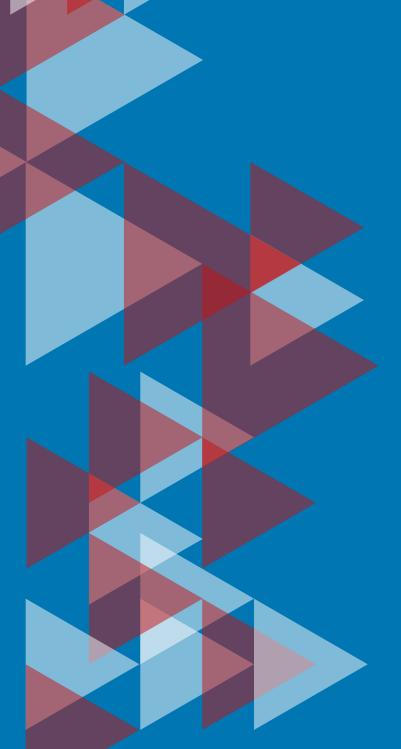
REPORT VI REGIONAL CONFERENCE TRIANGULAR COOPERATION 2022: (RE)THINKING PARTNERSHIPS

7 AND 8 SEPTEMBER 2022







### VI REGIONAL CONFERENCE TRIANGULAR COOPERATION 2022: (RE)THINKING PARTNERSHIPS

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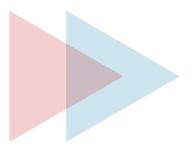
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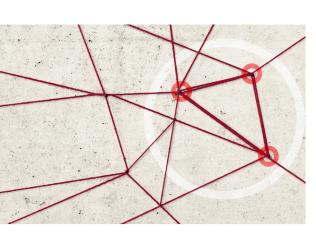
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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABC Brazilian Cooperation Agency   Brazilian Cooperation Agency Agencia Peruana de Cooperación Internacional   Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation Agencia Argentina de Cooperación Internacional y Asistencia Humanitaria   ACIAH Agencia Argentina de Cooperación Internacional y Asistencia Humanitaria   ACIAH Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo	
APCI Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation   ACIAH Agencia Argentina de Cooperación Internacional y Asistencia Humanitaria   Argentine Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance   Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo	
ACIAH Agencia Argentina de Cooperación Internacional y Asistencia Humanitaria   ACIAH Agencia Argentina de Cooperación Internacional y Asistencia Humanitaria   Argentine Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance   Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo	
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Argentine Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo	
Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo	
Chilean Agency of International Cooperation for Development	
AUCI Agencia Uruguaya de Cooperación Internacional	
Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation	
BMZ Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit	
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	
DC Development Cooperation	
ECLAC Economic Commission for Latin America and the Carribean	
EU European Union	
GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	
GPI Global Partnership Initiative for Effective Triangular Cooperation	
IDOS German Institute of Development and Sustainability	
IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development	
IsDB Islamic Development Bank	
LAC Latin America and the Caribbean	
MICs Middle Income Countries	
ODA Official Development Assistance	
OECD Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development	
PIFCSS Programa Iberoamericano para el Fortalecimiento de la Cooperación Sur-Sur	
Ibero-American Programme for Strengthening South-South Cooperation	
SDGs Sustainable Development Goals	
SEGIB SECIEDATÍA General Iberoamericana	
Ibero-American General Secretariat	
SMEs Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	
SMEsSmall and Medium-sized EnterprisesSSCSouth-South Cooperation	

# INTRODUCTION

The rapidly changing circumstances and practices of international cooperation are currently facing further challenges against the backdrop of the impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian war in Ukraine. Interconnected global crises require a rethinking of partnerships and innovative solutions. Inclusive and comprehensive learning processes need to be promoted through an intensive exchange of experiences and dialogue between various perspectives using different tools. As an integral part of the development architecture, triangular cooperation (Trc) is a flexible tool for creating and scaling up international partnerships by fostering dialogues between multiple actors from several sectors and regions in the world. Trc brings together North-South and South-South cooperation and fills the gap between Official Development Assistance (ODA) and South-South Cooperation (ssc). By working together to achieve the global Sustainable Development Goals (spgs), strengthening partnerships in the sense of sDG 17, and addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges inclusively, Trc is a powerful and effective tool contributing to the 2030 Agenda.



The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) promotes Trc since 2011 through the "Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation with partners in Latin America and the Caribbean", implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Existing alliances and the commitment of partner countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have led to six regional conferences so far, making an important contribution to strengthening political dialogue for sustainable development in the region. The conferences are established as fundamental spaces for exchange, giving a platform to stakeholders in LAC and partners from other regions as well. The first regional conference, "Perspectives on Triangular Cooperation in Latin America: New Dynamics and Actions in a World of Emerging Actors", was held in Bogotá, co-hosted with APC Colombia, in 2012; the second, "Perspectives on Triangular Cooperation in Latin America: The Impact of Triangular Cooperation", in Mexico City, co-hosted with AMEXCID Mexico, in 2013; the third, "Perspectives on Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean: Engaging Non-State Actors and Management of Triangular Cooperation for Development (AGCID), Chile, 2015; the fourth, "Perspectives on Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Role of Triangular Cooperation in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda – Potentials and Challenges", held in Lima, and co-hosted with the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean: The Role of Triangular Cooperation in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda – Potentials and Challenges", held in Lima, and co-hosted with the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI), Peru, 2017; and the fifth, "Perspectives on Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean", held online in 2020 and was co-organised with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Argentina.



The sixth regional conference, "Triangular Cooperation 2022: (Re)thinking partnerships", built on previous processes in a hybrid event. Combining the virtual format with the on-site event in Berlin enabled the inclusion of a broad audience from different sectors and regions of the world while ensuring personal exchange between participants in a COVID-19 context.

The conference highlighted that against the backdrop of the changing international landscape, there are two crucial needs:

- 1. to find dynamic and holistic solutions to social and economic challenges and
- 2. to transform international cooperation in order to address them.

By overcoming old ways of thinking, Trc can provide the basis for expanding global, inclusive partnerships and contribute to mutual learning through the exchange of experiences and new ideas between several partners.



# 2. ABOUT THE VI CONFERENCE



The vI Regional Conference "Triangular Cooperation 2022: (Re) thinking partnerships", aimed primarily to promote and rethink Trc in LAC by taking stock of past partnerships and collaborations in the current context, considering the collective experience of the co-VID-19 pandemic and the global impact of Russia's war on Ukraine. Emphasis was placed on:

- 1. presenting successful solutions and innovations based on lessons learned from  $\tau rc$  together with partners,
- 2. identifying current and future Trc challenges,
- 3. highlighting Trc contributions to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and discussing future strategies as well as
- 4. facilitating policy dialogue among various Trc stakeholders.

To develop these themes based on concrete experiences and best practices, the following guiding question led the dialogue:

How can we collectively contribute to successfully addressing the current challenges through triangular cooperation?



Participants of the workshop on Trc's contribution to social cohesion.



# Participants

In total, more than 200 participants from over 30 countries, the majority from Latin America and the Caribbean, were actively involved in the event both online and on-site in Berlin. They were joined by actors from the Middle East, the African and Asian continents as well as Europe. Participants included high-level representatives of international organisations, cooperation agencies, ministries of foreign affairs, local governments, civil society organisations, the private sector, universities, and others. The flexibility of the hybrid execution of the conference enabled the integration of different backgrounds, including perspectives from various sectors such as health, environment, technology, governance, Trc management, gender, and international relations.



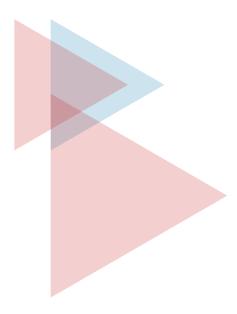
Given the wide range of topics covered at the vI Regional Conference and the need to deepen individual aspects of Trc, various methods were used: Sessions consisted of keynotes, expert panels, as well as strategic debates through interactive workshops on both days of the event. The emphasis on interactive event formats created lively dialogues that openly reflect the achievements and opportunities for improvement of Trc to date and suggest ways to deepen its impact. Within this framework, representatives from the public and private sectors, civil society, Trc practitioners, academia and others, many of whom attended previous conferences, spent

Participants from IFAD and GIZ.



the first day taking stock and regarding the successes and challenges of Trc in light of new, interconnected crises in LAC and the world. The second day focused on potential developments of triangular partnerships in the future. The entire conference had a bilingual format, accompanied both by the two moderators and by simultaneous translation between English and Spanish.

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During the 10 strategic discussions, which were divided into three online and two on-site workshops per conference day, the participants of the conference discussed in small groups of 10-25 persons different focal topics of triangular alliances in LAC and beyond. The strategic debates provided a space for the development of new ideas and allowed for a collective rethinking of previous approaches to Trc. The topics covered on the first conference day were:

- Trc's contribution to social cohesion;
- Post-pandemic recovery and health: the scope of Trc;
- Gender Equity, Diversity and Social Inclusion in Trc: from theory to action;
- Environmental protection and climate change: inputs from Trc; and
- Achieving energy transformation through shared learning.

On the second day of the conference, the workshops focused on

- Inter-regional Trc: experiences and good practices;
- Dataon Trc: generation and uses for political steering;
- Multi-actor partnerships and partner diversity;
- Sustainability and scaling up knowledge through trc; and
- Trc and the strengthening of political dialogue in partner countries.

Sabina Frederic, President of ACIAH at the panel discussion on day 1.



In addition to the on-site event in Berlin, a digital platform in form of a conference app was set up with various virtual spaces to organise activities, peer-topeer discussions and networking opportunities for participants who could not join on-site. The online platform consisted of several resources: profiles of participants and chat options; an info page with logistical information; an overview of panellists; and a descriptive agenda that guided participants through the conference.

# **3** DEVELOPMENT OF THE VI CONFERENCE



### 3.1

(Re)thinking partnerships through Triangular Cooperation: framework and vision of the regional conference The welcome session provided a general overview of the lessons learned, experiences and progresses made to date with triangular partnerships in LAC and beyond, placing them in the current context of international cooperation. Based on the formulated goals of the conference, solution approaches were discussed within the framework of Trc in an interdisciplinary and interregional exchange of ideas.

Volker Oel, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

## «Triangular cooperation is the treasure in the development cooperation toolbox.»

Volker Oel, Director and Commissioner for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), Southeast Europe / Eastern Europe and Latin America (BMZ).

Mr. Oel's opening statement emphasised that by creating innovative solutions, Trc can meet the need for dynamic and interdisciplinary



approaches to today's social and economic challenges in LAC. Targeted measures against the backdrop of new conflicts, especially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's war on Ukraine, require overcoming old patterns of thinking. Trc can contribute to new approaches by fostering the expansion of global, inclusive partnerships and contributing to mutual learning through the exchange of experiences and knowledge.



According to Oel, in the LAC region, the modality is already established and can demonstrate great successes, but its reach must be increased to other regions in a next step. Since the last regional conference in October 2020, the BMZ's Trc framework has been stabilised by:

- the publication of a new BMZ position paper on TTC in 2022 that provides a solid basis for German Development Cooperation (DC);
- the introduction of a marker for development policy programming in 2022, which can be used to track the extent to which the BMZ has implemented Trc projects in the programming;
- the budget increase of GIZ's Regional Fund for Trc with partners in LAC by 9 million euros until 2025, which is a strong basis for the continued fostering of Trc;
- the expansion to other regions, by establishing a fund for Trc with Asian partners; and
- the agreement on and implementation of new forms of combined funding jointly with the EU, Colombia, and Brazil, which facilitates the mobilisation of additional resources and places a special emphasis on combating the COVID-19 pandemic and reducing social inequality in the region.

Against this backdrop, BMZ's development actions focus on supporting the economies of LAC in a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and on initiating diversification to become more (climate) resilient and to create new jobs. Reducing structural inequalities within and between countries and increasing gender equality are important objectives to enable the realisation of human rights and ensure equal participation of all people in social, political and economic life.

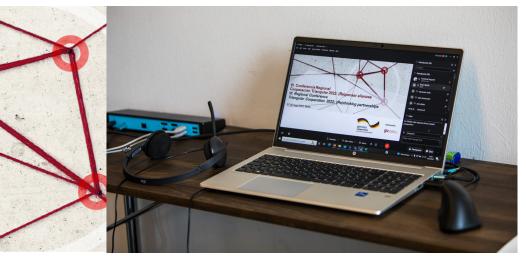
### 3.2

Keynote: "Post-Pandemic Recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean through multilateral cooperation" Joseluis Samaniego, Chief of Sustainable Development and Human Settlement Division, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

«The response to a crisis caused by other factors that are not the usual factors in Latin America and the Caribbean means that we have to change our actions and diversify our policies and add financial reserve management to guide investment and reduce financial risks.»

The first keynote by Joseluis Samaniego emphasised that the global impact on economic growth due to the COVID-19 pandemic in recent years was significantly amplified by Russia's war on Ukraine and had a major impact on the growth rate in LAC. Currently, the region is on a low growth path. The huge increase in food and commodity prices, the dependence of markets on energy imports and the resulting low investment rates by private and public entities in the region continue to inhibit economic growth and change the geopolitical situation of LAC. This has multiple social and economic impacts, such as a sharp increase in unemployment, especially among women, the closure of many businesses and an increase in food insecurity, which is particularly evident in the Caribbean.

The virtual conference platform.



«Seven years after the 2030 Agenda and thirty years after the Rio Summit, the agreement on sustainable development is not really reflected in our governments' options when it comes to acting in a crisis.»



The restoration of financial expenditure through the pandemic did not lead to any structural change in LAC but rather continued existing pre-pandemic structures. Environmental measures have hardly been implemented in the region, with green spending representing only a fraction of the total spending on economic recovery. For a green transition in the region, the use of available resources must be accompanied by the creation of conditions that prepare the entire region for such a change. The keynote emphasized that triangular alliances, due to their adaptable and strategic architecture, offer numerous advantages to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and a transition to greener economies.

**3.3** Keynote: "Triangular cooperation at the current global juncture: fostering sustainable partnerships" Enrique O'Farrill, Executive Director, Agencia Chilena de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AGCID)

## «Trc is a contribution to the dream of regional integration.»

The keynote focused on the specificities and challenges of Trc as a complementary mechanism of Dc. Enrique O'Farrill highlighted how triangular partnerships, due to their flexibility and integrative nature, enable new forms of cooperation adapted to the needs and challenges of development partners.

The bilingual team of moderators.



Traditional forms of development funding such as loans often do not address the needs of partner countries in LAC. Instead, the provision of technical, public, and digital resources is urgently needed in the region. Trc is characterised by its adaptability, as actors can change their positions within the partnership regardless of income and economic dependencies. As a multi-stakeholder instrument, triangular partnerships thus address countries' needs in a complementary way to financial support.



Based on inclusive and horizontal debates, Trc helps to share ideas, experiences, capacities, and best practices between different countries and establishes initiatives and formats that focus on the needs of societies and foster mutual trust between partners from different countries and regions. In doing so, triangular partnerships promote the formation of alliances between various actors at different levels, e.g. multilateral organisations, but also other development partners, adapted to the specific needs. Complementing traditional forms of cooperation with central governments, triangular partnerships with decentralised institutions can advance development in the region by promoting a focus on cross-cutting issues such as gender and climate protection.

To achieve the countries' development goals, the flexibility and demand orientation of triangular alliances are of fundamental importance by involving close cooperation based on intensive exchange and trust-building between partners. In this regard, Trc partners have a responsibility to maintain and promote the continuous exchange of knowledge and experience within the modality. Furthermore, for the realisation of the 2030 Agenda, the expansion of cooperation with MICS is fundamental, as they represent the largest share of people living in poverty worldwide.

**3.4** Panel: "Triangular Cooperation panorama 2022: results, goals, perspectives" Volker Oel (BMZ), Enrique O'Farrill (AGCID), Amb. Christine Nkulikiyinka (CEO, Rwanda Cooperation), Diana Montero Melis (Deputy Head of Unit for South America and Regional Operations I at the Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission), Sabina Frederic (President of the Argentinean Agency for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance - White Helmets, ACIAH)

The panel took stock of current goals, results and perspectives of triangular partnerships in LAC and at the global level from diverse international perspectives. During the panel, high-level experts from various regions and organisations in Europe, Latin America and Africa discussed the new challenges such as climate change and overlapping social and economic crises. In this context, the panellists focused on the extent to which Trc is an effective tool to address these challenges.



Participants at the conference venue

in Berlin.

They agreed that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic requires TrC to find targeted and context-specific responses. Sabina Frederic emphasized that even more attention needs to be paid to the vulnerable health sector by scaling up vaccine production, improving first aid services and ensuring universal access to vaccines. At the same time, a green transformation needs to be initiated, requiring the implementation of concrete measures to promote renewable energy by working stronger on the development of energy systems and the production of green hydrogen production. The creation of recycling structures must be expanded throughout the LAC region and addressed through greater collaboration with actors from different sectors.

Ambassador Christine Nkulikiyinka addressed the need to expand aurc collaborations to other regions to jointly achieve the sDGs. In this regard, there are numerous South-South cooperation projects and initiatives on the African continent and beyond that are increasingly looking for aurc partners.

The panel discussion highlighted the potential of Trc as a supportive tool to strengthen development diplomacy and soft power by enabling broad-based multi-partner networks to open dialogues and share country-specific solutions with other regions. Therefore, country-specific challenges and different development progress must be considered when identifying new Trc projects and methods. In this context, Diana Montero Melis appealed to EU countries to get even more involved in triangular projects, adopting a partnership mentality.



### 3.5

Keynote: "Triangular Cooperation – A contribution to the increased scope of international cooperation?" Ana Fernandes, Head of Foresight, Outreach, Policy Reform Unit, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

In her keynote, Ana Fernandes shed light on the role of DC in the paradigm shift currently observed in the international landscape, pointing to the potential and challenges of TrC for a positive change in multilateralism.

Fernandes emphasized that triangular projects should respond to the increasing localization of the DC system. By complementing loans and knowledge traditionally provided by high-tech countries with innovative ideas from their partners, new ways of communicating and engaging with countries in different regions can be found. In this sense, Trc has the potential to strengthen technical diplomacy in the context of a complex geopolitical situation.

To involve more countries in triangular partnerships, the OECD aims to invest more in building future projects' resources and capacities. This requires a larger collection of project data and the improvement of project mapping. Evidence of Trc's viability and growth can only be provided by increasing donor reporting to the OECD. In addition, expanding policy analyses of cross-border cooperation in different regions can promote discussion at the policy level by serving as evidence.

A uniform definition of Trc is needed to attract new actors to triangular partnerships. The Trc approach needs to be simplified

to increase the visibility and understandability of triangular partnerships for civil society and policymakers. To do so, the rationality of the format needs to be strengthened by differentiating triangular partnerships from bilateral and multilateral cooperation and highlighting their benefits: For example, triangular partnerships enable dialogues and the implementation of projects with countries that would not occur without this format.



REDI







### 3.6

Panel: "Boosting triangular cooperation globally: current and future challenges" Rita Walraf (Deputy Head of Unit, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMZ), Martin Rivero (Coordinator of Unit Social Cohesion and ssc, Secretaria General Iberoamericana, SEGIB), Wofsi Yuri Guimaraes de Souza (Head of Technical Cooperation and Partnerships with Developed Countries, Agencia Brasileira de Cooperação, ABC), Ana Fernandes (OECD), Ama Brandford-Arthur (Senior Partnership Officer for SSTC, International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD), Stefan Klingebiel (Head of Bi- and Multilateral Development Cooperation, Institute of Development and Sustainability, IDOS)

The panel on day two of the conference was dedicated to the question of how triangular cooperation can change and evolve to respond even more effectively to the uncertainties and volatility of our times. Future-oriented perspectives, concepts and processes that are crucial for building effective triangular cooperation were discussed by the panelists.

The contributions affirmed the urgent need for better cooperation on pandemic response and prevention, security, climate change, improving the declining Human Development Index and political instability. The DC system is still seen as highly bureaucratic and top-down and continues to be characterised by strong competition over development paradigms with an unclear global development initiative. Against this background, previous efforts must be redoubled to meet today's challenges. Aspects for improvement include the need to engage more developing actors such as China

Rita Walraf, Deputy Head of Unit on policy issues of sectoral and bilateral development cooperation (BMZ) on the panel on day 2.



and India, increase the effectiveness of the United Nations Development Fund, find a clearer definition of Trc, strengthen the use of development diplomacy and address the demand for local solutions in various sectors, especially climate change.

Furthermore, multiple partners working together help create less restrictive cooperation, as ideas and knowledge are continuously exchanged to achieve joint goals. To improve the inclusive-

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Workshops

ness of triangular alliances, soft power can be seen as a solution for innovation. In doing so, it was recommended that partners embrace new methods and solutions and value the benefits of collaboration for people and the planet. Efforts to capture and systematize lessons learned are to be intensified to better evaluate projects and thus learn from previous experiences. In this regard, it is crucial that beneficiary partners are at the centre of the project design phase to increase ownership of the jointly developed solutions.

### 3.7.1 Methodology

Divided over both conference days, a total of 10 workshops took place on relevant themes of triangular partnerships in LAC and beyond. In each workshop, participants in small groups of 10-25 persons reflected on the challenges of previous projects, identified best practices and opportunities for improvement and developed new ideas for future alliances. Two workshops per conference day were held exclusively on-site in Berlin, while the remaining three workshops took place in an online or hybrid format. The dynamic design of the discussion groups facilitated the exchange of experiences between stakeholders from different regions and allowed participants to move between different groups during the working sessions. Most working groups began with approximately 10-minute inputs of one to three case studies presented in each session, serving as examples from the field. At the end of the day, the results and findings were shared with everybody in a plenary session.

Day one

#### 3.7.2 Workshops

### Trc's contribution to social cohesion

The experiences of two successful triangular projects that contribute to social cohesion were presented: a project between Mexico, Guatemala and Germany providing "Support for the education and labor market insertion of Guatemalan youth, adults and migrants" (CEDUC) and "Pytyvõ Porãve – Better services for families participating in social programs", a project between Chile, Paraguay and Germany. Both projects strengthen social cohesion by eliminating educational, poverty and inequality conditions among the most disadvantaged groups in society by granting access to essential public services.



Germany accompanies the project processes by promoting intensive cooperation, ensuring technical support, and establishing links with strategic allies who can help find new solutions. For example, Germany helped create products that can be consulted by other actors, such as the *buenas practicas* platform<sup>1</sup>, which documents best practice experiences from the CEDUC project. It was pointed out that Trc can adequately address issues of environmental protection and social cohesion, with the cooperation between the European Union and Latin America as a good example. Participants highlighted the importance of promoting citizen participation to identify targeted solutions to their problems and the need to promote social dialogue to achieve peace and social cohesion in LAC.

### Post-pandemic recovery and health

The working group emphasized that the project "Strengthening the Bolivian laboratory network for a better response to epidemics and pandemics" (REDlab) between Bolivia, Argentina and Germany and the project on KN95 mask production and certification in Jordan, with the participation of Singapore, Germany and the Islamic Development Bank (ISDB), made it possible to respond to health needs and emergencies caused by the pandemic. It was highlighted that the MENA region is expanding its engagement in ssTrc. In this regard, ISDB, as a regional actor of Trc, is looking to deepen its cooperation with Germany in projects in the MENA region and neighbouring areas. The projects created a good alliance with scientific and academic communities based on the accumulated experience and shared knowledge with the possibility of a professional health qualification in Germany.

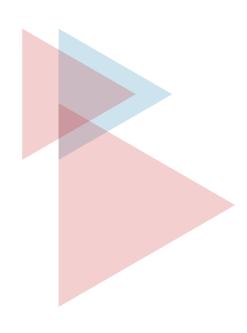
Virtual reporting back from the workshop on trc and environmental protection.



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Some proposals were formulated: The private sector shows a great interest in collaboration in Trc and projects, which should be progressively strengthened in the future. Another recommendation mentioned common strategies for monitoring processes and results in triangular projects in favour of generating reliable information for better policy making. Ultimately, participants discussed how successful projects can move to a second phase or be scaled-up. Here, it is important to leverage the benefits of digitization and specifically address internal disparities as well as differences between countries.

1 https://buenaspracticasddhh.org/



### Gender Equity, Diversity and Social Inclusion in Trc: from theory to action

The working group recognizes Trc as a horizontal way of cooperation between partner countries as a promising modality to promote feminist development cooperation. Two projects were presented as good practices of gender equity and diversity in Trc: The triangular project between Peru, Bolivia and Germany "Strengthening research capacity to prevent violence against women in organizations in Bolivia and Peru" (cotria) and an sstrc project between Indonesia, Madagascar, Nepal, Afghanistan and Germany on renewable energy. Both projects were able to expose the problem of violence against women through awareness-raising measures and contributed to a gradual education about gender-based violence. The positive project experiences gave the partners the confidence to pay more attention to gender equality in all projects.

The working group emphasized the need for greater involvement of various stakeholders such as civil society organizations and academia. It was noted that domestic violence in academia is not necessarily viewed from a gender perspective and thus is a challenge in the sector. The gender approach should be seen as an opportunity for all projects. At the same time, however, doubts were expressed about how to incorporate gender mainstreaming in projects that have a different thematic focus. However, while complexity may increase as a result, so does legitimacy.

#### Participants from GIZ in Berlin.



### **Environmental protection and climate change: inputs from** τrc

In this working group, two triangular projects dedicated to the fight against climate change and for environmental protection were presented: Argentina, seven islands from the Caribbean and Germany "Strengthening water and soil resources management for the sustainability of agricultural and food systems in Caribbean countries in the context of the covid-19 pandemic" and Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay and Germany "Protected areas – Strategic spaces for the reactivation of sustainable tourism development according to covid-19". Both projects focused on training in sustainable soil and water management, biosecurity in agriculture and the development of practices to improve sustainability in the agricultural sector. Addressing challenges from different angles, such as South-South, international and regional perspectives, promoted exchange among partners and improved outcomes. Participants emphasized that a greater focus on human resource development can give projects more space, purpose and impact as well as improve their outcomes. The need for greater involvement of different bureaucracies, stakeholders, modalities and institutions in project implementation was also pointed out.

### Achieving energy transformation through shared learning

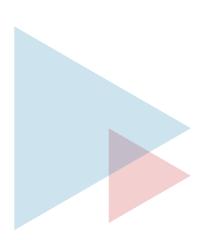
Triangular projects support numerous initiatives to improve energy efficiency and strive for a more sustainable energy supply through electromobility and solar energy. Two multi-actor projects presented good practices in this working group: Mexico, Cuba and Germany working on "Institutional capacity building for the development of energy efficiency and solar energy programmes, products and applications in Cuba" and a project between Panama, Honduras and Germany on the "Promotion of the use of solar thermal energy in hospitals and small and medium enterprises (SMES) to combat COVID-19".

The speakers emphasized that the exchange of experience, knowledge and learning was shared with all project partner countries and included the corporate and academic sectors in project implementation. An important finding was that the pursuit of longterm cooperation must go hand in hand with the achievement of medium-term outcomes and the efficient and sparing use of available resources. They emphasized that training and capacity building in information technology, as well as access to low-cost virtual platforms, are important components for the projects. In this context, young IT professionals should be more involved in project implementation to support the search for modern solutions.

### Day two 3.7.3 Workshops

### Inter-regional Trc: experiences and good practices

The objective of this working group was to share experiences, best practices, and challenges in triangular cooperation between regions. As examples of successful Trc, the project between Peru, India, and Germany "Development of a prototype of a geospatial portal for planning, monitoring and evaluation" and the experiences of GIZ'S Fund for Triangular Cooperation (TricoFund) with Asia were presented. Both initiatives focused on achieving the SDGS and





climate goals and demonstrated that sharing technical knowledge through multilateral cooperation enables to find new approaches. Germany facilitated the project implementation by strengthening access to key technological information, exchange of ideas and collaboration among partner countries.

The TricoFund encourages the joint preparation of proposals by all partners and supports the discussion and development of ideas through various idea workshops. The results so far are 25 high quality proposals from its first call for tenders. In addition, there are four ongoing triangular projects with China in interregional projects on the African continent. Numerical indicators for project completion and technical capacity building were mentioned as challenges. Strengthening joint consensus building between partner countries to better implement experiences and lessons learned was pointed out to be crucial.

### Data on Trc: generation and uses for political steering

In this working group, different possibilities and methods of data management were presented and their function for political steering were discussed. The collection and compilation of data help to conceptually develop Trc, make results and successes of triangular partnerships visible, provide evidence for political steering and generate additional resources. Therefore, a greater focus on data transparency, data management and reporting on Trc is necessary.

Q&A session.



Developing a better institutional structure through registration systems and knowledge banks is important to increase the transparency of Trc. Triangular project members are encouraged to report on project data, for example when collecting data on providers and beneficiaries. The OECD has a repository and voluntary global reporting on Trc since 2016. Maria Dutto Piaggio mentioned that SEGIB has been collecting data since 2007 with the support of the Ibero-American Program for South-South Cooperation. Furthermore, Rita Walraf (BMZ) pointed out that according to the BAPA+40 outcome document, more data collection is required. To this end, in 2022 Germany has introduced a marker in their development cooperation to track Trc development policy programming, ensuring the modality attains more visibility and policy relevance in the future. Nevertheless, further improvements in triangular projects are needed regarding the elimination of information gaps and a better understanding of data use.

# Multi-actor partnerships and partner diversity

Two inputs were shared in this workshop: a Trc between Bolivia, Mexico and Spain on "Innovative laboratory for reciprocal entrepreneurship in social economy (LIDERES)", funded by EU-Adelante and an Alliance for Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) project on "Leveraging South-South and Triangular Cooperation to share rural development solutions for Private sector engagement" funded by IFAD. Participants agreed that multi-stakeholder partnerships can help address complex challenges by providing diverse resources and expertise. By giving all stakeholders access to knowledge and innovative solutions, projects can be designed and implemented more flexibly. The challenges of multi-actor partnerships can manifest in different project coordination processes and divergent rules and regulations, making joint project implementation difficult.

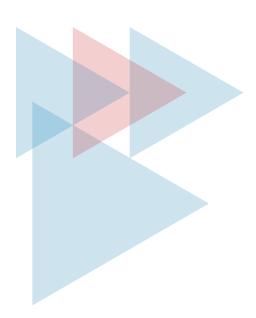
For future projects, one recommendation is to involve the youth and young stakeholders more in project implementation to integrate new, innovative ideas. It was mentioned that project demand and capacity need to be better aligned, for example, by having competent authorities that validate the project demand. Finally, further efforts need to be made in project planning by establishing clear goals, rules, different perspectives, and shared visions among stakeholders.

Ama Brandford-Arthur, Senior Partnership Officer (ssTc) at IFAD on the panel on day 2



### Sustainability and scaling up knowledge through Trc

In this working group, the participants discussed the sustainability of Trc impacts based on project experiences between Peru, Chile and Germany in its second phase and an input from the Global Partnership Initiative for Effective Triangular Cooperation (GPI).



Moderated Q&A sesión with the panelists on day 2



The discussants concluded that despite the shorter implementation cycle, Trc has great potential to achieve long-term impacts and can produce great results with relatively small resources. To achieve the project goals, good planning and structuring, formulation of clear objectives, the definition of strategic visions, simplification of instruments and exchange of experience on previous projects are crucial.

In the future, an even greater variety of different actors should be involved in triangular projects and the continuity of the processes should be ensured and regularly reviewed. In addition, cooperative agencies and organizations are important to promote mutual learning among project partners. It was noted that defining project boundaries is often a hurdle and better scaling of projects is needed to increase project impact.

### *trc* and the strengthening of political dialogue in partner countries

Good communication processes between the various actors involved in triangular cooperation are key for the successful implementation and strategic upscaling of initiatives. To learn more about the flow of coordination processes between the actors involved, this working group presented experiences of three different cooperation actors: The Head of Development Cooperation Bolivia at the German Embassy in Bolivia, the Ibero-American Programme for Strengthening South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS) and the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI).

Among the recommendations to improve dialogue between partners, it was highlighted that there is a need for greater support and accompaniment from international cooperation agencies and cooperation partners in the field, as well as the necessity to improve the transparency of contributions, especially in terms of financial support. Experience gained should not remain at the central level of the countries but should be shared internally to make the realities and problems of society known. To this end, cooperation with the second and third levels of government is necessary to promote political dialogue in a targeted manner.

### 3.7.4 Findings and recommendations

The following recommendations on triangular cooperation emerged from conference:

- Trc can contribute to social cohesion in partner countries working together on an equal footing to address educational poverty and inequality among the most disadvantaged social groups by ensuring access to essential public services.
- Sharing lessons learned from triangular projects with countries facing similar challenges avoids repeating mistakes from previous projects. To this end, better documentation and management of data are crucial steps to identify and address difficulties specifically and foster prior knowledge.
- The promotion of education should be given a greater priority in future triangular partnerships, as adapted education programs can provide a way out of poverty and specifically promote the emancipation and empowerment of women and girls.
- It was emphasized once more that in addition to government agencies, other stakeholders such as civil society, academia and the private sector should be increasingly integrated into future triangular projects to enable the multiplication of desired outcomes and dissemination of successful projects to other regions. In particular, the private sector's interest in Trc should be addressed through greater involvement in project implementation.
- The gender approach is an opportunity for greater equity in Trc and thus to be integrated across themes in all triangular partnerships. For example, the advantages of the diversity of different countries with different constellations of actors, in which men and women are either over- or under-represented, can be balanced.
- It is important to keep in mind that sustainability and knowledge continuity are challenges not specific to Trc, but common to all forms of Dc. One identified good practice is to look for continued resource opportunities before the closing of a project, especially looking to countries from other regions facing similar challenges for opportunities to collaborate in a follow-up phase.
- Political dialogue should be extended beyond the central level to other regions of the country. The value of Trc can thus be enhanced by providing direct access to people and their different realities at the local level.

### **3.8** Closing remarks

Ute Heinbuch, Head of Division Latin America and the Caribbean, BMZ.

# *"From relationship to partnership, the key role of triangular cooperation"*

The closing speech particularly emphasized the key role of Trc in shaping future DC. Triangular partnerships create genuine alliances between equal partners by breaking up the donor-recipient relationships traditional in bilateral cooperation.

The lively participation of actors from different disciplines and regions in the conference as well as the forward-looking and fruitful discussions strengthened the BMZ in its role as a relevant partner and were central to the success of the event. According to Dr. Heinbuch, the numerous ideas and proposals collected during the conference can help pave the way for the expansion of triangular partnerships and, in the future, for stronger cooperation with Africa and Asia. Therefore, it is important to prioritize regional integration through Trc as well.

Trust, solidarity and change of mindsets – these keywords emerged as central aspects coming out of the vi Regional Conference for future triangular partnerships. It illustrated that Trc can only be a credible and powerful tool if it adopts interdisciplinary approaches.





Ute Heinbuch, Head of Division Latin America and Caribbean (BMZ) during her closing speech

# CONCLUSIONS

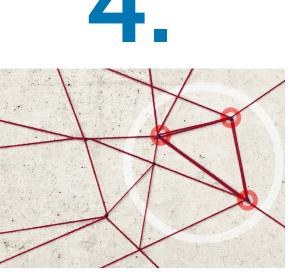


By building trust and solidarity and facilitating policy dialogue among different stakeholders, Trc fosters a sense of engagement, ownership and global thinking while seeking local solutions to specifically address the needs of development partners.

Germany supports Trc partner countries by developing technical solutions such as establishing links with new partners with similar challenges and/or alternative approaches, thus promoting the emergence of new regional and interregional partnerships.

### Knowledge transfer through better data management

In light of the current global crises and the increasing localisation of international cooperation, Trc offers the opportunity to strengthen horizontal relationships. In this context, the potential to contribute to a paradigm shift in DC has been increasingly highlighted. The added value of Trc at the political-strategic level compared to traditional bilateral forms of cooperation has been exhaustively demonstrated. However, sustainable results at the impact level should be better documented and showcased. Data management on Trc in that sense is essential for political steering, transparency, accountability, and ultimately evidence-based improvement of the modality. Existing knowledge should be disseminated more intensively, e.g. by sharing successes from previous projects with new partners. Therefore, Trc projects should make greater use of existing data to ensure visibility of opportunities and impacts, thus contributing to more transparency. Collecting new data requires better recording, documentation and management of the processes and results of implemented projects. Sound planning and structuring, formulating clear objectives, setting strategic visions and simplifying instruments are crucial for the development of the modality.



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### Increase focus on non-state actor participation, cross-cutting issues, and broadening policy dialogue

For a targeted, need-based implementation of the project goals and the expansion of previous successes, a stronger involvement of non-state actors is necessary. The transfer of acquired knowledge and the design of new projects can be ensured through the stronger involvement of actors from academia, the private sector, civil society, etc. in project implementation.

In addition, the expansion of political dialogue in partner countries is crucial, for example through links with dialogue forums such as the OECD's International Meetings on Triangular Cooperation, in order to make the modality accessible to a broader national and international audience. Connecting with people and their different life realities at the local level is also a key factor in identifying needs and demand. By consolidating policy dialogues between different stakeholders, Trc promotes ownership and global thinking while seeking local solutions that meet the needs of development partners.

A stronger focus on gender, climate, energy and digitalisation is essential to address current development challenges in LAC: education and gender equality in triangular partnerships are to be prioritised to fight poverty and enable emancipation and empowerment, especially of young people, women and girls in all their diversity.

### Strengthening inter-regional Trc

As triangular partnerships are already well-developed in LAC, alliances with other regions, especially with the African and Asian continents, need to be strengthened. By including new partners from different regions in the world, existing triangular projects gain continuity and Trc's reach can be expanded. Successful projects can be adapted for different contexts facing similar challenges and translated to other regions according to demand. Greater investment in capacity building is required to strengthen new and existing partnerships. To this end, new digital methods of knowledge sharing, and mutual learning should be further developed through appropriate technologies to provide broader access in parallel to face-to-face events.



# OUTLOOK





Participants of the workshop on Trc's contributions to post-pandemic recovery and health

The vI Regional Conference was the start of a series of important events and allowed to continue and process the collected results in different spaces and networks, thus contributing to the further development of the Trc modality. It has shown that in post-pandemic times, personal exchanges on site are as beneficial as ever. However, thanks to the technological progress made over the past three years, hybrid solutions are forward-looking event formats in terms of both sustainability and accessibility.

After the conference, some participants travelled on to Bangkok, where the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) Global South-South Development Expo 2022 was held on September 12 to 14, with the main theme "Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation after COVID-19". Subsequently, the International Meeting on Triangular Cooperation was held in Lisbon on October 6 and 7, hosted by the OECD together with the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Instituto Camoes). On 29 and 30 November 2022, ACIAH, together with AGCID and SEGIB, organised the first days of "Exchange of experiences and good practices between international cooperation agencies in the Ibero-American space" in Buenos Aires.

For 2024, Brazil offered to hold the VII Regional Conference on Trc together with Germany, an offer which was gratefully accepted by BMZ.



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REPORT VI REGIONAL CONFERENCE TRIANGULAR COOPERATION 2022: (RE)THINKING PARTNERSHIPS

7 AND 8 SEPTEMBER 2022



