

VII Regional Conference on Trilateral Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean 2024: “Overcoming Obstacles, Building Bridges”



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Content

| | |
|--|----|
| ▶ Introduction | 4 |
| ▶ Methodology | 6 |
| ▶ Official Opening | 7 |
| ▶ Panel 1. Strategies for Climate Protection, Mitigation, and Adaptation: How to Promote a Just Transition in the Region? | 8 |
| ▶ Workshop. Achieving a Just Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean through Trilateral Cooperation | 10 |
| ▶ Panel 2. Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean | 11 |
| ▶ Workshop. Concrete Strategies to Strengthen Gender Equality and Social Inclusion as a Main and/or Cross-Cutting Objective of Trilateral Cooperation | 12 |
| ▶ Spotlight. Capacity Building in Trilateral Cooperation | 13 |
| ▶ Panel 3. Strengthening Interregional Trilateral Cooperation | 14 |
| ▶ Workshop. Strategies for Efficient and Sustainable Interregional Trilateral Cooperation | 15 |
| ▶ Keynote. The Added Value of Social Participation in Building Comprehensive Development Policies: “The Voices of the Amazonian Dialogue” | 17 |
| ▶ Panel 4. Localization of Trilateral Cooperation and Inclusion of Local Actors | 18 |
| ▶ Workshop. Multilevel Trilateral Cooperation: Strengthening Links with Subnational Actors | 19 |
| ▶ Workshop. Promoting successful multi-stakeholder partnerships through TrC | 20 |
| ▶ Closing session | 21 |
| ▶ Key Messages for the G20 Development Working Group (DWG) | 22 |



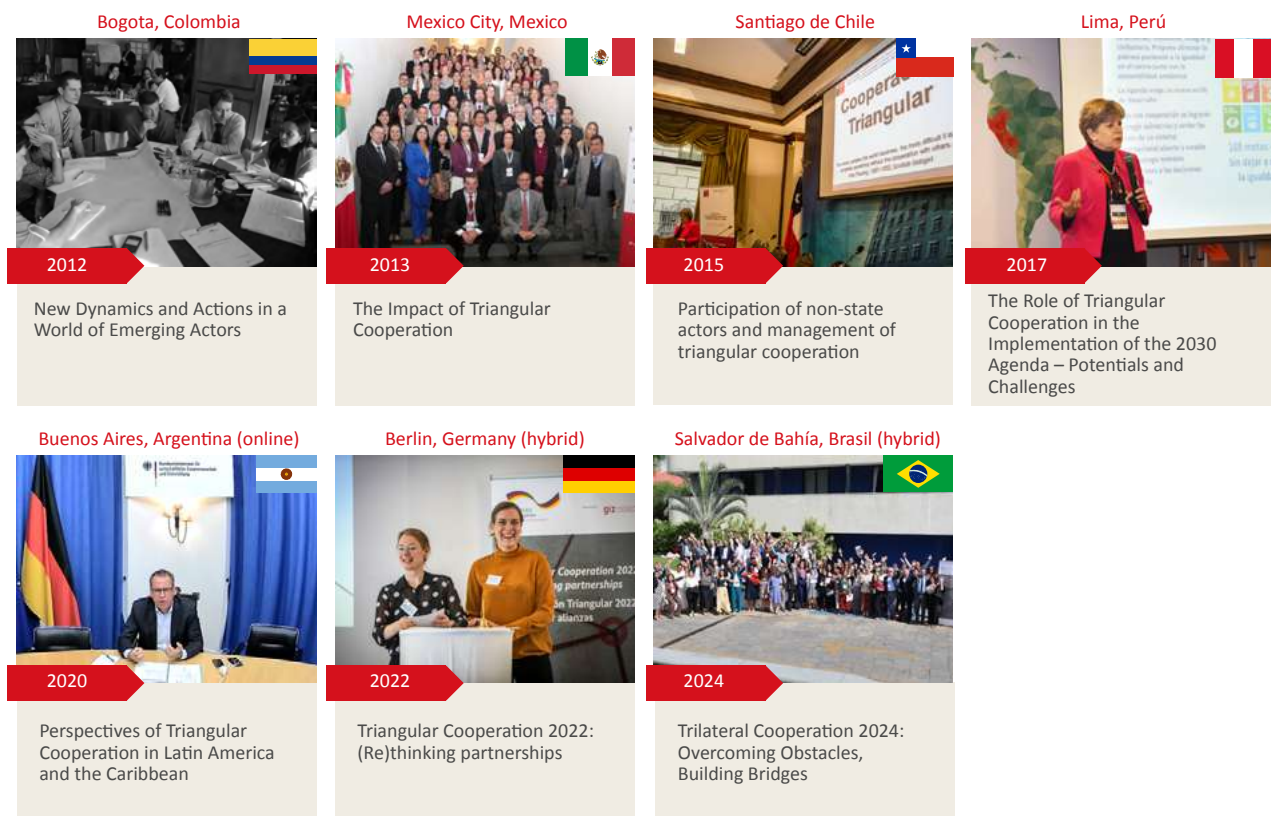
Introduction:

Since 2012, the Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Partners from Latin America and the Caribbean, a cooperation program implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), has been organizing regional conferences on Triangular Cooperation¹ in collaboration with Latin American countries. The conferences aim to promote strategic exchange and political dialogue, as well as analyze potentials and limitations of the modality within the framework of international development cooperation. The conferences of 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2020 were co-organized with Colombia, Mexico, Chile, Peru, and Argentina (virtually). The 2022 conference was organized by German cooperation in Berlin (hybrid format).

Following Brazil's initiative and the strong common foundation between both parties, the seventh edition, titled "Regional Conference on Trilateral Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean 2024: Overcoming Obstacles, Building Bridges," was held in a hybrid format combining virtual and in-person participation in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. This approach allowed for the inclusion of a wide audience from different sectors and regions worldwide, facilitating exchange among participants. With 98 in-person participants and 316 registered online, the event featured representatives from around 17 countries, including experts in international cooperation, South-South cooperation, trilateral cooperation, officials, and academics.

The event, hosted by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), took place in the context of the Brazilian presidency of the G20 in 2024, emphasizing the vital role of Trilateral Cooperation (TrC) as a key instrument for addressing sustainable development challenges. Various actors from Latin America, the Caribbean, and other regions came together to exchange experiences, share best practices, and explore new partnerships.

¹ In this report, the terms "triangular cooperation" and "trilateral cooperation" are used synonymously.



Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) represent nearly 40% of TrC projects globally, a modality that involves three or more partners and has a significant impact today, with results that progressively multiply over time.

The VII Regional Conference aimed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices in the implementation of TrC and to review the main developments and obstacles it has faced over the past two years. It also offered a valuable opportunity for participants to share experiences and build alliances, identifying common interests and areas for future collaboration. The conference allowed for the strengthening of strategic partnerships among TrC actors in LAC and with partners from other regions such as Asia and Africa, considering the experience of the present countries. Additionally, it was a key contribution to the discussions of the G20 Development Working Group (DWG), where TrC has been chosen as a priority topic by Brazil.

The main topics addressed at the VII Conference, always from a TrC perspective, were:

1. Strategies for protection, mitigation, and adaptation to climate change.
2. Gender equality and social inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Strengthening Interregional Trilateral Cooperation.
4. Localization of Trilateral Cooperation and inclusion of local actors.



Methodology

The conference was structured into various panel discussions and additional activities to facilitate an enriching exchange of knowledge and best practices. The main thematic sessions were organized in an interactive panel format with Q&A sessions, featuring key stakeholders and decision-makers from each area. Each panellist answered specific questions, followed by an open discussion with the audience, both online and in person.

Additionally, the agenda included workshops, a keynote, and a spotlight segment that allowed for a deeper dive into specific topics and the presentation of success stories. The workshops, which were conducted in a hybrid format, showcased various project examples, followed by moderated debates, after which the rapporteurs shared their conclusions in the plenary session.

To ensure inclusivity, simultaneous translation was offered between English, Portuguese, and Spanish, allowing participants to speak in the language they felt most comfortable with. Geovana Zoccal, the conference moderator and fluent in all three languages, successfully maintained an active and participatory dynamic throughout the event.



Day 1: May 23, 2024

Official Opening

The opening session featured speeches from:

- ▶ **Luisa Lopes**, Ambassador and Deputy Director of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)
- ▶ **Volker Oel**, Deputy Director General for Latin America and the Caribbean at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ; virtual participation)
- ▶ **Natalia Peixoto**, Head of the International Cooperation Office of the Local Government of the City of Salvador

Before the official opening, two significant events that shaped the context of this conference were mentioned: The unfortunate passing of Michael Rosenauer, Country Director of GIZ Brazil, who died unexpectedly from natural causes just days before the event. The disaster caused by the floods in Rio Grande do Sul and the key role of international cooperation in responding to such emergencies.

Additionally, they highlighted the importance of Trilateral Cooperation:



Luisa Lopes emphasized the traditional and successful collaboration with German cooperation through GIZ, exemplified by the Brazil-Germany Trilateral Cooperation, citing various projects.



Volker Oel, in his opening remarks, underscored the importance of TrC in addressing current global challenges and Germany's commitment to this form of collaboration to tackle urgent issues such as climate change, biodiversity, pandemics, and conflicts. He highlighted the flexibility and capacity of TrC to generate innovative and cost-effective solutions, fostering trust and mutual understanding between nations. He also emphasized Germany's ongoing commitment through its cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), focusing on key issues such as just transition, good governance, peace, democracy, and feminist development policy.



Natalia Peixoto celebrated the selection of Salvador as the conference venue, a city that was Brazil's first capital and offers a rich historical heritage in culture and projects. She spoke about German Cooperation focused on revitalization and climate justice, mentioning projects such as ProAdapta and the promotion of gender equality and climate justice in Salvador.

Estratégias de proteção, mitigação e adaptação climática: como incluir a transição justa na região?

Panel 1. Strategies for Climate Protection, Mitigation, and Adaptation: How to Promote a Just Transition in the Region?

Moderator: *Enrique O’Farrill*, AGCID

Speakers:

- ▶ *Enrique O’Farrill*, Director of the Chilean Agency for International Development Cooperation
- ▶ *Clara Aquino*, Director General of Bilateral Cooperation at the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Development of the Dominican Republic
- ▶ *Manuel Fernando Muñoz Quiroz*, General Manager of the National Superintendency of Sanitation Services, Peru
- ▶ *Fernanda Garavini*, Manager of the Amazon Fund, BNDES, Brazil (online participation)
- ▶ *José Luis Gonçalves de Almeida* (replacing Director Leone Andrade of SENAI CIMATEC), Brazil

Objective: This panel addressed the urgent need to promote a just transition in the Latin American and Caribbean region to tackle the challenges of climate change. Innovative strategies for protection, adaptation, and mitigation were explored. The session aimed to provide insights into the experiences of each country and analyse how trilateral cooperation can be a tool to drive a fair and sustainable transformation that is equitable and beneficial for all sectors of society.

Summary: Clara Aquino from the Dominican Republic emphasized the Caribbean region’s vulnerability to climate change and the importance of TrC in creating accessible financial structures and strengthening institutions and public policies for disaster risk management. Manuel Muñoz highlighted the adoption of good regulatory practices and the exchange of experiences in Peru, focusing on knowledge management and the resilience of the sanitation sector. Fernanda Garavini presented the perspective of the [Fundo Amazonia](#), highlighting its role in reducing deforestation and supporting sustainable and territorial development projects in Brazil. José Luis de Almeida complemented the role of research from SENAI CIMATEC’s perspective, including their decarbonization and low-carbon energy strategy, and highlighted innovative projects like the Green Hydrogen Atlas of Bahia.



Conclusion: The panellists discussed the vision for the future of TrC in fighting climate change, emphasizing the need to enhance outcomes and promote climate justice. They stressed the importance of involving indigenous and rural communities and increasing technical and financial cooperation. The significance of international collaboration in developing sustainable technologies and renewable energies was highlighted. During the audience Q&A session, topics such as the allocation of funds to communities for energy transition, challenges in engaging the private sector in clean energy projects, and the linkage between trilateral cooperation and social justice were addressed. The responses underscored the necessity of designing inclusive projects, ensuring funding and monitoring, and fostering technical staff training to advance towards sustainable solutions.

The session concluded with a call to action to strengthen trilateral cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The importance of collaboration among governments, the private sector, indigenous communities, and civil society was emphasized to tackle the challenges of climate change and promote a just and sustainable transition.

Workshop

Alcançar uma Transição Justa na América Latina
Geração Trilateral

Achieving a Just Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean through Trilateral Cooperation

Moderator: *Juanita Olarte*, PIFCSS

Speakers:

- ▶ **Project: Chile – Dominican Republic – Germany:** Formulation and implementation of long-term policies and plans in the energy sector supporting carbon neutrality
 - ▶ *Loreta Lancellotti*, Advisor, Ministry of Energy, Chile
 - ▶ *Henry César Caraballo*, Head of Study and Monitoring of SENI Operations, Vice Ministry of Energy, Dominican Republic
- ▶ **Project Brasil – Bolivia – Germany:** Energy efficiency and decentralized energy production in Bolivia
 - ▶ *Johnny Peña*, Authority for Electricity and Nuclear Technology Control, Bolivia

Objective: This workshop provided a platform to share and analyse best practices from two trilateral projects in the energy sector in South and Central America. Identifying lessons learned, common challenges, and opportunities, the discussion focused on how TrC can contribute to these efforts, considering the needs of disadvantaged population groups (social-economic-ecological dimension).

Summary: The transition to a more sustainable and just energy model is a crucial goal for Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently, there is a growing energy access gap in rural areas that has led to increased poverty and energy injustice. Other challenges include planning transition infrastructure and growing energy demand. Creating spaces for joint learning and decarbonization strategies is crucial, as only 4% of global financial resources for climate change mitigation reach LAC, according to [UN-ECLAC](#) data. Therefore, attracting more investment and offering guarantees to investors is fundamental. A just transition also involves providing alternatives to unsustainable practices such as illegal mining and cattle ranching in vulnerable areas. It was noted that in the energy transition field, there are already many experiences of TrC gender mainstreaming and intersectionality in LAC, aiming to reduce the gender gap in the sector.

Conclusion: The session highlighted the need to address energy poverty through community participation and multi-stakeholder cooperation. Education and transparency are essential to overcome structural barriers and foster inclusion in energy projects. Additionally, the importance of attracting more investment and creating decarbonization strategies tailored to local realities was emphasized.



Panel 2. Accelerating the Achievement of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean

Moderator: *Geovana Zoccal*, OECD

Speakers:

- ▶ *Ana Güzemes Garcia*, Director of the Division of Gender Affairs, ECLAC, Chile
- ▶ *Maira Feil*, Head of the G7/G20 Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany
- ▶ *Fabiola Soto*, Director of Multilateral Cooperation Policies, AMEXCID Mexico
- ▶ *Elias de Sousa Oliveira*, Director of the Department of Social Protection, Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger, Brazil

Objective: The session addressed common challenges related to gender equality and social inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) from a regional perspective. It explored ways to use TrC to accelerate equitable and inclusive development with a strong emphasis on speeding up gender equality.

Summary: The discussion highlighted that despite progress, gender equality remains a structural challenge that requires concrete and long-term responses. It was acknowledged that the region has developed systematic actions, statistics, and mobilization, but funding is still needed to achieve SDG 5. The need to improve education and women's participation in the labour market and to create a care society that prioritizes people's well-being was emphasized. Trilateral and South-South cooperation were identified as essential tools that promote gender equality as a fundamental principle, catalysing concrete public policies with innovative capabilities. A feminist development policy focused on promoting gender equality and fighting structural barriers and discrimination is crucial. It requires investment, should be a shared agenda across multiple sectors, and needs guides and tools for implementation. Integrating a gender perspective in all cooperation actions is fundamental, considering intersectionality and multicultural/multiethnic aspects. The incorporation of technologies that consider women's specific needs was specifically mentioned.

Conclusion: The panellists concluded that the care economy must be at the centre of discussions and that the region must advance in mainstreaming gender across all policies and projects. The intersection of gender and climate change is crucial, and trilateral cooperation can address these issues by sharing knowledge and experiences. Several countries in the region are committed to the care agenda already and are working to integrate a gender perspective into all aspects of international cooperation. Trilateral cooperation can support this approach through the exchange of resources and knowledge by uniting different actors from diverse backgrounds.

Workshop

Concrete Strategies to Strengthen Gender Equality and Social Inclusion as a Main and/or Cross-Cutting Objective of Trilateral Cooperation

Moderator: *Alice Guimarães*, GIZ

Speakers:

- ▶ **Project Paraguay-Brazil-Germany:** Paraguay-Brazil-Germany: Exchange of experiences to strengthen work with caregivers for the development of children aged 0 to 3 years
 - ▶ **Bernarda Casco Arce**, Director of Comprehensive Early Childhood Policy, Ministry of Childhood and Adolescence, Paraguay
- ▶ **Project:** Empowering Women through Community Water Management
 - ▶ **Mayra Calderón**, Senior Analyst of Financial Management for Products and Programs, Development Bank of Ecuador (BDE), Ecuador

Objective: The workshop discussed concrete strategies and practical experiences for effectively integrating gender equality and social inclusion into Trilateral Cooperation projects.

Summary: The speakers highlighted TrC as a complementary tool to reduce inequalities in early childhood and empower women in Latin America. In Paraguay, for example, 35% of the population consists of children under 17 years, many of whom live in poverty. Cooperation has facilitated improvements in infrastructure and childcare training, focusing on vulnerable populations and involving parents in the process. In Ecuador, gender equality-focused projects supported by the Development Bank of Ecuador have improved infrastructure and technical assistance, empowering women and increasing their leadership roles, for example in managing community water systems. The discussion emphasized the importance of involving local communities, providing continuous training, integrating gender equality into all projects, and ensuring strong policies and inter-institutional collaboration.

Conclusion: The workshop emphasized the critical role of gender equality and social inclusion in sustainable development. Through practical examples and discussions, participants explored strategies to effectively integrate these perspectives into TrC projects, highlighting the importance of local commitment, training, political support, and cross-cutting integration.



Spotlight. Capacity Building in Trilateral Cooperation

Capacity sharing is an essential part of TrC, strengthening the skills and knowledge necessary for implementing sustainable and effective projects for all partners. This spotlight provided an overview of the importance of training in TrC projects through a video message with testimonials, followed by an interactive discussion with representatives from the cooperation agencies of Brazil and Germany, the host countries of the conference.

Speakers:

- ▶ **Wofsi Yuri G. de Souza**, General Coordinator of Technical Cooperation and Partnerships with Developed Countries, ABC Brazil
- ▶ **Christof Kersting**, Director, Regional Fund for Trilateral Cooperation with LAC partners, GIZ

Summary: International cooperation should be a joint effort: The Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) is responsible for integrating Brazil's cooperation in all its forms, supporting Brazilian foreign policy with structures both inside and outside the country. Together with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Brazil has designed a course program to promote dialogue between agencies and focal points from nearly 40 developing countries, aiming to identify needs and strengthen technical cooperation.

For its part, Germany also places great importance on capacity building, based on sharing experiences, fostering collaboration, and building mutual trust. It is one of the most committed countries to this modality, as demonstrated by the extensive capacity-building activities for implementing TrC of the Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation with LAC partners, funded by BMZ and executed by GIZ. More than 600 people have been trained through this project to date, conducting in-person workshops in addition to digital and hybrid offers.

Conclusion: Capacity building and knowledge exchange is one of the pillars of TrC, which strengthens skills and fosters collaboration between countries and cooperation agencies. It is crucial that training offers continue to adapt to current and future challenges, identifying gaps and needs. It was recommended to increase online training and conduct external evaluations of the projects to ensure their effectiveness. Furthermore, the need to promote the integration of gender and social perspectives through training activities from the start was emphasized to empower women and avoid deepening gender gaps.



Día 2: 24 de mayo 2024

Panel 3. Strengthening Interregional Trilateral Cooperation

Moderator: *Wofsi Yuri G. de Souza*, ABC

Speakers:

- ▶ *Rita Walraf*, Deputy Head of Division G30, BMZ Germany
- ▶ *Dima Al-Khatib*, Director of UNOSSC (virtual)
- ▶ *Sara Hamouda Tawfik*, Officer of the Agenda 2063 Unit, APRM African Union (virtual)
- ▶ *Peter Van Rooij*, Director of Multilateral Partnerships, ILO
- ▶ *Lorena Larios*, Secretary for Ibero-American Cooperation, SEGIB
- ▶ *Mónica Barrios González*, Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean, APC Colombia

Summary: Panellists agreed that TrC is essential for effective international development, providing a model of equitable and collaborative partnership. It aligns with SDG 17, promoting partnerships and protecting global public goods. Multi- or interregional TrC is the second most important category in the OECD repository, with Germany expanding its regional scope through various funding instruments.

However, the modality faces several challenges, such as bilateral biases in procedures, linguistic and structural differences, and the need for financial resources. To overcome these obstacles, it is necessary to mobilize more resources, for instance, by working closely with the private sector. Furthermore, integrating the gender perspective and considering multicultural factors are essential for the effectiveness of interregional TrC. Successful projects have demonstrated that addressing these issues can empower women and strengthen communities.

Solid political frameworks and inter-institutional collaboration are crucial for sustainable impact. Engaging international organizations and giving greater visibility to South-South and Trilateral Cooperation is fundamental for the success of these projects.

Conclusion: The session emphasized the importance of interregional trilateral cooperation in addressing global challenges, sharing knowledge, and strengthening capacities. Initiatives and concrete experiences from various regions and organizations were highlighted, underscoring the need for continuous collaboration and the creation of effective mechanisms to enhance this mode of cooperation. Multilateral organizations make a significant contribution to the development of this modality. Trilateral cooperation must evolve towards even greater horizontality and link with geopolitical discussions on the reform of multilateralism. Additionally, it is crucial to design modalities for small-scale technology exchange and promote “technical diplomacy.”



Workshop

Strategies for Efficient and Sustainable Interregional Trilateral Cooperation

Moderator: *Geovana Zoccal*, OECD

Speakers:

- ▶ **Ama Brandford-Arthur**, Senior Partnerships Officer in the Global Engagement, Partnerships, and Resource Mobilization Division, UN-IFAD

- ▶ **Sushil Kumar**, Assistant Professor, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), India

- ▶ **Project: Etiopía-Brasil- Germany:** Ethiopia-Brazil-Germany: Pluralistic extension system in Ethiopia to increase sustainable agricultural productivity
 - ▶ **Yenenesh Egu Bezabih**, Chief Executive Director of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ethiopia

- ▶ **Project: Kenia- Tanzania- Argentina-Germany:** Fortalecimiento de la capacidad técnica para aumentar la producción de carne y leche en sistemas ganaderos de pequeños agricultores
 - ▶ **Halima Nenkari**, Deputy Director of Livestock Production, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Kenya

Objective: The workshop aimed to identify practical strategies to promote collaboration between different regions of the world, analysing success factors, lessons learned, and opportunities to scale up TrC projects.

Summary: This workshop delved into various successful experiences of Interregional TrC. One notable example is the project carried out between Argentina, Kenya, Tanzania, and Germany. In this case, the importance of previous bilateral cooperation between Argentina and Kenya was mentioned, and how the similar climatic conditions of the arid and semi-arid regions of Kenya, Tanzania, and Argentina facilitated a joint learning process, benefiting all partners.

Another specific case involving Ethiopia, Brazil, and Germany, provided the opportunity to identify common problems and solutions among the partners in the agricultural sector. The importance of identifying potential partners and issues to be resolved during the project's initial negotiation stage was emphasized. Similar challenges as a starting point for TrC reinforced the idea of adaptation and joint analysis of solutions, despite the technological differences between the partners, especially in agriculture. INTA Argentina proposed the possibility of working with multidisciplinary teams, involving various actors (technicians, researchers, academia), promoting links with local institutions.



Workshops

The difficulty of finding strategic partners was also discussed, especially in countries without diplomatic representation from Latin American partners. Contact with local institutions is fundamental. Technical support is crucial, and sharing debate spaces like this conference is extremely beneficial.

The challenge lies in achieving the participation of more actors in interregional TrC projects, taking into account the difficulties of international mobility. Promoting good communication and leveraging digital instruments is key to the success of the projects.

Conclusion: The workshop highlighted the importance of interregional TrC to face common challenges, using agriculture as an example, through the identification of shared problems and solutions, involving multidisciplinary teams, and establishing links with local institutions. The presented projects demonstrated how previous experiences and similar climatic conditions can facilitate joint learning and mutual benefits. Collaboration is key to achieving ambitious goals sustainably, as represented in the saying: "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go with others."



Keynote. The Added Value of Social Participation in Building Comprehensive Development Policies: “The Voices of the Amazonian Dialogue”

Ponente: *Prof. Taciana de Carvalho Coutinho*, Federal University of Amazonas, Brazil

Objective: Discuss the importance of social participation in building comprehensive development policies in the Amazon region, highlighting experiences and proposals from local actors.

Summary: The session highlighted the challenges of the Amazon region, particularly social participation in the formulation of development policies. There is a need for basic infrastructure, food security, and community involvement in key decisions. The Amazon is a territory of significant geopolitical and environmental relevance, particularly for the conservation of ecosystems. Therefore, more initiatives like the Alto Solimões Scientific and Technological Park are needed, which promote innovation and sustainability in the region.

Conclusion: The crucial importance of social participation in the formulation of development policies for the Amazon region was emphasized, with a focus on involving communities in decisions that affect their lives. It is essential to integrate local voices and perspectives in the formulation of all comprehensive and sustainable development policies.



Panel 4. Localization of Trilateral Cooperation and Inclusion of Local Actors

Moderator: *Ruy Pereira*, Ambassador and Director, ABC

Speakers:

- ▶ **Ana Fernandes**, Director General, Instituto Camões I.P., Portugal

- ▶ **Natalia Peixoto**, Head of the International Cooperation Office, Local Government of the City of Salvador, Brazil

- ▶ **Luara Lopes**, Co-Founder, Articulação Sul, Brazil

- ▶ **Nadine Piefer-Söyler**, Team Leader and Policy Analyst, OECD, France

- ▶ **May Ali Babiker**, Director of the Cooperation and Capacity Development Department, Islamic Development Bank (virtual)

- ▶ **Laura Oroz Ulibarri**, Director of Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean, AECID, Spain (virtual)

Objective: This panel focused on strategies to promote genuine participation of multiple actors (public agencies, non-governmental or local organizations, the private sector, and local communities) in trilateral cooperation, sharing case studies and best practices to strengthen their meaningful involvement in decision-making processes.

Summary: The panellists emphasized the crucial role of local actors and their knowledge in trilateral projects, as well as the need for evaluation and accountability from civil society. Prior, free consultation and active participation in the development of initiatives from the initial phase, including local diagnostics, are essential. At the same time, localization requires a connection with institutional headquarters and alignment with global standards. International organizations must overcome a tendency of “consultation fatigue” where local actors are included merely as part of a checklist.

Conclusion: The critical need to involve local actors and communities in cooperation initiatives was highlighted once more. The session concluded by emphasizing the importance of continuous dialogues and diverse perspectives to maximize the impact of trilateral cooperation, with a clear focus on linking local impact with global development.

Workshop

Multilevel Trilateral Cooperation: Strengthening Links with Subnational Actors

Moderator: *Veronica Suárez*, AUCI

Speakers:

► **Project: Guatemala-Colombia-Brasil-Noruega:** Guatemala-Colombia-Brazil-Norway: “Strengthening Capacities for Local Resilience”

► ***Aquiles Santodomingo Varela***, Research Professor, Metropolitan University of Barranquilla, Colombia

► ***Brandon Leopoldo Avila Montúfar***, Research Professor, Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Guatemala

► **Project: México-Guatemala-Germany:** “Reinforcing the Resilience of Nature Tourism Dependent Communities in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic”

► ***Kathleen Aquart***, Regional Director of the National Institute of Tourism of Guatemala (INGUAT, virtual)

Objective: This workshop provided a space to exchange experiences and highlight best practices and lessons learned in promoting TrC at the local level. It focused on the participation of local communities from the initial design phase to project implementation, promoting equity, sustainability, and respect for the long-term rights of local communities.

Summary: This workshop showed the importance of multilevel trilateral cooperation, focusing on strengthening the participation of local actors to achieve sustainable and equitable solutions. The discussion revolved around various strategies to ensure this goal, emphasizing the importance of respecting their rights to maintain the relevance of any intervention in the long term. Cases like the sustainable tourism project “Nuevos Vientos” in Guatemala demonstrated the consolidation of tourism products and the strengthening of local economic resilience through the active involvement of local actors in planning and execution. TrC proves to be a suitable instrument for addressing specific challenges from and for the territory, as it works closely with the populations.

Conclusion: The speakers shared significant experiences and best practices, highlighting the active integration of communities in the planning and execution of trilateral initiatives. Additionally, collaboration with universities and research organizations was emphasized to drive scalable projects that address specific challenges from and for the territory. In conclusion, TrC is fundamental for mobilizing effective local participation and responding comprehensively to local and global needs.

Workshop

Promoting successful multi-stakeholder partnerships through Trilateral Cooperation

Speakers:

▶ **Project:** Strengthening Environmental Partnership through the Escazú Agreement Rights

▶ **Daniel Barragan**, Director of the International Center for Research on Environment and Territory (CIAT), Universidad Hemisferios, Ecuador

▶ **Project: México - Colombia - Germany:** Private Sector Learnings in Colombia, Mexico, and Germany on Human Rights Protection in Supply Chains

▶ **Diego Pinzón**, Compliance Officer, Siemens Energy for the Northern Andean Region

Objective: This workshop explored effective strategies for establishing and strengthening multi-actor alliances in trilateral cooperation projects. Best practices from two successful examples involving the private sector, civil society, and academia were presented, sharing knowledge on creating and integrating alliances to leverage and expand the impacts of cooperation.

Summary: The session highlighted the importance of establishing clear strategic alliances, defining specific roles, promoting effective dialogue forums, and developing robust management mechanisms to ensure the success of initiatives. Among other things, the continuous training of small and medium sized enterprises in human rights was emphasized as a way to strengthen their active participation, demonstrating the potential of the private sector as a crucial partner in sustainable development. It was also noted that multi-actor trilateral projects have a significant impact in terms of scope and effectiveness, thus contributing to the comprehensive development of the involved actors. However, a persistent challenge lies in the distribution of resources when non-public actors are added to the cooperation.

Conclusion: This workshop demonstrated the effectiveness of establishing and strengthening multi-actor alliances through trilateral cooperation projects. Successful cases involving the private sector, civil society, and academia were presented, highlighting the importance of defining clear roles, promoting effective dialogue forums, and developing solid management mechanisms.



Closing session

The conference concluded with a closing session featuring high-level representatives from the host countries:

- ▶ **Ruy Pereira**, Ambassador and Director, Brazilian Agency for Cooperation
- ▶ **Maira Feil**, Head of the G7/G20 Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

Maira Feil began by highlighting the depth of the discussions over the two days of the conference and announced that the results would be presented at the G20 DWG meeting in the week of May 27. She expressed appreciation for the participation and commitment demonstrated by both in-person and virtual attendees during the event, emphasizing that cooperation, whether triangular or trilateral, involves sharing knowledge, resources, and building alliances based on mutual trust. She also noted the advanced state of the Latin American and Caribbean region in terms of cooperation, highlighting the importance of sharing this learning for global benefit.

For his part, **Ruy Pereira** acknowledged that, without the collaboration of Brazil and Germany, as well as other partners, the event would not have been possible, underscoring its extraordinary nature. He mentioned the joint declaration between Brazil and Germany, which established a global development alliance, signed in December.

The closing of the conference reflected the spirit of collaboration and shared commitment towards advancing trilateral cooperation in the region and beyond.



Key Messages for the G20 Development Working Group (DWG)

As a result of the presentations and discussions held during the two-day conference, the following messages were conveyed to the G20 Development Working Group:

- 1. Closing the Financing Gap and Sustainability:** In the current global context, it is crucial to close the financing gap and foster the sustainability of development projects during times of crisis. Existing funds for trilateral partnerships help establish and formalize these mechanisms as an accepted method of development, complementing rather than replacing traditional financing.
- 2. Leveraging Comparative Advantages:** Through trilateral cooperation, countries leverage comparative advantages by sharing knowledge, resources, and experiences to accelerate equitable development. Investing in technical capacities, expertise, and technology transfer is fundamental, for example, to promote women in skilled workspaces in developing countries.
- 3. Holistic Approach to Cooperation:** Trilateral cooperation has proven to be a modality capable of working and organizing processes holistically, demonstrating for example how just transition and inclusion should work together.
- 4. Promoting Mutual Learning:** Trilateral cooperation fosters mutual learning and the exchange of local knowledge. Participants agreed that there are no long-term results without local-level participation. All trilateral cooperation is locally led, contributing to a narrative shift towards horizontal relationships where all countries have something to share and learn.
- 5. Maturity and Success of the Modality:** The growing level of learning about the modality was highlighted. Trilateral cooperation has matured, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The convergence of different actors and understanding the opportunities for trilateral cooperation are important factors for success.
- 6. Driving Force of Latin America and the Caribbean:** As a region with recognized and positively evaluated experiences in trilateral cooperation, LAC has the interest and capacity to drive trilateral cooperation through the G20 and all invited countries.



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