

# South-South Cooperation on Climate Change

a new emerging dimension of the global response to climate change



South-South Cooperation (SSC) is emerging as a new important dimension of the global response to climate change, an essential complement to North-South cooperation. In recent years, SSC has demonstrated its potential to contribute to all building blocks of climate change responses; knowledge, technology, finance, capacity-building and policy, covering both adaptation and mitigation. Developing countries have engaged more and more in concerted efforts to share lessons and experiences; some of them have taken the lead in defining and implementing low-carbon, climate resilient development pathways.

The importance of **South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC)** was acknowledged by ministers, principals of UN agencies and other prominent international organizations who gathered last year in Lima for the first SSCCC Forum, held at the margins of COP20. On that occasion, the necessity to promote SSC as an integral part of global action against climate change was emphasized.

Whilst the world is highly expecting a **new climate agreement** at COP21, this is an opportune moment to reflect on the role of SSC in its implementation. SSCCC builds on and complements existing processes and mechanisms under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol that enable and support actions in and by developing countries.

To enhance such complementarities of SSC, it is important to identify remaining **gaps** in the present climate architecture, which a South-South dimension could help to narrow down, such as **capacity for readiness** in the global South. Developing countries need more support in implementing climate agreements. SSC can play a crucial role in strengthening countries' capacity for accessing new flows of resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation; it could also help them

make a stronger case for availability of, and simpler access to scaled-up resources.

To further delineate the main functions of SSCCC, the distinctive **comparative advantage** of South-South cooperation must be identified, i.e. sectors where enhancing SSC would bring decisive benefits, both in terms of economic development and environment protection. One example could be identifying, validating and sharing **traditional knowledge** and good practices. Another could be mainstreaming **ecosystem-based approaches**, yielding multiple benefits of adaptation, mitigation and livelihood improvement in the global South, where countries are more dependent on ecosystem services.

Realizing the benefits of SSCCC requires innovative implementation modalities, which should be guided by considerations of inclusiveness and transparency, as well as efficiency and effectiveness. The needs for enhanced capacity building, research and knowledge sharing, technology transfer, support for policy setting and catalyzing new resources in the South and for the South warrant a new mechanism, such as a **Platform for promoting SSCCC**.

In conclusion, SSCCC must constitute an integral part of the future climate architecture; all current and future initiatives and funding mechanisms under the UNFCCC, national and international alike, are suggested to include a South-South dimension in their respective work programmes.

The **second edition of the SSCCC Forum** to be held on 6 December 2015 in the interval of COP21 in Paris will be a new milestone in achieving these objectives and moving from political statements to concrete actions.

# UNEP and China on SSCCC

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of China starts working together with UN agencies on SSCCC initiatives

A High-level Roundtable on Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in the context of South-South Cooperation takes place at COP19 in Warsaw in December 2013



In May 2014 China and UNEP sign an agreement to harness their “strengths, capacities and resources” to assist the global South combat climate change



In a Scoping Meeting held in Beijing in August 2015, experts discuss the niche and strategic directions of SSCCC, including the launch of a Platform for promoting SSCCC

Co-sponsored by NDRC and UNEP, the second edition of the SSCCC Forum is organized in Paris on 6 December 2015, as a side event of COP21



2008-2013

UNEP-IEMP, the first UNEP-collaborating centre “in the South and for the South”, hosted by the Chinese Academy of Sciences, is established in Beijing in 2011



Ecosystem-based Adaptation through South-South Cooperation (EbA South), a joint initiative of NDRC and UNEP, funded by the GEF, is launched in April 2013

2014

The first SSCCC Forum takes place in Lima on 8 December 2014, in the interval of COP20, with more than 200 participants



2015

In September 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping announces that China will make available 3.1 billion USD for SSCCC