasing impact by generating more evidence.
- Alexandra Díaz, from APC-Colombia, spoke about the challenges of measuring added value of SSC, 'growing pains' in its implementation, and about applying established public policy evaluation methodologies to SSC.

A few takeaways from May 26th, 2022 were presented to introduce the current session's panel:
1. The **demand principle anchors SSC** and assures complementarities between knowledge exchanges, long-term trend preservation and macroeconomic stability.
2. **Consensus and continuous experimentation** can go hand in hand.
3. How? Iterative, evidence-based policy making. **Proving a concept can reduce resistance** and materialize new opportunities.
4. Global spaces are also required to **adapt to the presence and the politics of the Global South.**

Panel about current global challenges for measuring South-South Cooperation

Presentation by Mr. Camilo Méndez, Coordinator for National and International Relations, National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), Colombia.

Mr. Camilo Méndez recalled that the UN Working Group on Measurement of Development Support (UNWGMDS) was established in May 2020, with the objective of developing and refining the measurement of development support in line with the 2030 Agenda under SDG target 17.3 "Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources".

The UNWGMDS held 15 meetings with 21 members, each one represented by its national statistical offices and its institution in charge of development cooperation. Four countries participated as observers: Brazil, Germany, Republic of Korea and the Netherlands. The group provided constant reporting to the umbrella IAEG-SDGs group.

Mr. Méndez mentioned that the result of the work was a conceptual framework for measuring SSC, which had great reception from the G77 countries since the subject of SSC is important for the group at technical and political levels. The final proposal for indicator 17.3.1 was submitted for approval by the IAEG-SDG in November 2021, and by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2022. It also received overwhelming support via written and oral statements from members of the G77+China and the Like-Minded Group of Countries Supporters of Middle-Income Countries (MICs) groups.

He mentioned that comments from the G77+China group during the UN Statistical Commissions raised two main points:
1) Satisfaction with the existence of a global voluntary framework that takes into account the unique characteristics and principles of SSC for SDG target 17.3.
2) Request to avoiding overlaps and strengthening reporting from UNCTAD.

The statement from the MICs raised three points:
1) Recognition of the importance of having evidence and reliable data and statistics.
2) Importance of the leadership from developing countries in developing the matrix, in alignment with the BAPA+40 process.
3) Urging interaction with UNCTAD as a key partner for building capacities.

Mr. Méndez highlighted that the approval by the UN Statistical Commission underscored the transparency of the process, building on the different deliberations held on the working group and recognizing UNCTAD's role as an institution able to gather Southern voices. However, revised

version of the decision have been circulating that leave out key parts from the declaration that speak to the political dimension of SSC.

Closing his intervention, Mr. Méndez presented the following insights and considerations:
1) Although regional spaces such as SEGIB have achieved important developments, global efforts are still necessary and are missing key players such as India, China and others.
2) It's important to further the understanding of the political sensitivity and complexity of SSC, via experience-sharing scenarios such as this Community of Practice.
3) Voluntary exercises can enhance coordination efforts within each state at national, regional and global levels.
4) Acknowledge the big impact that the progress is having and how it is contributing to development agendas such as climate change, biodiversity and others.

The moderator presented a follow-up question: **It was interesting to see the differences in perspectives from Northern and Southern countries within the UNWGMDS. Have you found surprising things when approaching major groups such as the G77+China around work such as this, that interfaces between Northern and Southern contexts?**

Mr. Méndez raised two key points in his answer:
1) Articulation is key between different national offices (statistical, cooperation agencies) and national representations to different scenarios, which is done through permanent diplomatic missions. This can be hard because connections with permanent missions can take time. 'Tiger teams' are necessary to maintain momentum and to stay on top of developments while keeping the permanent missions continually informed.
2) Regarding debates about legitimacy, this can be a function of the number of partners involved in a conversation, or an effect of having effective results from a process. We Southern countries might be losing a huge opportunity, because we have a lot to contribute to the development landscape, but we tend to refuse to agree to common frameworks because of political sensibilities. If we truly want to contribute to the 2030 Agenda, we should be very vocal and advocate for things such as South-South Cooperation.

During this section of the conversation, **Mr. Marcio Correa from the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation (ABC)**, made the following comments in the chat (slightly edited for clarity):
"As I will not be able to attend the whole meeting, I would like to stress the position of Brazil in one specific point: Brazil will not participate in any discussion aimed at promoting convergence between SSC and ODA. They are different things (different principles, different motivations, different practices, different measurements). Having said that, Brazil has been engaged in an exercise of convergence between SSC measurement and TOSSD, because TOSSD has a comprehensive approach, including ODA, private funds, and SSC.

The motivation behind the development of the "conceptual framework" for measuring SSC was precisely that: to occupy void space."

Presentation by Mrs. Fabiola Soto, Director of Planning, Cooperation and Information Systems, Mexican Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AMEXCID), Mexico.

Mrs. Fabiola Soto mentioned that the UNWGMDS developed a large conversation around the 17.3 indicator, but that a specific space was still required for SSC. The subgroup on SSC

benefitted greatly from the participation of Brazil (which had great experience on measurement thanks to the work of the Institute of Applied Economic Research, IPEA), and its objective was to develop a conversation informed by previous experiences about SSC in Latin America. The subgroup had a lively discussion chaired by India, with UNCTAD acting as the Secretariat, with important observers.

Mrs. Soto recalled that Brazil and Mexico started by identifying similar elements in their quantification frameworks and put them in a single matrix. China joined afterwards and proposed adding a few categories to the matrix, which widened the spectrum of concepts measurable within SSC. The exercise was also complemented by comments from China and Colombia, along with other participants.

As per Mrs. Soto's words, the idea always was to provide a framework to embrace the diversity of SSC, which has been extensively discussed over the years but that has produced little results due to political sensitivities. The difference this time was that the exercise was led primarily by technical experts.

The group had a very frank conversation among experts from the South and the North, along with the TOSSD Task Force, which allowed to identify commonalities between work modalities of different partners. As a result, the voluntary framework provides countries, regardless of their size, with a tool to emphasize what countries are doing to realize the 2030 agenda. Particularly for AMEXCID, the framework has provided momentum to redefine institutional directives.

For Mrs. Soto, it's rewarding to see that the work will start being put into practice soon, through the regional statistical conferences. This marks the beginning of a large process of trying methodologies and finding comparison points between countries.

Closing her intervention, Mrs. Soto mentioned that UNCTAD, as custodian agency for this part of indicator 17.3, is **calling for a workshop on July 19th, 2022 where the timeframe for the pilots and the logistics of the process will be defined**. This work should increase the relevance of our work and also promote transparency and accountability for countries.

Registration for the July 19th, 2022 workshop can be done at this link

Presentation by Mr. Camilo Gamba, Policy Analyst, Development Cooperation Directorate, OECD.

Mr. Camilo Gamba presented TOSSD as an international statistical measure that includes all official resources and private finance mobilized by official interventions to promote sustainable development in developing countries. As a framework to measure resources in support of sustainable development, it's comprised of two pillars:
   Pillar I: cross-border flows to TOSSD-eligible countries
   Pillar II: Global and regional expenditures for International Public Goods

He underscored that TOSSD provides a more comprehensive vision on finance for development than the ODA measurement, as it takes into account ODA flows, Other Official Flows (OOF), South-South Cooperation, Triangular Cooperation, spending for International Public Goods (IPGs) and Private finance mobilized by official interventions. In order for flows to be counted, SDG alignment is mandatory.

Mr. Gamba mentioned that the TOSSD Task Force is comprised of 27 members (24 countries and 4 multilateral institutions), with seven observers (a CSO network and six countries). He stressed that the financial landscape for sustainable development has changed with the introduction of more actors, more instruments, and a greater focus on sustainability, and thus TOSSD is the first initiative to capture flows at a regional and global levels in different topics such as global macroeconomic and financial stability, global and regional norm-setting, climate change and mitigation, biodiversity, refugees, protected persons and migrants, peace & security, health, research and development.

He highlighted that TOSSD is also a data source for indicator 17.3.1, and that it is using the methodology generated by the SSC subgroup to provide for greater synergy between reporting methodologies. Over its first two years it can already count important results in SSC and TrC: over 4000 activities reported by 19 partners, with more Southern partners expected to join over the coming years.

A few lessons learned from engaging with Southern countries:
1. TOSSD data is useful as it:
   a. Promotes capacity development in recipient countries for planning, monitoring and coordination.
   b. Promotes information transparency.
   c. Strengthens cooperation, peer learning and partnerships among the Global South.
   d. Provides a platform for SSC providers to promote their activities internationally.
   e. Promotes an equitable global governance system.
2. Coordination with regional initiatives on SSC measurement is key.
3. Engagement with Civil Society, Think Tanks and recipient governments is essential to ensure ownership.
4. Data should not only be presented in financial volumes, but also quantity of activities to reflect its true scale.

In closing his intervention, Mr. Gamba mentioned the following next steps to be undertaken by TOSSD:
1. A more formalized Governance arrangement to keep efficiency.
2. Outreach and advocacy to increase dialogue with regional initiatives/platforms on SSC measurement.
3. A third round of data collection activities, provision of data to the UN for SDG 17.3.1 indicator, and contributing to piloting the SSC framework.

The moderator presented the following question from the chat: **Development challenges such as climate change and poverty reduction might be addressed through mutual learning and exchange of local solutions. But how are the solutions transferred from one developing country to another. South-South knowledge exchange often involves champions and thereby creates better incentives for capacity development. But how can South-South capacity development generate actual policy and institutional change?**

Mr. Gamba mentioned that one of the functions of the TOSSD secretariat is to translate ideas from the global level to national levels. He stressed that TOSSD conducts constant dialogue with governments and organizations, having hosted 14 capacity building seminars with a wide range of countries like traditional recipients and dual role countries. A key orientation is that reporting to TOSSD is not an additional task, but rather a tool that can help in 'housekeeping', or in organizing and completing development finance data systems within a country.

Mrs. Marisa Berbegal, from the TOSSD Secretariat, jumped in the discussion to stress the importance of generating evidence to inform decision making processes, which is one of the mandates. The reporting exercise helps many countries realize how many different areas of the government are actually involved in sustainable development, thus fostering a 'whole of government' approach.

Q&A and discussion

Panelists made the following comments addressing questions presented in the chat:
Addressing the previous question about institutional change through SSC, Mrs. Fabiola Soto highlighted that the presentation of the SSC framework at a recent TOSSD meeting generated important reactions among Northern countries, who found it very useful for their cooperation also.

Mrs. Soto then addressed the following question: **Triangular cooperation should contribute to bridge South-South and North-South cooperation, by promoting horizontal partnerships. But how are actual comparative advantages used, transaction costs managed and recipient-led mutual learning among all partners fostered?**

In her answer, she highlighted that reporting is important, but that implement planning and evaluation systems within institutions is also key. This needs to respond to local directives as institutions have different roles, such as coordinating or implementing public policies. The provision of systems needs to be approached iteratively, as frameworks develop over time and need to be adjustable according to circumstances, and to the needs of participant organizations to showcase their work to the world.

Mr. Camilo Méndez addressed the following question: **With the HLPF approaching, are there countries that are planning to use this indicator in the context of their VNRs?**

He mentioned that Southern countries are not using indicator 17.3.1 in their Voluntary National Reports yet, as it has just been approved, however the expectation is that it will be implemented in coming years.

Addressing a previous question on institutional change through SSC, Mr. Méndez stressed that for DANE, its main mission is understanding how to measure a phenomenon and how to improve those measures. As an example, measuring poverty has moved beyond purely economic considerations (e.g. Gross Domestic Product). The number of countries currently using multidimensional poverty indexes is growing. Each index is different, and countries are trying to include new dimensions. For example, in Colombia DANE is starting to consider including mental health and other subjective perceptions of wellbeing – and these notions are being developed jointly with other countries in the region thanks to SSC knowledge exchanges.

Phalguni Sundaram Biswal, from India, presented the following statement:
> "We should clarify the conceptualization of SSC and further integrate SSC into the strategic frameworks and thematic areas; enhance SSC implementation at the regional and country level; strengthen capacity of staff to effectively facilitate SSC interventions; improve monitoring and evaluation of SSC interventions and strengthen efforts in the communication and knowledge management of SSC results.

Countries in the global South, particularly those that will benefit from South-South Cooperation are largely low income countries. This implies that if the rules of global South development cooperation are not set out clearly, the beneficiary countries may begin to experience unequal relationships and conditions that will not promote the initial aim of South-South Cooperation. It is an accepted fact that throughout the global South, there is an enormous wealth of innovative, successful and scalable development solutions. South-South Cooperation is a win-win situation for the nations involved and it is not a mere add-on to the existing unbalanced development efforts. South-South Cooperation is a vital force in world economic developments today. India and China, long considered net recipients of aid, are now emerging as net donors, focusing their aid efforts on southern nations. South-South trade is growing at an estimated ten percent annually.

As they grow less dependent upon northern markets for their economic well-being, southern states are emerging with new power and a stronger voice in the international arena. Future agreements on important international and multilateral issues in the areas of trade, environmental protection, and human rights will require broader outreach to achieve true international consensus.

SSC promotes closer technical and economic cooperation among developing countries by employing experts from the South, sharing best practices from the South, and helping to develop a sense of ownership of the development process in the South. It also allows developing countries to diversify and expand their development options and economic links and is a powerful tool for building new partnerships, creating more democratic and equitable forms of global interdependence and global governance. In a world of ever-deepening globalization, developing countries should understand that helping other developing countries is helping themselves.

We are now in 2022, 8 years is enough to achieve the 2030 agenda if we dedicate ourselves, if not possible, 2063 is a good milestone as the African have already set. Don't think about the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, or the OECD. We have 8 years left and it's enough. "

Mrs. Juliana Costa from Brazil closed the meeting expressing happiness about sharing a methodology from the Civil Society perspective, developed by Articulação SUL, during the next meeting of the Community of Practice.

The next meeting of the CoP is scheduled to take place on Wednesday July 27th, 2022
For any questions of comments, please write to luisroacontratista@apccolombia.gov.co

A few additional resources of interest about the IAEG-SDG group and TOSSD can be found at the following links:

1. Information available at the IAEG-SDG Working Group on Measurement of Development Support website, specifically:
    a. Outcome document of the sub-group on South-South cooperation (2021), special emphasis on Annex II, "Description of groups included in the conceptual framework" (pages 8-13).
2. Information available at the TOSSD website, specifically:
    a. TOSSD reporting instructions – You'll see that the methodology to measure SSC is the same that was approved in the 17.3.1. indicator.

b. [Pilot studies and analyses on TOSSD](#)
c. [TOSSD data visualisation tool](#).
d. [TOSSD key figures on 2020 activities](#), including figures on SSC.