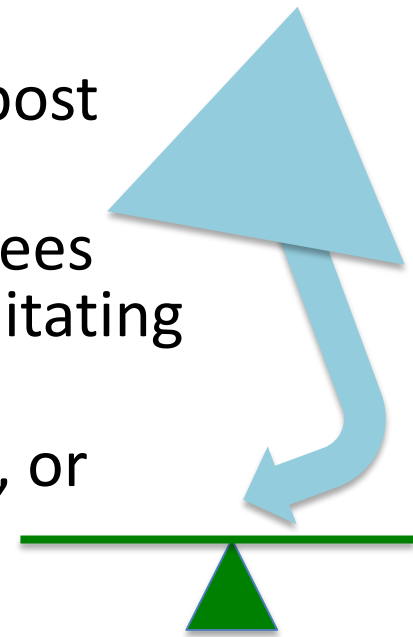African Network of Southern Think Tanks (NeST) Seminar on Peace-Building and Development in Africa through South-South Cooperation, Johannesburg, 23 November 2015

MIRROR MIRROR ON THE WALL, WHO IS THE FAIREST ONE OF ALL?

SOUTH AFRICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE AND GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA THROUGH TRILATERAL SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION (TriSSC) AND POST-CONFLICT STATE CAPACITY BUILDING (SOUTH AFRICA, RWANDA, BURUNDI AND SOUTH SUDAN)

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TriSSC – the fairest of them all?

- An emerging method combining approach of *hegemonic* N with more *mutual* ways of global S
- Creates space for regional leaders to leverage experience - RSA in security governance and post conflict state development
- Changing political economy of development sees SSC as part of the 'solution' to conflict by facilitating stability
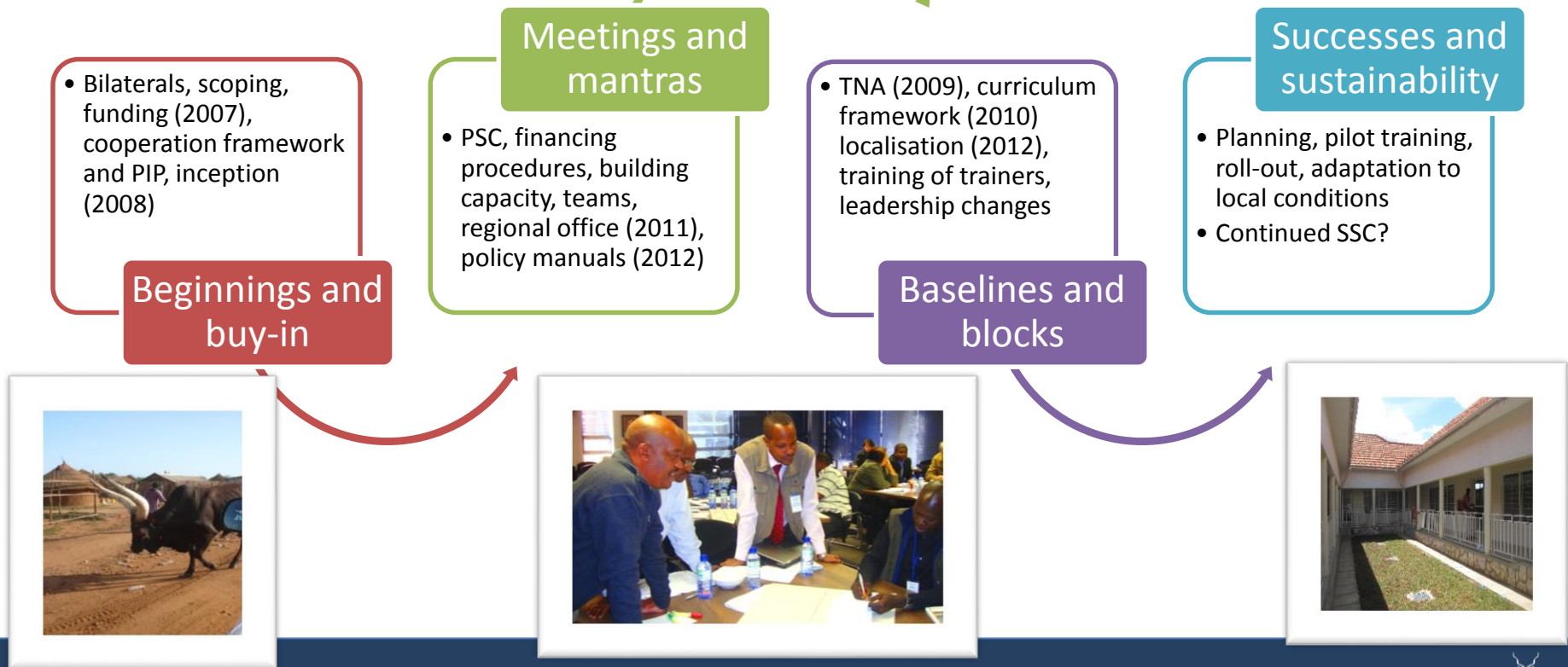- The fairest: from N support to SS self-support, or buying legitimacy?

Does SSC survive the changing of the guard?

The RCB project

- The early partnerships were Africa-based (under the mantle of African Union policy), bilateral and needs driven

- Funded by CIDA to build the capacity of MDIs to improve public service management and contribute to post-war reconstruction under DIRCO policy

- Similar post-conflict, colonial and struggle experiences and involved in building the capabilities of the public service to deliver on development

- **Some real success in building public service training capacity but did it build sustainable SS collaborations?**

The process from 2008 to 2013

"The intention is that partner … through the training and technical support provided by SAMDI, and through their own practical participation and engagement in project activities, develop their capacity to design and deliver their own high quality training and development programmes for their respective public services." (SAMDI, 2008)

Beginnings and buy-in
- Bilaterals, scoping, funding (2007), cooperation framework and PIP, inception (2008)

Meetings and mantras
- PSC, financing procedures, building capacity, teams, regional office (2011), policy manuals (2012)

Baselines and blocks
- TNA (2009), curriculum framework (2010) localisation (2012), training of trainers, leadership changes

Successes and sustainability
- Planning, pilot training, roll-out, adaptation to local conditions
- Continued SSC?

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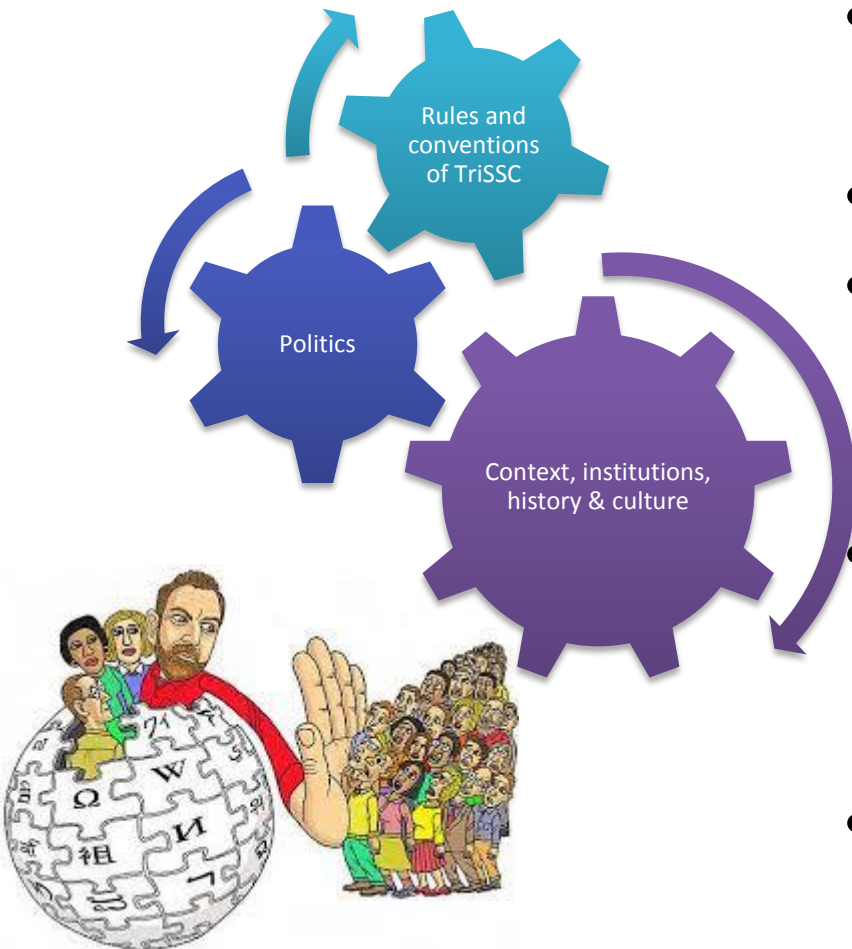UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG

Some lessons

- Build strong institutions with political and stakeholder support and engagement

- Process as important as result

- Mutual interest, common context and challenges do not guarantee ownership and mutual accountability

- Stable leadership/champion critical

- S trusted to lead by an invisible N

- Impact only as big as commitment

- Keep targets but be flexible

"We have a common history as we are lacking in skills as post-conflict countries. All those commonalities keep us together as we each have something to learn from the other countries. We also have a common goal – serving people."

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Imperialism in disguise?

- The politics of cooperation – who decides, how and why
- The myth of equality in SSC
- New actors but the same script – socio-political engineering
- Fragile states, weak institutions, recurring instability
- Sustainability post-funding

Rules and conventions of TriSSC

Politics

Context, institutions, history & culture

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