

# **Background and introduction to NeST within the context of the GPEDC and the global SSC debates**

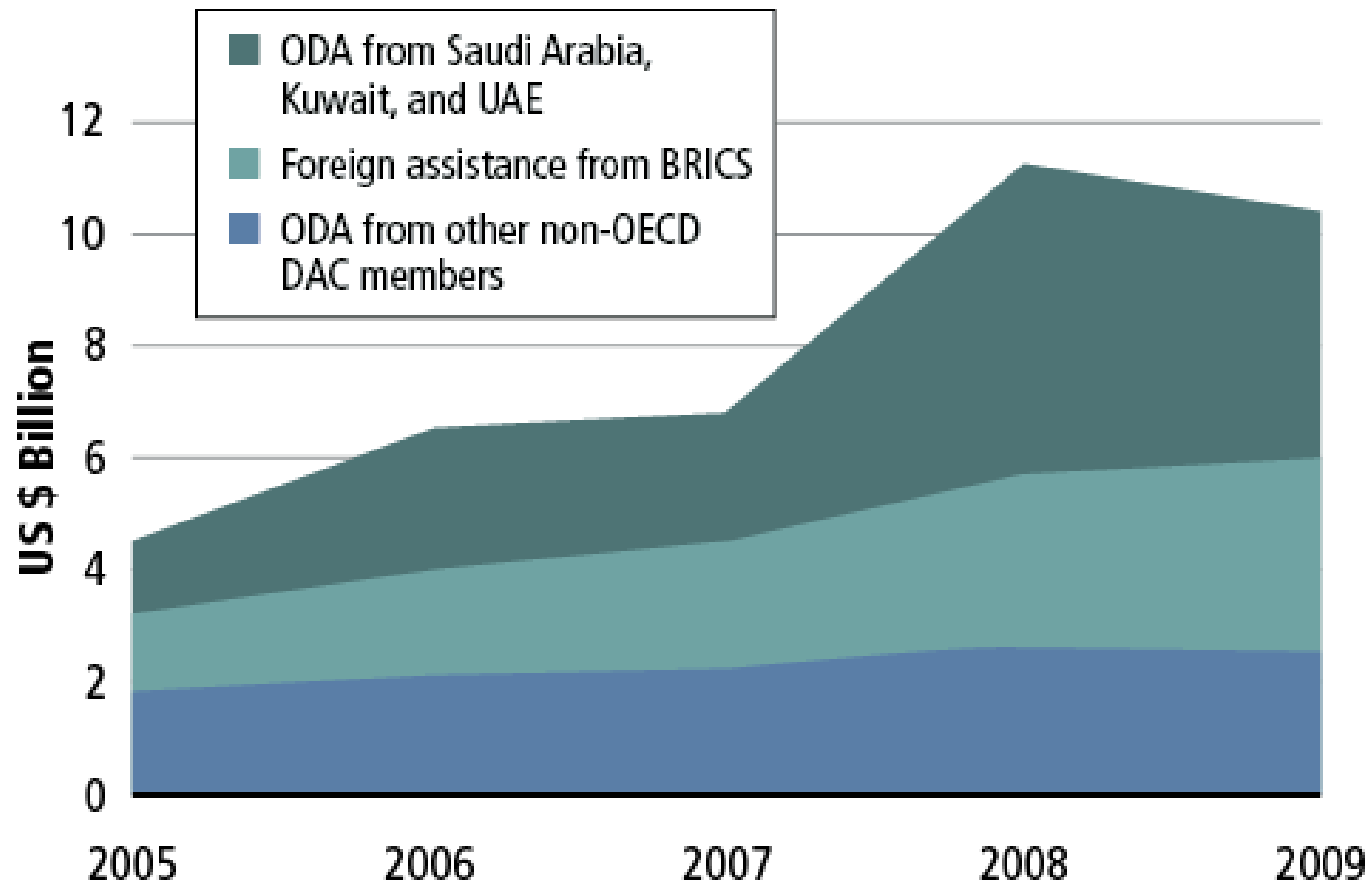
**Presentation for the NeST SA reference group meeting  
Neissan Alessandro Besharati**

**Jan Smuts House, Johannesburg, 28 January 2015**

# The Rise of the South!

UNDP HDR 2013

- Increase in quantum, geographic reach and diversity of approaches to SSC



- Against declining ODA from DAC donors – financial crisis in North America and Europe
- Trends and Consequences
  - Closing aid taps to Middle-Income Countries
  - More expectations on the South – sharing burden of global development

# A new confusing development landscape

	GDP nominal <sup>1</sup>	GDP per capita <sup>2</sup> (WB class)	people living in dire poverty <sup>3</sup>	GINI Coef. in-equality	HDI <sup>4</sup>	Aid provided <sup>5</sup> (% of GNI)	ODA received <sup>6</sup>	G77	OECD / DAC	G20
Brazil	2,476,527	12,594 Upper MIC	10,8% 20,8mil	54.7	0,730 high	300-1,000	870	Y	N/N	Y
Chile	248,585	14,394 Upper MIC	2.7% 0,4mil	52.1	0,819 very high	7	161	Y	Y/N	
China	7,318,499	5,445 Upper MIC	27.2% 363,8mil	42.1 <sub>F</sub>	0,699 medium	3,000-7,000	-796	Y	N/N	Y
Colombia	333,372	7,104 Upper MIC	15.8% 7,3mil	55.9	0,719 high	0,4	1,024	Y	N/N	
Egypt	229,531	2,781 Lower MIC	15.4% 13,1mil	30.8 <sub>F</sub>	0,662 medium	18,4	412	Y	N/N	
India	1,372,340	1,509 Lower MIC	68.8% 842,5mil	33.9 <sub>F</sub>	0,554 medium	785-3,000	3,221	Y	N/N	Y
S. Korea	1,116,247	22,424 HIC		31.3	0,909 very high	1,550 (0,13%)	118	N	Y/Y	Y
DAC comparator	Iceland 14,026	Czech Rep. 20,677 HIC	USA <sup>8</sup> 1.2% 3,8mil	USA 45.0	Portugal 0,816 very high	Greece 324 0,13%	S. Korea 118	N	Y/Y	
Mexico	1,153,343	10,047 Upper MIC	4.5% 5,1mil	47.2	0,775 high	320	963	N	Y/N	Y
Saudi Arabia	576,324	20,540 HIC			0,782 high	5,075 (0,85%)	N	Y	N/N	Y
South Africa	408,237	8,070 Upper MIC	31.3% 15,6mil	63.1	0,629 medium	100-3500 (0,2%-1%) <sup>9</sup>	1,398	Y	N/N	Y
Turkey	774,983	10,524 Upper MIC	4.7% 3,4mil	40.0	0,722 High	2,531 0,32%	3,193	N	Y/N	Y
UAE	360,245	45,653 HIC			0,818 very high	1,000 (0,32%)	N	Y	N/Y	



부산 세계개발원조총회  
**4<sup>th</sup> High Level Forum  
on Aid Effectiveness**  
29 Nov – 1 Dec 2011, Busan, Korea

- A new multi-stakeholder partnership (donors, recipients, multilaterals, CSOs, businesses, parliament, etc.
- From aid to development effectiveness
- PCD and diversity of approaches and modalities
- A new global and national monitoring and accountability for effective development cooperation.





- African multi-stakeholder platform to engage in GPEDC
- The African Consensus \*
- Africa speaks with one voice
- African leadership: AU-NEPAD, Rwanda, South Africa, Nigeria, Malawi
- The African Action Plan



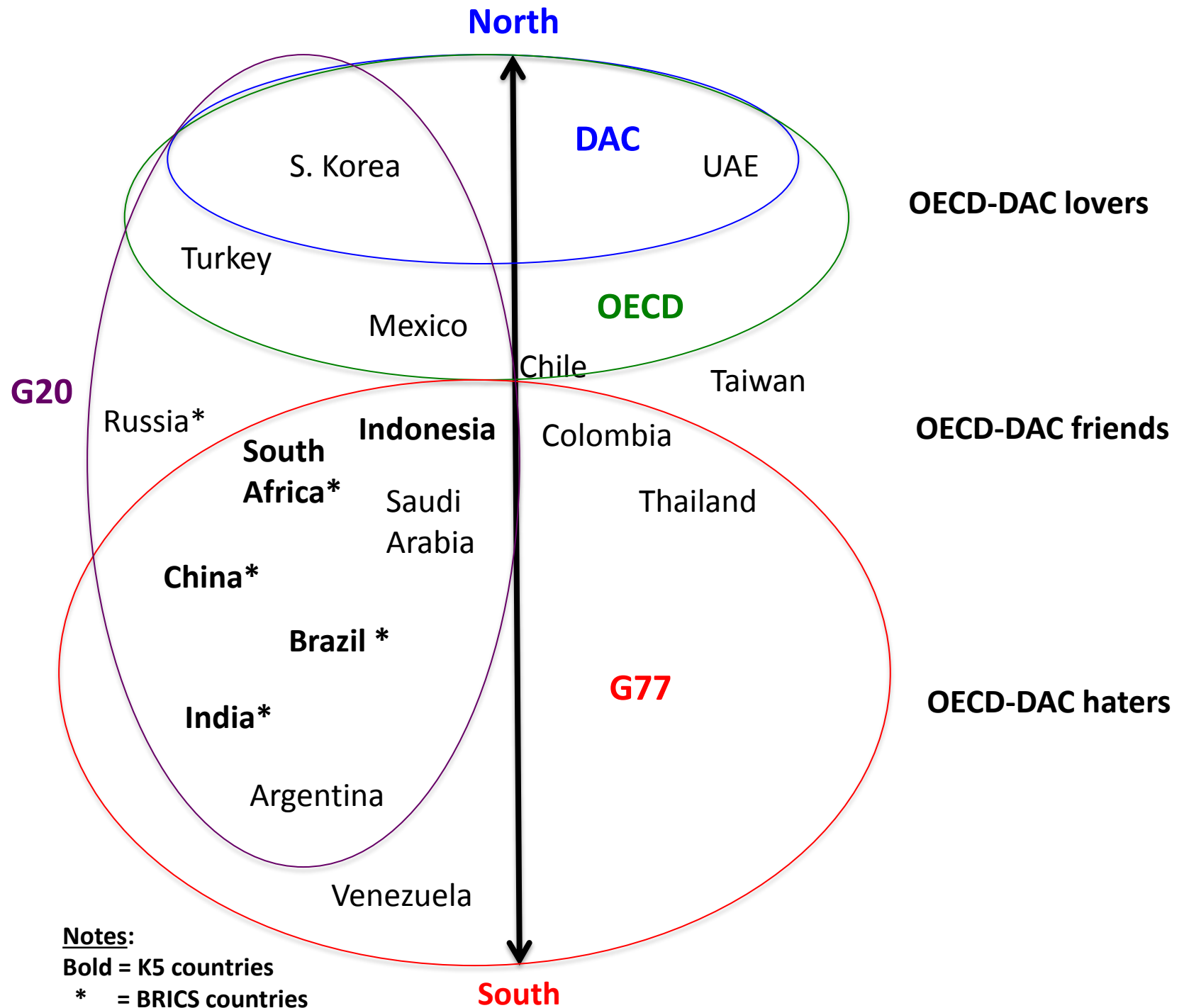
# Southern providers and the GPEDC

- GPEDC is a trap! – still a DAC driven thing
- “We don’t want to follow the same rules as the North” - “Not our rules... we didn’t make them” – “They are not appropriate for our specific type of development cooperation”
- SSC and NSC are essentially different things
  - Different history
  - Different paradigm/approach
  - Different functions
  - Incomparable volumes
  - Different capacities – not the same seasoned DAC donors (40 years of experience)
- “We are still developing countries with lots of poverty”

## **Negotiating Busan Outcome Document:**

- bending backwards for China, India & Brazil
- diluted and weaker document
- voluntary for SSC
- Common goals differential commitments









- India and China = no show!
- Brazil came to say: “we are not part of this!”
- South Africans and Africans: “let’s consider the needs of the poorest/LDCs, mostly in Africa” - “effectiveness and accountability issues are relevant also to SSC”



# Delhi Conference of Southern Providers

## March 2013



सत्यमेव जयते  
Ministry of External Affairs  
Government of India

Ministry of External Affairs



- Following the same spirit of other Southern conference: Bandung (1955), Buenos Aires (1978)... Nairobi (2009) and Bogota (2010)
- Funded completely by the Indian government!

# Delhi Conference of Southern Providers

## Issues and challenges in South-South Cooperation

- Poor data and information management.
- Weak monitoring and evaluation across all Southern agencies.
- Major evidence gap – rogues donors or beacons of partnership?
- Accountability concerns emerging also from beneficiaries and tax-payers in the South
- Need for a platforms for exchange of knowledge, experiences, peer learning and development of SSC narrative.
- Develop a common position among Southern partners when engaging in other global policy fora (GPEDC, UN, WTO, etc.) and counter-balancing the dominant OECD-DAC narrative.



# An appropriate 'home' for SSC

“Urgent need for a platform to allow South-South partners to analyse, monitor, account, share knowledge on their development cooperation, and build a common position for engagement in other global development fora”

## Options?

- **GPEDC - TT-SSC / Building Blocks / Voluntary Initiatives**
- **UNDCF – DG forum of Southern Providers**
- **BRICS**
- **IBSA**
- **G20 – Development Working Group**
- **Regional – AU-NEPAD / SEGIB / Asia-Pacific Forum**



# Establishment of the Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST)

- On the fridges of GPEDC HLM - (SRE offices, Mexico City, 14 April 2014)
- With support from CAITEC, RIS, UNDP, AMEXCID
- Initiative led and driven by Southern think-tanks in order to develop:
  - A common definition on SSC
  - Conceptual framework for SSC
  - Indicators to measure impact of SSC
  - Systematization of data collection on SSC
  - Road-map for development of SSC
- *DIE, IDS, DFID and other “Northern” actors also wanting to be part of the party!*

## Purpose of NeST:

“generate, systematise, consolidate and share knowledge on South-South Cooperation (SSC) approaches in international development”.



# NeST Executive Group



Think-Tank  
from African  
LIC (tbc)  
???





# NeST Global Work-Plan

Beijing, October 2014

## Conceptual/Methodological Framework!!!

**Empirical research and  
field evaluation**

**Improvement of data and  
information management  
systems**

**Knowledge sharing, exchange,  
peer-learning**

**SSC position building and  
policy inputs into global fora**

**Capacity-development  
in developing countries**

**Technical support to  
Southern development agencies**

# Resource mobilization strategy

- Secretariat – hosted by India
- NeST membership fees?
- Parallel resource mobilization:
  - global NeST activities
  - national chapters
- **No funding from North** – stay independent, strong Southern orientation, no conditions or strings attached, no expectations of interference and influence on the direction and work of the group
- Fund-raising strategy:
  1. Southern governments
  2. Multilateral and regional institutions (ie. UNDP, AU-NEPAD, etc.)
  3. Civil society and private sector (from the South)



# NeST Membership

- experts,
- universities,
- research institutes
- think-tanks,
- NGOs and CSOs
- private sector
- foundations
- networks

...engaged in research,  
policy debate  
and analysis of  
south-south cooperation  
and international  
development cooperation.

# Role of Southern governments, development agencies, finance institutions, multilateral and regional organizations

- **Clients** – users of the NeST services and products
- **Advisors** – make sure NeST stays on track with reality and relevant to policy processes.
- **Observers** – listen and take what they want for their own policy-making
- **Supporter** – financially and politically

## Upcoming Global Plans:      NeST Advisory Group:

- Southern Development Agencies (ie. SADPA, DPA, ABC, MOFCoM, etc.)
- Multilateral and regional institutions (ie. AU-NEPAD, UNDP, UN-DESA, UNCTAD, etc.)

# NeST National Chapters...

- Forum for Indian Development Cooperation
- Research Network on Chinese Aid
- NeST Brazil... upcoming
- NeST SA – TODAY!



# Network of Southern Think-Tanks

## South African Chapter

*Coming to this meeting makes you automatically a member or observer?*

### What is it?

A multi-stakeholder platform to informally discuss South African and African development cooperation policy

### Purpose of NeST SA:

- Generating broad-based support, enthusiasm and momentum for the NeST work in South Africa and in the region;
- Developing common understanding among local stakeholders on the nature, principles, practices, approach, effectiveness, challenges and strength of South Africa's development partnerships in Africa;
- framing, unpacking and elaborating on the South Africa-specific approach to development cooperation, and how it relates or differs from the approaches of other Southern providers and traditional donors.
- Improving data availability, access to information, knowledge and evidence around South Africa's approach to development cooperation on the continent;
- Providing useful inputs for SA's development cooperation policy, the future work of SADPA, and South Africa's positioning in the global development cooperation debates.



# Some SA specific issues



## Political challenges

- Balancing domestic priorities with foreign policy
- regional power / hegemon / big brother in Africa?
- African politics vs BRICS/G20 politics

## Technical challenges

- Everyone is in Africa – coordination, rationalization & coherence
- Definition of SA's development assistance
- Weak M&E, reporting, information and accountability systems
- Engaging private sector, civil society, parliament and other stakeholders

## Opportunities

- Comparative advantage and pivotal role in Africa
- Darling of the North, trilateral cooperation promises
- Learning from rest of the South but also from the North

**Still establishing SADPA... 8 years later???**

# The future of NeST SA is in your hands!

- What do we want to do?
  - The Focus
  - The work-plan
  - The research agenda
- How should we organise ourselves?
  - convening the group,
  - secretariat & communication
- How to finance and sustain the network and its activities?

