

Network of Southern Think-Tanks (NeST)



Update on NeST for the Seminar on SSC & PCRD

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23 September 2015, Johannesburg



सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

Ministry of External Affairs

Delhi Conference of Southern Providers

March 2013



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

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.

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

- Track 2 process parallel to the DG Forum of Southern Providers (UNDESA)
- On the fridges of GPEDC HLM - (SRE offices, Mexico City, 14 April 2014)
- Initiative led and driven by Southern think-tanks in order to develop:
 - A common definition & conceptual framework on SSC
 - Indicators and methods to measure impact of SSC in development
 - Systematization of research on SSC
 - Support development cooperation policy of Southern providers

Purpose of NeST:

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



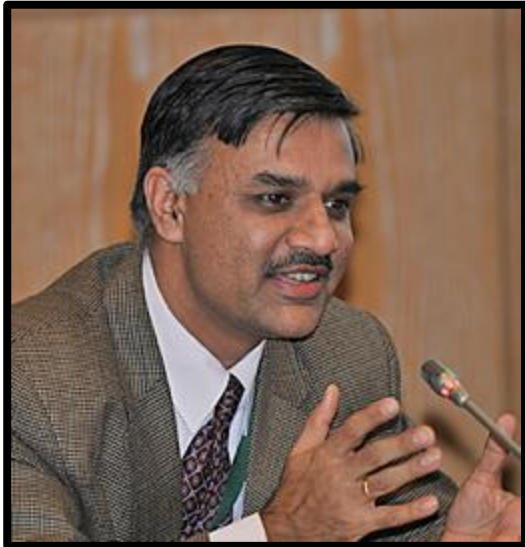
NeST Membership

- strictly Southern -

- 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.

NeST Executive Group

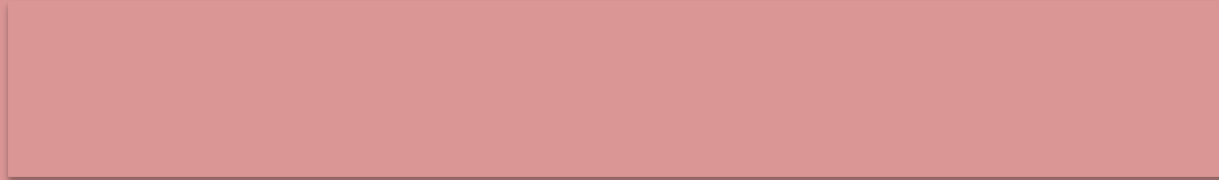


**3 more think-tanks
from LICs from
Africa, Asia and
Latin America
(by end of 2015)**



NeST Global Work-Plan

2015 - 2017



**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**

NeST

Technical Workshop

Midrand 3-5 of March 2015

- Develop a common frameworks to **measure quantity, quality** and **impact** of South-South Cooperation.
- Discuss also SSC **data** management and NeST **research, policy** and **capacity-building** agenda.



TWG on quality indicators for SSC

Johannesburg, 3-5 September 2015

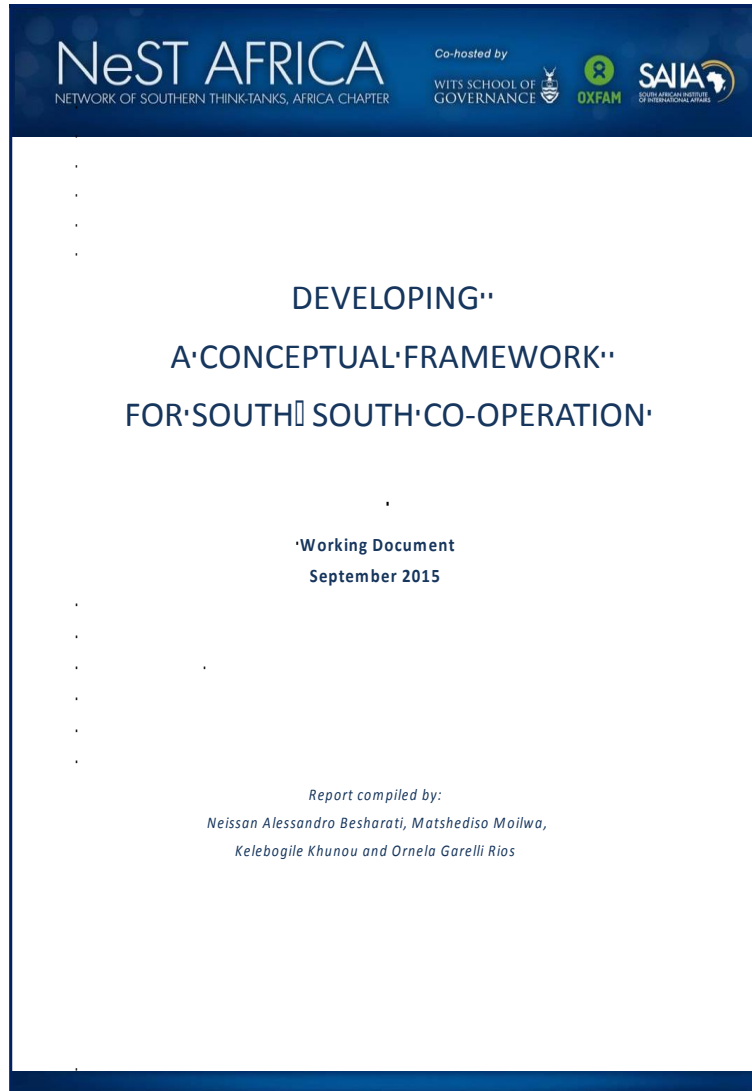
25 indicators and monitoring system, along the following dimensions:

- **National Ownership**
- **Horizontality & Solidarity**
- **Capacity Development & Sustainability**
- **Transparency & Accountability**
- **Inclusiveness and Participation**
- **Efficient Partnerships**
- **SSC in the Global Arena**



SSC analytical framework

Developed by academics and technical experts from China, India, Brazil, Turkey, Colombia, Malawi, Mexico, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe.



NeST policy engagements in global development fora

- Policy Dialogue Emerging Powers in Africa, Midrand
- Roundable on Rising Powers, Beijing
- BRICS Academic Forum, Moscow
- FfD3 Conference, Addis Ababa
- SDG Summit in New York
- ...FOCAC, UNDCF, GPEDC



Upcoming NeST activities



- **Technical working groups**
 - S-S trade, investment and PPP – Rio de Janeiro
 - Accounting and defining SSC - Geneva
- **Development of global statistical database on SSC flows in collaboration with UNCTAD**
- **Evidence-based field research and case studies (test methodology)**
 - SSC in fragile and conflict-affected areas (Africa)
 - Case studies on Chinese cooperation (Xiamen University)
 - Brazilian case studies (CEBRI, BPC, IPEA, Articulacao Sul)
- **Delhi 2 Conference of Southern Providers, March 2016**
- **Executive course in international development and SSC (Brazil/SA joint academic pilot project)**
- **Consolidating network (secretariat, website, newsletter, membership policy, national chapters, etc.)**

NeST National Chapters...

- **Forum for Indian Development Cooperation**
- **Chinese International Development Research Network**
- **NeST SA reference group – 28 January 2015**
- **NeST Brazil - 26 February 2015**
- **REMECID / NeST Mexico**
- **NeST Colombia – 2016**
- **...**

Launch of NeST SA reference group Johannesburg, 28 January 2015

A multi-stakeholder platform (SA government departments, think-tanks, universities, philanthropies, CSOs, humanitarian agencies) to discuss and unpack South Africa's specific development cooperation paradigm, approach and challenges.



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
- Opportunities of trilateral cooperation
- Learning from rest of the South but also from the North

**Elephant in the room:
Where is SADPA??
...9 years later??**

2nd NeST SA reference group meeting

Johannesburg, 2 September 2015

- SA inputs and feedback on SSC framework developed by NeST.
- **Priority research project:** accounting and consolidating the full extent of SA's development cooperation on the continent (in partnership with DIRCO, Treasury & DBSA)



NeST seminar on SSC & PCRCD in Africa

Parktown, 23 November 2015

- **How to consolidate & disseminate the knowledge on African SSC/TriCo/RC presented today?**
- **How to integrate the work on SSC in PCRCD in Africa into the NeST agenda and work plan?**
- **What suggestions, recommendations and next steps for NeST Africa Chapter?**
- **Practicalities and way forward (deliverables, time-lines, funding, coordination and partnerships)?**