

# Key Points in Brief



**RIS**

Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



# Key Points in Brief

FIDC Annual Symposium 2021  
Development Cooperation Dialogue  
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KEY POINTS IN BRIEF

# Key Points in Brief





- India's approach to development cooperation emphasises strengthening of people-to-people connect and thrives on inclusive partnership. The Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC) has been institutionalised to facilitate such a process. It is a historic forum and its vision is also historic. It is a Forum for analyzing policies of development cooperation and trends in South-South cooperation (SSC) through engaging various stakeholders including civil society organisations (CSOs), academics, and business. The FIDC serves as a platform to facilitate conversation as well as exchange of ideas, understandings, insights and development innovations.
- The Development Cooperation Dialogue (DCD) was organized by FIDC to deliberate on, share and disseminate experiences of India's development cooperation and look for opportunities to share them in solidarity with countries that may find them of use and relevance.
- Having completed 8 years of this partnership, FIDC felt encouraged to create an annual space for wider sharing of such studies, approaches and examples with broader cross-sections of Indian society. It also looked for engaging young scholars across India in the discussion and enhancing its visibility through this Dialogue.
- Given the global challenges of the coronavirus, development cooperation has assumed greater significance, and India's support to other countries has become much stronger. The Dialogue consisted of 7 technical sessions, besides the inaugural and valedictory sessions. The present report summarizes the key points that emerged out of the Dialogue.
- Organised in a hybrid format, the Dialogue involved participation of 47 participants (26 were present physically while 21 joined in a virtual mode).



KEY POINTS IN BRIEF

# Contours of Vaccine Diplomacy







- India is a global leader in pharmaceutical sector and emerged as global hub in this sector. Impact the COVID-19 pandemic is beyond the national boundaries, it is shared vulnerability; thus, there should also be sharing of resources and values. Efforts should be made to remove hurdles in production of vaccine, so optimum potentials of country's pharma sector can be realised. Greater diplomatic efforts should be made to facilitate smooth supply of raw materials for ramping up vaccine manufacturing, which is a key to fair distribution and subsequently effective fight against the pandemic.
- Access to COVID vaccine is 'uneven and unfair' so far. According to World Health Organization, one in four people in rich countries have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; however, the number of vaccinated people is very low in the low-income countries. Only one in 500 people is vaccinated in low-income nations. Developed countries have not been positive and proactive in their approach for creating more suitable environment for vaccine production. The Western world does not have favourable opinion about India and South Africa's request for the TRIPS agreement waiver in WTO.

## KEY POINTS IN BRIEF

- India has adopted a selfless approach in the times of crisis. It is a true spirit of sharing and also reflects passion for the compassion. In the wake of rise of vaccine nationalism, India shared its vaccines and clinical research know-how with countries across the globe. New Delhi has sent 660 lakhs doses of vaccines to over 90 countries.
- Research would be important in the process of vaccine production and further improvement. India is following the model of multi-manufacturers in vaccine production to get competitive pricing. The COVID-19 pandemic has also provided opportunity to India to emerge as a global hub of pharama research & development.
- India has already emerged as a global leader in generic medicine. It is important to note that 70 percent of the vaccine use for immunisation is manufactured in India. Supply of raw materials is crucial in vaccine production and it is equally important to ensure equitable access to vaccine. The US ban on exports of raw materials used in COVID-19 vaccines has been hampering vaccine production. Multilateral cooperation is essential for ramping the vaccine production. It is also pertinent to explore possibilities of a generic vaccine.





KEY POINTS IN BRIEF

# Inclusive Global Governance: Multi-stakeholder Engagement





India has been at the forefront of promoting inclusive global governance. New Delhi has worked for global solidarity, NAM and G77, through modalities like SSC. It has been intrinsic to India's outlook and is also visible in various initiatives; New Delhi had taken in the past. At various platforms India is playing a key role in bringing up issues of multi-polarity and inclusive global governance be that in the Indo-Pacific context or at the platforms like G-7 and G-20.

- Leadership calls for not only a positional space, but also requires pursuing an ambition. Now New Delhi is garnering both positional advantage and ambition to play a greater role shaping the global order. Regular assessment will be crucial. India should develop a multi-stakeholder approach with the countries of the South and strive to bring reforms and ensure inclusive global governance. Emphasis should be given to institutionalise global engagement through multi-stakeholder approach so that India's voice and contributions can be more impactful.



- Multilateralism has been compromised in contemporary phase of global politics. Multilateral institutions have been questioned; inequality has increased not only within the countries but also among the nations. India has been at the forefront of inclusive multilateralism emphasising on the greater focus on developing countries and fair and equal partnerships. There is a need for a more participative approach to the global fora. India's multi-stakeholder tripartite involvement would be crucial for policy consultations, bridging the North-South divide and fostering SSC.
- The FIDC is a remarkable organisation, however, it should not remain Delhi centric. It should continue to reach out to all other stakeholders across the country in different geographic locations. The role of CSOs in development cooperation has huge scope that FIDC may help in leveraging in the days to come. The CSOs may play an important supportive role and also ensure greater transparency. Further institutionalisation of FIDC as a vehicle to cover contributions of business, academia and civil society with the government's SSC framework will strengthen multi-stakeholder value-addition.





## KEY POINTS IN BRIEF

# Reforms in Lines of Credit with Special Reference to Africa



- Africa is India's traditional development partner. The continent has young population. Thus, education and capacity building are important aspects of development cooperation. The Line of Credit (LoC) is one of the main instruments of India's development cooperation to bolster the productive capacity of the African economies. It is now reformed to bring more transparency and accountability. Cooperation in area of agriculture sector is also crucial. It is important because 60 per cent uncultivated land lies in Africa. Robust growth in agriculture sector would promote local development as well as enhance global food security.
- India and Africa should explore greater engagement in supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which are important for employment and income generation. LOCs can also be offered to the facilitate growth of MSMEs.
- Energy access is now focus area and financing is going to the solar energy sector. India and African countries are part of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for harnessing the potential of solar energy and promoting access to clean energy. LoCs are focused in promoting solar energy. Africa does not have good health infrastructure, India is supporting in building health infrastructure in the African nations that has been further focused after the onset of COVID-2019. Furthermore, the pandemic has given opportunity for expanding cooperation in the conceptual framework of SSC.





- India needs to support institutional development in finance in Africa. India's share in African Development Bank, which is currently 0.2 per cent or so, should be increased and the public-sector banks should be developed in Africa. There is need to long-term engagement which should be beyond infrastructure development projects and widen its scope to investments in productive sector in Africa. Partnership with African banks will be crucial and these efforts need to be channelised.
- The African continent has multiple regional conflicts and India-Africa should marry peace, security and development goals. There are multiple challenges and issues pertaining to supply side commitment and deadlines of implementation of these projects. These loopholes need to be identified and the weakness in implementation should be dealt with.







## KEY POINTS IN BRIEF

Going beyond  
Government:  
Leveraging strength  
of Community, Civil  
Society & Business



- The FIDC has a holistic and inclusive approach in engaging all stakeholders – CSOs, academics, business in conservations and sharing their own development understandings and development innovations and insights. The CSOs are rooted locally but they catalyze the global alliance, which contribute to the global development cooperation.
- The CSOs can be useful and effective in communicating the government development works and cooperation and facilitate in building new synergy between development partners. They can be part of the government development cooperation but should not become like government department. Their approach should not be like government department. They are different, and so are their nature, work and expertise. The immense knowledge and experience of Indian CSOs have not been made full use of. They were hardly



shared or transferred. There have been examples where some CSOs have done pioneering work in defining the idea of development cooperation globally. For the most marginalised, the emphasis is on empowerment and ownership.

- The CSOs are important stakeholders in development process. They have brought up the underdevelopment problems and helped in addressing problems of tribal regions. Their work in tribal regions has been globally recognised. Innovation at ground level, with possibility of replication around the globe is an important pathway to facilitate inclusive development. Regulatory frameworks should be reformed. Currently legal framework does not support Indian civil society to contribute to overseas development cooperation actively.





KEY POINTS IN BRIEF

# Young Scholars' Forum



- There is a huge scope for energy and water cooperation in the South Asian region. Fossil fuels sources are limited in the South Asian countries and demand is high, thus, access to energy is affected. There are immense potentials for new and renewable energy cooperation in the region. Cooperation in areas of clean energy would enhance energy security, access to energy, and would also have environmental benefits. Access to clean energy will also contribute to social development and empowerment. There are several measures and energy projects have been taken in the region for expanding energy cooperation in the region.
- Trade cost is the biggest concern for BRICS countries, economic engagement is an important element of the SSC and further promoting it. Investment in border areas is crucial for promoting South-South trade as well as broader SSC in the BRICS nations. South-South trade is very important from the SSC point of view. New development finance and sources are now available and the development finance institutions have emerged in the South. The SSC has potentials in the contributing towards in balancing global growth and equity.





KEY POINTS IN BRIEF

# Impact Assessment



- Assessment should be done to know about development cooperation/projects impact on different social groups. Impact assessment should not be conducted in last phase of project, but it should be part of the project itself. India must review its development cooperation policies to achieve better outcomes. The impact assessment is critical for India's development cooperation policies not only to gain goodwill and make tangible contributions in development partners.
- Desired characteristics of assessment of template must include theory of change, theory of action and their interaction. The SSC is concerned not only about the increasing the size of cake but also its distribution. In the development cooperation ecosystem - triangular cooperation-hybrid model is unfolding, but its concept and modalities are not very clear.
- There should be risk assessment at a pre-planning stage including financial viability of the projects and risk-readiness of the project including environmental and social sustainability criteria. This also involves drawing impact boundaries and clarification about the role of local communities and partnerships. It is important to note that these actions be taken by local authorities.





## KEY POINTS IN BRIEF

# Revisiting Indian Philosophy of Partnership: A Grassroots Perspective







- India should not be considered as an emerging donor, as often referred in the global development cooperation lexicon. Development cooperation is not new for India. Development cooperation is the core of Indian foreign policy. India has been sharing its development experience, providing assistance and facilitating development and building capacity even before attaining independence. Development partnership was built on the priorities of development partners and their needs. There are no conditionalities attached to India's development cooperation. India has been engaged in various infrastructure projects across Asia and Africa. India was leading partner in Afro-Asian conference in 1946.
- India has been sharing its experience and technical capacity to the entire world in the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (entire world is one family). Distinctive feature of India's development cooperation is primarily a human-centric and is marked by respect, diversity, care for the future and sustainable development. India's focus is to build as much local capacity and opportunities at local level as possible.
- The ideals and thoughts of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore are relevant in development cooperation and the SSC. Rabindranath Tagore was the modern pioneer of applying philosophy of cooperation in his sincere attempts



to eradicate poverty and inequality. He saw rural reconstruction as his life's work unfolding through three main stages – managing the family estates in the 1890s in East Bengal, national programme of Swadeshi Movement (1903-08), and experiments in Sriniketan. He wanted to integrate the distressed people into an accessible system of justice to be run by the villagers themselves.

- India's traditional knowledge is quite rich in Seva Bhav (spirit of service) and knowledge, there is a need to inform and further enrich the global development lexicon. Diaspora can be an important element of India's development programme. Documentation of oral traditions of India is important.
- Aid Fatigue in developed countries has resulted into a relook process of global development aid; therefore, people are now looking towards India and Brazil. It can also be said that they are not emerging donors, but it should be understood as the emergence new development programme.

- Economic aid is used as a tool of foreign policy in the Western world. Great transition is now taking place, it is India way. India's position has elevated its position. New Delhi has been looking ahead playing greater role in the development. Both indigenous development cooperation experience and pragmatism approach are significant from Indian point of view.
- India is transforming rapidly. India's traditional culture, values and social norms in development cooperation is crucial. Now the focus has been shifted to the bottom up approach. India is going to realise the vision of one nation – one ID, one card, one ration card. Innovations are being implemented in partnership with civil society, business and government in the country. They should be taken forward in India's SSC & triangular cooperation, and FIDC can also be a platform for knowledge sharing.
- Innovation led development has been promoted. Domain of development cooperation has now expanded drastically. Innovative development financing is needed, and FIDC should explore the ideas and find the solutions.



# **RIS** A Think-Tank of Developing Countries

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) is a New Delhi-based autonomous policy research institute that specialises in issues related to international economic development, trade, investment and technology. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on global and regional economic issues.

The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and collaborate with developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged across inter-governmental processes of several regional economic cooperation initiatives. Through its intensive network of think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues and the development partnership canvas.

For more information about RIS and its work programme, please visit its website: [www.ris.org.in](http://www.ris.org.in)

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