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## Beyond the North-South Divide: Triangular Cooperation in the New Development Cooperation

Jurek Seifert, Paolo de Renzio (coord.)



**BRICS Policy Center** Centro de Estudos e Pesquisas - BRICS



**SSC**

South-South Cooperation

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## **Executive Summary:**

International development cooperation has been changing rapidly during the last two decades. Shifts in international power constellations and a trend towards an increasing multipolarity are reflected in development cooperation institutions and settings. A group of middle-income countries – among them, the BRICS – have significantly stepped up their development cooperation programs, and managed to establish themselves as important actors in the international aid landscape. However, these “new development partners” have made a point of labeling their engagement “South-South Cooperation” (SSC) and emphasizing its difference from the North-South Cooperation carried out by “traditional” donors, the members of the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

These have reacted towards these changes and increasingly seek to engage in jointly implemented development cooperation projects. Their proclaimed aim is that of making cooperation more effective and adding an aggregated value for the recipient countries by promoting Triangular Cooperation (TC) as a new (or complementary) cooperation modality in development cooperation. This policy brief intends to shed a light on current trends and developments in Triangular Development Cooperation, and investigate possible reasons for the growing interest of both traditional and new development partners in this form of cooperation.

# Beyond the North-South Divide: Triangular Cooperation in the New Development Cooperation\*

Jurek Seifert,  
Paolo de Renzio (coord.)

## 1. South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

After the end of the Cold War and with the rise of emerging powers in the global order, South-South Cooperation has established itself as a modality of development cooperation of growing relevance. Although there is still a lack of data when it comes to its actual volumes, estimates suggest that development cooperation by non-DAC members accounts for about 10% of total development assistance, and could reach 20% by 2015<sup>1</sup>. South-South cooperation providers have also become more assertive in international fora on development cooperation. Since the Paris meeting on aid effectiveness in 2005, these countries have increasingly shaped the content of follow-up declarations – as reflected in paragraphs referring to South-South cooperation in the Accra Agenda for Action (2008) and the Busan Partnership document (2011) – and their participation and endorsement has been seen as essential to the main objectives of these meetings. The Busan Partnership document, in particular, was heavily influenced by important SSC providers such as Brazil and China, which negotiated the inclusion of language which, apart from recognizing SSC as a different development cooperation modality and highlighting its importance, established that the principles and practices enshrined in the document only applied to SSC providers on a voluntary basis, refrained from setting binding rules for all signatories<sup>2</sup>.

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1 Park, K.-H. (2011): 'New Development Partners and a Global Development Partnership. In H. Kharas, K. Makino, W.Jung (Eds.): Catalyzing development. A new vision for aid. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

2 [www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/busanpartnership.htm](http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/busanpartnership.htm).

\* This Policy Brief was written in April 2014, reviewed and published in March 2015

The OECD/DAC has explicitly expressed the desire to intensify cooperation and coordination between Northern and Southern providers, and to include SSC actors in the existing aid system. Here, Triangular Cooperation seems to evolve as a possible solution. The founding of the “Global Partnership for Development Effectiveness” (GPEDC)<sup>3</sup> in 2012 can be seen as a first step towards an institutionalization of this North-South Dialogue. Still, the relevance and further perspective of the GPEDC and the relationship between the practitioners of North-South and South-South cooperation continues to remain uncertain<sup>4</sup>.

Against this background, Triangular Cooperation has evolved as a possible solution. The Busan Partnership document lists TC as an important means to improve the dialogue between North and South and to increase aid effectiveness through “sharing of knowledge and mutual learning”<sup>5</sup>. Despite the current emphasis on the need to bring “new” and “old” development cooperation actors together, it is important to keep in mind that, similarly to South-South Cooperation, TC is not new to international development cooperation – with projects being implemented as early as the 1980s<sup>6</sup>. Also similarly to SSC, several questions can be raised about Triangular Cooperation, including how it should be defined, who is engaged in it and why, and also how far it will become more permanent feature.

## 2. Triangular Cooperation: what are we talking about?

At a first glance, Triangular Cooperation seems easy enough to define: most commonly, for a triangular cooperation project to exist it needs to involve: (a) one of the countries that are now called “traditional donors”, i.e. the members of the OECD/DAC; (b) one of the “new development partners” or providers of South-South Cooperation (e.g. Brazil, China, Mexico, Indonesia, etc.); and (c) a recipient country. The simultaneous and coordinated intervention of (a) and (b) is meant to constitute a combined effort to increase the benefits for (c) and the overall effectiveness and impact of the project, compared to more traditional bilateral and uncoordinated efforts.

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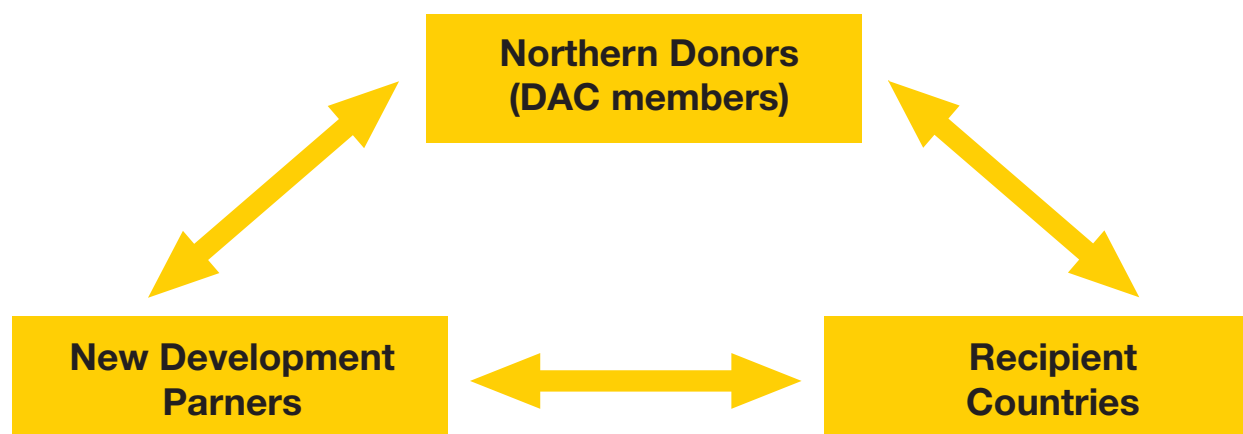
<sup>3</sup> [www.effectivecooperation.org](http://www.effectivecooperation.org).

<sup>4</sup> Abdenur, A. and Fonseca, J. (2013) The ‘North’s Growing Role in South–South Cooperation: keeping the foothold’, *Third World Quarterly*, 34 (8), pp. 1475–1491.

<sup>5</sup> OECD-DAC (2011): *Busan Partnership For Effective Development Co-operation*. Available online at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/49650173.pdf> (checked on 20/06/2013). The importance of TC was also highlighted at the United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Co-operation in 2009 in Nairobi. See also McEwan, C. and E. Mawdsley (2012) ‘Trilateral development cooperation: power and politics in emerging aid relationships’, *Development and Change*, 43 (6), pp. 1185–1209.

<sup>6</sup> For example in the case of Germany, China and Mali in 1986. See BMZ (2013): *Triangular cooperation in German development cooperation. Position Paper*. Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ). Available online at: [http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type\\_of\\_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier334\\_05\\_2013.pdf](http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier334_05_2013.pdf) (checked on 26/3/2014).

**Figure 1: Most common definition of Triangular Cooperation**



Source: own illustration based on OECD publications<sup>7</sup>.

However, When looking at actual practices in international development cooperation, several possible constellations of actors can be considered as forms of triangular cooperation. A survey recently conducted by the OECD<sup>8</sup> illustrates that the definition of TC varies among practitioners and stakeholders. According to the survey, another common form of TC is the one involving a multilateral institution – primarily from the UN system – assuming the role of the “traditional” donor. And more and different ones exist.

Moreover, these different constellations do not make any assumptions, nor do they provide clear indications, about the roles that different actors play. As pointed out by MacEwan and Mawdsley<sup>9</sup>, in some cases both providers of development cooperation join in a common effort to merge and enhance their respective technical knowledge and experience – as promoted, among others, by Germany’s international cooperation agency (GIZ). In other cases, the Northern donor or multilateral institution may only provide the financial means, leaving implementation in the hands of a Southern partner – a model preferred by Japan. The OECD survey suggests that both of these forms of TC are currently practiced<sup>10</sup> which is why the organization sees “a clear need to further clarify what triangular co-operation is”<sup>11</sup> - with regard to actors as well as with regard to content.

Another obstacle to a common definition of what can be understood as TC is the variety of terms used in order to describe it. These include “trilateral co-operation”, “trilateral assistance”, “tripartite co-operation”, “tripartite agreement”, “reverse linkages”, and “development partnership”<sup>12</sup>. The OECD in fact sees such variety of definitions as a strength rather than a challenge:

7 Fordelone, T. (2009) ‘Triangular Co-operation and Aid Effectiveness. Can triangular Co-operation make aid more effective?’ Paris: OECD/DAC. Available online at: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/44652734.pdf> (checked on 5/10/2013).

8 OECD/DAC (2013): Triangular Co-operation. What can we learn from a survey of actors involved? 2012 Report. Paris: OECD/DAC. Available online at <http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-global-relations/OECD%20Triangluar%20Co-operation%20Survey%20Report%20-%20June%202013.pdf>.

9 McEwan and Mawdsley (2012), op. cit.

10 One third of respondents (19 out of 56) reported sharing the costs of triangular cooperation with their partners. Among these are eight providers of development co-operation (Australia, Germany, Israel, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Spain, United States), four international organisations (AsDB, CARICOM, NEPAD, SU-SSC), and seven developing countries (Cape Verde, Egypt, Guatemala, Mali, Niger, Peru, Thailand). OECD-DAC (2013), op. cit.

11 OECD/DAC (2013), op. cit., p. 13.

12 OECD/DAC (2013), op. cit., p. 9.



*There is no single model of triangular co-operation, but rather a diversity of approaches designed to capture opportunities for collaboration and learning. The international community should embrace this diversity instead of limiting it to one definition<sup>13</sup>.*

In any case, Despite the lack of a commonly accepted terminology and definition, Triangular Cooperation is becoming more established and more important as a development cooperation modality. What remains to be verified is the extent to which TC projects do in fact bring additional benefits for recipient countries, or whether these benefits are outweighed by higher transaction costs. Here, the lack of data can be seen as the main obstacle. Surprisingly, neither DAC members nor Southern development cooperation providers appear to monitor and/or evaluate their TC activities in a way that allows for systemic analysis.

### 3. Who is involved in Triangular Cooperation?

Given the dearth of existing data sources, the OECD survey mentioned above has to be seen as the main source of information on TC. The survey did not collect primary data on volumes or projects, but simply systematized respondents' answers, showing important gaps. As the survey states<sup>14</sup>:

*Almost one quarter of respondents (13 out of 56) could not provide an estimate of the number of their triangular co-operation initiatives and nearly half (27 out of 56) could not indicate how much they invested in this form of development cooperation.*

What the survey does provide, however, is information on who's involved in TC. 56 out of 73 respondents say their countries or institutions are involved in triangular cooperation: this includes 17 development cooperation providers, 12 international organizations and 27 developing countries<sup>15</sup>. Among Members of the OECD/DAC, Japan, Germany, Spain and the United States are the countries that were mentioned most often, alongside the United Nations among multilateral agencies.

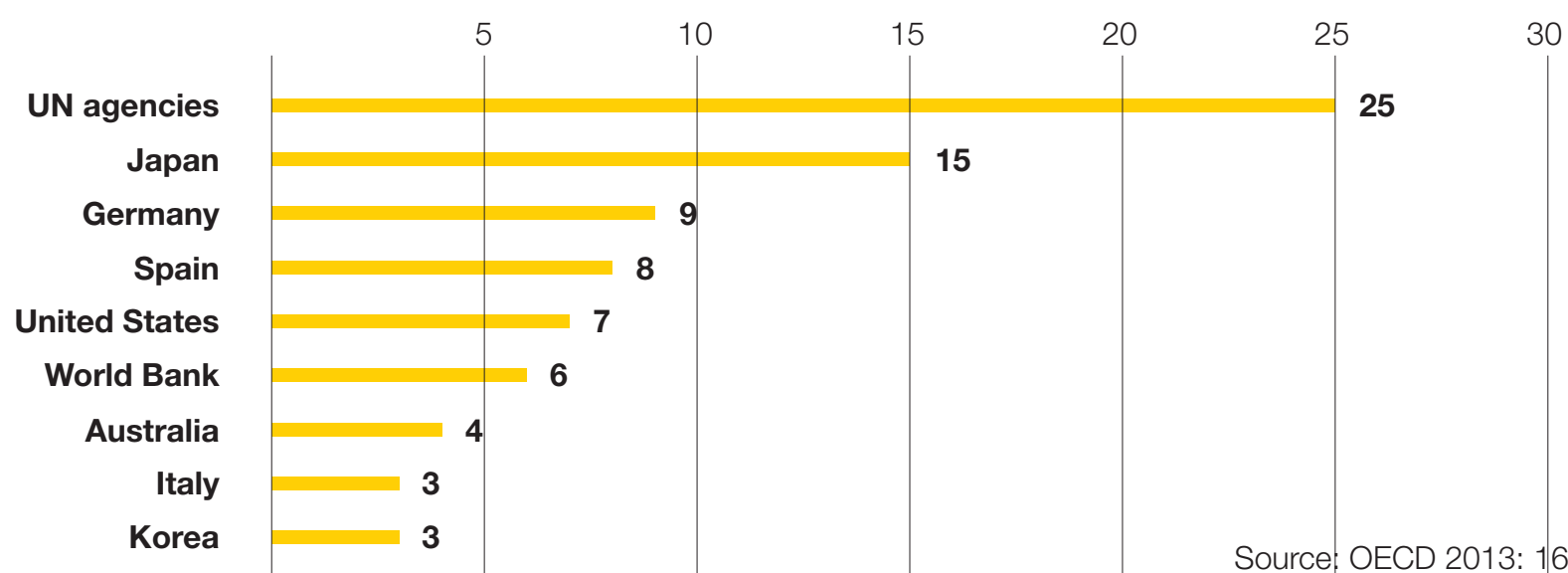
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13 OECD/DAC (2012): Triangular co-operation: Emerging policy messages and interim findings from analytical work. DAC High Level Meeting 2012. Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) - Development Assistance Committee (DAC). London, United Kingdom. Available online at <http://www.oecd.org/dachlm/DACHLMTechDocTriangularCoop.pdf>, checked on 20.10.2013.

14 OECD/DAC (2013), op. cit., p. 19.

15 These are: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States. OECD/DAC (2013), op. cit., p. 16.



**Figure 2: Most important providers of development assistance that engage in TC (No. of projects)**

Source: OECD 2013: 16

Triangular cooperation happens in every region and almost every sector, particularly through projects of technical assistance” (OECD/ DAC 2013)<sup>16</sup> South America, Africa and Asia all get their share of TC activities, but with regard to sectors, a closer look shows that there appears to be a trend towards projects focused on civil society, agriculture and health.

Since Japan and Germany play a leading role among OECD/DAC members when it comes to TC, their respective development cooperation ministries and agencies have produced strategy papers and guidelines on Triangular Cooperation recently, contributing more detailed information on their activities.<sup>17</sup>

The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has partnership programs with a wide range of cooperation partners, including Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines, and listed a total of thirty TC projects (ongoing and completed) at the end of 2012.<sup>18</sup> JICA emphasizes in particular its triangular arrangements with Brazil as one of the most important cooperation partners and has been working on a detailed TC framework with Brazil.<sup>19</sup> In addition, JICA has recently published a comprehensive set of case studies of Triangular Cooperation and South-South Cooperation that was conducted jointly with the United Nations office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).<sup>20</sup>

<sup>16</sup> OECD/DAC (2013), op. cit., p. 9.

<sup>17</sup> JICA RI (2012): Scaling Up South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Conference Volume Prepared for the Global South-South Development Expo 2012. JICA Working Paper. Tokyo, Japan: Japan International Cooperation Agency Research Institute (JICA RI); UNOSSC and JICA (2013): Enhancing Management Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Study on Country-led Experiences. United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC); Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Available online at: [http://tcdc2.undp.org/.../SSC\\_Case\\_Designed\\_Web.pdf](http://tcdc2.undp.org/.../SSC_Case_Designed_Web.pdf) (checked on 11/2/2013); and BMZ (2013), op. cit.

<sup>18</sup> JICA RI (Ed.) (2012): Scaling Up South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Conference Volume Prepared for the Global South-South Development Expo 2012. JICA Working Paper. Tokyo, Japan: Japan International Cooperation Agency Research Institute (JICA RI). P 254ff.

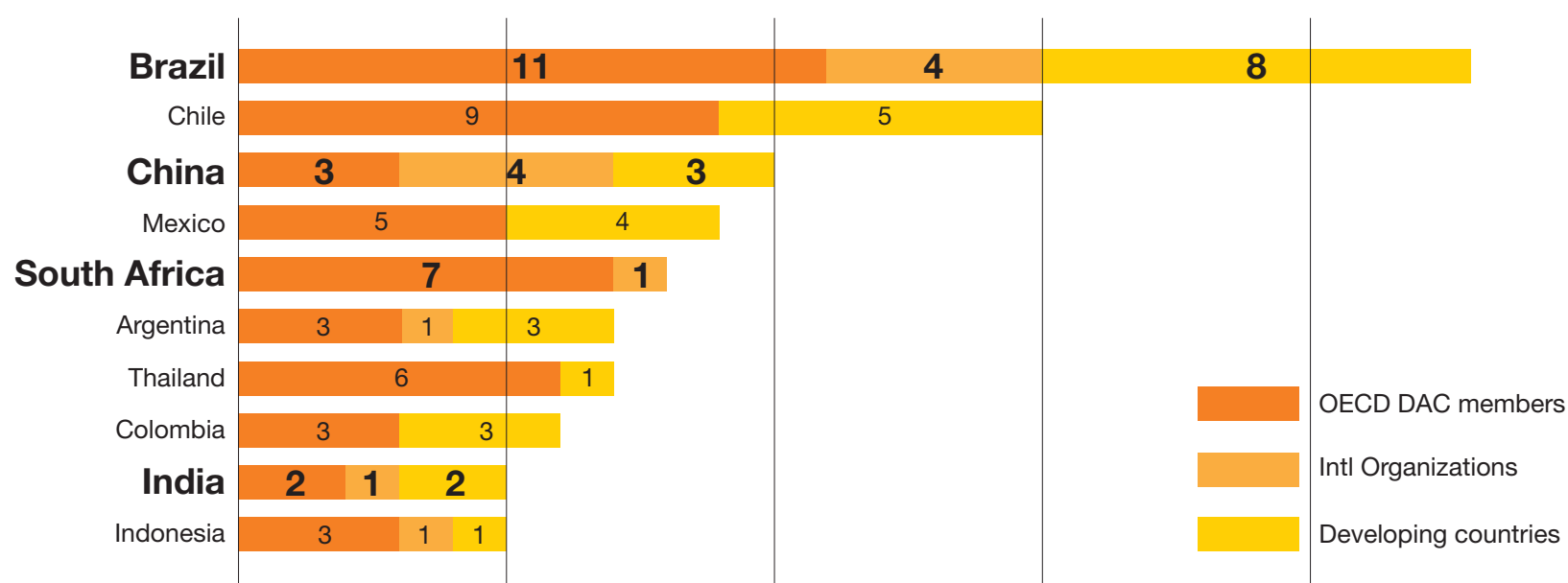
<sup>19</sup> <http://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/opinion/2012/130301.html>; 25.02.2014 and JICA RI, ed. (2012): Scaling Up South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Conference Volume Prepared for the Global South-South Development Expo 2012, JICA Working Paper, Tokyo, Japan: Japan International Cooperation Agency Research Institute (JICA RI). P. 227

<sup>20</sup> UNOSSC; JICA (2013): Enhancing Management Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Study on Country-led Experiences. United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC); Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Available online at [tcdc2.undp.org/.../SSC\\_Case\\_Designed\\_Web.pdf](http://tcdc2.undp.org/.../SSC_Case_Designed_Web.pdf), checked on 11/2/2013.

Germany's Ministry for Cooperation (BMZ), for instance, has stated in 2011 that TC "arrangements create an opportunity to make global development cooperation more effective in practice. Triangular cooperation is an additional instrument that complements bilateral development cooperation. [...] Key elements of a triangular cooperation arrangement are the exchange of lessons learned and the establishment of mutual trust between the three sides involved."<sup>21</sup> Germany has a number of TC partnerships in Latin America – for instance with Brazil, Mexico and Chile, the countries from the region that have increased their development cooperation more significantly in recent years, and have shown an interest in cooperating with more donors.<sup>22</sup> The BMZ has established a Latin America Triangular Cooperation Fund that finances projects conducted in the region (for instance on democracy and civil society in a project involving Peru and Guatemala), but also in Africa (for example, in projects in Mozambique that are conducted jointly with Brazil). In Asia, Germany engages in TC with Indonesia and Malaysia and in Africa, while its Triangular Cooperation Programme with South Africa serves for implementing projects with recipient countries such as Kenya, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo.<sup>23</sup>

When looking at SSC providers involved in Triangular Cooperation, the OECD ranks three BRICS countries among the top five actors – together with Chile and Mexico, two countries that have more recently become development cooperation providers, and that have shown more proximity to the OECD/DAC.<sup>24</sup> India has been known to be more reluctant with regard to Triangular Cooperation, but has also been identified as a TC actor by the OECD survey respondents, and engages in the IBSA cooperation fund together with Brazil and South Africa.

**Figure 3: SSC providers most mentioned as partners in TC**



Source: OECD 2013: 17

<sup>21</sup> BMZ (2013), op. cit., p. 19.

<sup>22</sup> BMZ (2013), op. cit., p. 7.

<sup>23</sup> BMZ (2013), op. cit., p. 8.

<sup>24</sup> OECD-DAC (2010) Beyond the DAC. The welcome role of other providers of development co-operation. DCD Issue Briefs. Paris: OECD/DAC. Available online at: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/45361474.pdf> (checked 26/3/2014).

Brazil stands out as a provider of South-South cooperation that has increased its engagement in technical cooperation significantly during the last decade, and maintained a certain distance from OECD/DAC positions. However, the country has engaged in a number of Triangular Cooperation projects with Northern donors such as Japan and Germany, having signed Memorandums of Understanding with both countries. Brazil's cooperation agency and some sector ministries have initiated TC projects in South America and Africa, the most important and most controversial<sup>25</sup> of which is the ProSavana project with Japan and Mozambique, that seeks to transfer knowledge on agricultural development from Brazil's cerrado region to the Nakala corridor in Mozambique. With Germany, Brazil has TC projects in Peru and Mozambique.

China's development cooperation program has also grown substantially, in parallel with its international reach and influence. While the debate around China's development cooperation program, its nature, volume and the interests behind it, still rages,<sup>26</sup> the OECD survey shows that currently China is perceived as a relevant actor when it comes to TC, although others have observed that the country has not been too eager to join forces with Northern donors<sup>27</sup> – in spite of having been involved in Triangular cooperation with Germany and Mali as early as 1986.<sup>28</sup>

South Africa is the smallest among BRICS countries, and the smallest provider of South-South cooperation<sup>29</sup>, even though its development cooperation program has been very dynamic – with the foundation of the South African Development Partnership Agency (SADPA) as the most important recent change. Similar to Brazil and India, South Africa has emphasized its role as an actor of the Global South when it comes to development cooperation and maintained its distance from the Northern donors' discourse. However, the country fulfils an important function as a regional actor in Southern Africa and is therefore attractive as a partner for Northern Donors engaged in the region. Accordingly, the OECD survey suggests that South Africa has the potential to become an important player in Triangular Cooperation, and the country has already engaged in some projects with USAID, GIZ and DFID, among others.

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25 Mello, F. (2013): O que quer o Brasil com o ProSavana?, available online at <http://www.verdade.co.mz/economia/35642-o-que-quer-o-brasil-com-o-prosavana> (checked 02/04/ 2014).

26 See, for example, D. Bräutigam (2011): 'Aid 'With Chinese Characteristics': Chinese Foreign Aid and Development Finance Meet the OECD-DAC Aid Regime', *Journal of International Development* 23(5): 752–764. M. Naím (2007): 'Rogue Aid. What's wrong with the foreign aid programs of China, Venezuela, and Saudi Arabia? They are enormously generous. And they are toxic', *Foreign Policy* (March/ April 2007): 95–96. A. Dreher and A. Fuchs (2011): 'Rogue Aid? The Determinants of China's Aid Allocation', available at [http://www2.vwl.wiso.uni-goettingen.de/courant-papers/CRC-PEG\\_DP\\_93.pdf](http://www2.vwl.wiso.uni-goettingen.de/courant-papers/CRC-PEG_DP_93.pdf).

27 ECOSOC (2008): Background Study for the Development Cooperation Forum. Trends in South-South and Triangular Development Cooperation. April 2008: United Nations Economic and Social Council, available at [http://www.un.org/ecosoc/docs/pdfs/South-South\\_cooperation.pdf](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/docs/pdfs/South-South_cooperation.pdf); and Abdenur and Fonseca (2013), op. cit.

28 BMZ (2013), op. cit., p. 14.

29 Sidiropoulos, E. et al. (2008): Emerging Donors in International Development Assistance: The South Africa Case. Ottawa: International Development Research Center. Available online at [http://www.idrc.ca/uploads/user-S/12441475471Case\\_of\\_South\\_Africa.pdf](http://www.idrc.ca/uploads/user-S/12441475471Case_of_South_Africa.pdf) (checked 26/3/2014).

## 4. What motivates TC actors in North and South?

As already pointed out, DAC members – as well as the international development institutions – highlight the additional benefits that come from having different kinds of development cooperation providers cooperate. Southern providers can draw on their background as former developing countries and bring knowledge and expertise that might be more relevant for recipient countries. On the other hand, Northern donors emphasize their technical and sectorial knowledge, and their longer experience in international cooperation as their strength when it comes to joining Triangular Cooperation arrangements. They also dispose of budgets that still outrange many Southern providers by far and, additionally, have personnel capacities that have been trained to work within international cooperation contexts for decades, and can therefore be attractive for recipient countries.

Nevertheless, the re-emergence of South-South cooperation has been an important challenge for the DAC members. The enthusiastic interest of Northern Donors in TC projects can be interpreted as a strategic positioning. While currently the DAC is still estimated to account for around 90% of global official development assistance, new development partners could be responsible for about 20% by 2015<sup>30</sup>, making major changes in the international development architecture more likely. So far these shifts are evident in the Busan Partnership document, and have led to the creation of the already mentioned Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).

The enthusiastic interest of Northern Donors in cooperating with Southern providers by engaging in TC projects can be interpreted as a strategic positioning vis-à-vis these current shifts. Triangular cooperation provides a possibility for Northern donors to maintain institutional bonds with emerging powers that are graduating from being aid recipients, while at the same time demonstrating openness to ongoing changes in the development cooperation landscape and responding to increasing questioning about the effectiveness of their past development cooperation efforts. Through TC, they are also able to enlarge their cooperation portfolios and indirectly sensitize SSC actors to the importance of international norms underpinning principles and procedures of effective aid.<sup>31</sup>

On the other side, Southern development cooperation providers have also been anxious to show their active engagement in Triangular Cooperation, albeit for different reasons. While maintaining a distance from OECD/DAC positions and abstaining from signing some of the more binding declarations makes sense at a political level, TC arrangements hold clear benefits for Southern providers in the form of access to additional financial resources and technical experience in international cooperation provided by the North. Most importantly, however, it allows these actors to show that they dispose of the necessary – political, financial and technical – capacities to conduct technical cooperation on the same level as established donors, without having to endorse their standards and procedures. Thus, providers such as the BRICS countries are able to maintain their South-South rhetoric, while at the same time engaging in a wider set of development cooperation activities and influencing the international development agenda.

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30 Park, K.-H. (2011), op. cit.

31 See Ashoff, G. (2010) 'Triangular Cooperation: Opportunities, risks, and conditions for effectiveness', Development Outreach, October 2010, pp. 22-24. Available online at: <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/WBI/Resources/213798-1286217829056/ashoff.pdf> (checked 26/3/2014).



The variety of motivations behind engagement in TC projects across the North-South divide, and the strong political dimension behind some of them, can also help explain why so little effort has been put into monitoring the overall numbers and financial resources dedicated to TC projects, or into evaluating their impact and success.

Recipient countries have been by far the group that has received the least attention in debates on triangular cooperation. In general, the re-emergence of South-South cooperation is seen as a possibility for recipients to widen their choice of development partners and thereby strengthen their bargaining position. In theory, TC should increase this choice even further and – by allowing recipients to have a bigger say in project conceptualization – potentially bring about more effective interventions that build on different donors' strengths. However, whether that potential turns into reality is something yet to be determined, and will depend on how triangular cooperation continues to develop further as an aid modality, and on how recipient countries manage to define their role in triangular arrangements.

## 5. Conclusions

Triangular Cooperation continues to gain importance as a development cooperation modality. However, there is a danger that Northern as well as Southern cooperation providers will be more interested in showing their good will than actually providing better and more effective development cooperation.<sup>32</sup> This is reflected in the communiqué coming out of the first High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, taking place in Mexico in April 2014, which states that:

*“Triangular Cooperation is an innovative way of inclusive partnering, which provide us with the opportunity to bring together the diversity and richness of the experiences, lessons learned and different assets of Northern and Southern partners, by maximizing, through well-supported cooperation schemes, the use of effective, locally owned solutions that are appropriate to specific country contexts. We encourage scaling up the deployment of triangular cooperation projects, drawing on the relative advantages of all development partners.”<sup>33</sup>*

Further developments in Triangular Cooperation will depend on a number of issues, among which:

- a) the development of a commonly agreed-upon definition or taxonomy of the various forms of Triangular Cooperation. Although some – like the OECD – emphasize the advantages of a broad definition encompassing many varieties of TC, a clearer consensus on the modality will help all actors involved to establish routines in their TC activities and improve cooperation, coordination and effectiveness.

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32 OECD et al. (2014): Promoting Better Triangular Co-operation: Where Have We Got to Since Busan and Where to Next After 2015?. Available online at: [http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-global-relations/Aug%202014%20-%20Focus%20Session%20Triangular%20Co-operation\\_FULL%20SUMMARY.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-global-relations/Aug%202014%20-%20Focus%20Session%20Triangular%20Co-operation_FULL%20SUMMARY.pdf) (checked 12/12/2014).

33 Second Draft of the Mexico HLM Communiqué. Available online at: <http://effectivecooperation.org/2014/03/21/draft-communiqué-for-the-first-high-level-meeting-of-the-global-partnership/>.

b) This could, in turn, lead to more valuable lessons learnt from ongoing initiatives, and bring more benefits to those who are supposed to primarily benefit from TC – recipient countries.

The main challenge for assessing the effectiveness of Triangular Cooperation will be how to compare it with possible alternatives like bilateral cooperation. Inevitably, it is quite difficult to prove that TC projects and activities bring additional benefits, as practitioners claim. The danger is that Northern as well as Southern cooperation providers will be more interested in showing their good will to engage in Triangular Cooperation – and thereby be seen as moving beyond the North-South divide – rather than actually proving that by doing so they are providing better and more effective development cooperation.

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