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# Global South-South Development Expo 2013 Nairobi, 29 October-1 November 2013

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## **ILO Solution Forum: Promoting Sustainable Development and Decent Work through South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

October 30, 2013  
UN Office at Nairobi, Kenya  
Conference Room I  
09:00 – 11:30

### **I. Opening**

**Mr Jürgen Schwettmann**, Director of the ILO Department of Partnerships and Field Support, as the Chairperson welcomed the participants to the Solution Exchange Forum on Sustainable Development and Decent Work. He recalled that ILO constituents and partners believed in the benefits of South-South and triangular cooperation because it was guided by the principles of solidarity. The ILO had strengthened its commitment to the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation through a strategy adopted by its Governing Body in March 2012, entitled “South–South and triangular cooperation: The way forward”. The strategy placed particular emphasis on South-South and triangular cooperation as a means of achieving the objectives of the Decent Work Agenda.

The Solution Forum was meant to provide results-based presentations and scalable solutions based on South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives that had successfully promoted the integration of employment, decent work and social inclusion in sustainable development strategies.



### **II. Solution Forum**

#### **1. Brazil’s engagement in South-South Cooperation: Example of a knowledge-sharing initiative on environmental programmes such as Brazil’s Bolsa Verde programme with countries from the Global South**

**H.E. the Ambassador of Brazil to Kenya, Ms Marcela Nicodemos**, highlighted the close collaboration between Brazil and the ILO in the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation.

She stressed that Brazil had played a key role in the finalization of the Rio+20 Outcome Document, “The Future We Want”, and highlighted the importance of the inter-linkages between the three pillars of sustainable development – the social, environmental, and economic.

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The Government of Brazil had been a contributor to ILO's South-South and Triangular Cooperation Initiative since 2005, and had stimulated the engagement of many countries of the Global South to support these initiatives. There were several examples of how Brazil had taken the initiative to cooperate with other countries of the Global South in the fields of sustainable development and decent work. Focusing mainly on the Bolsa Verde programme (green grant) launched in October 2011, she explained its purpose, since it was conceived as a programme to support environmental conservation while eradicating extreme poverty.



Describing the context in which the programme had been designed, she stated that in Brazil, 16.2 million people lived in extreme poverty, 15.6% of the Brazilian population lived in rural areas, and 46.7 % of the rural population – 7.5 million people – were extremely poor. The Bolsa Verde was part of the "Brasil sem Miséria" (Brazil without Misery) programme, which aimed at promoting social inclusion by income guarantees, access to services and productive inclusion. The main beneficiaries were families living in extreme poverty, who developed the sustainable use of natural resources and maintenance of vegetation.

The main objectives of Bolsa Verde were to encourage the conservation of ecosystems, raise awareness of the sustainable use of ecosystems, improve living conditions, and raise the incomes of the very poor through the conservation of natural resources in rural areas, and encourage the participation of beneficiaries in environmental training activities, and social, technical and vocational education.

Another innovation of the Bolsa Verde was the Bolsa Verde Card, which facilitated access to the grant for families, who were entitled to R\$300 every three months. The Federal Savings Bank was the implementing agent of the programme.

Ambassador Nicodemos stated that an experience-sharing activity was foreseen with countries from the Global South that had similar programmes. A new project implemented with the ILO and financed by Brazil's Ministry of the Environment aimed to tackle the challenges related to the upscaling of the Bolsa Verde programme and the promotion of sustainable activities to generate employment and income for beneficiary families.

The Ministry of Environment sought to learn about good practice examples from other countries with similar programmes, and organized knowledge-sharing workshops to discuss challenges and opportunities for social and environmental protection floors.

## **2. Good environmental practices in construction: "Building renewable energy" in the context of South-South cooperation**

**Ms Romina Castro**, Environment and Climate Change Expert, Construction Workers' Union of Argentina (UOCRA) described a project implemented by UOCRA aimed at training workers, technicians and professionals in the construction sector to ensure the adoption of good environmental practices on construction sites. The initiative had been internationally recognized as a good practice. It had great potential for South-South cooperation and had already been presented at several international forums.

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The UOCRA was the union representing workers in the construction industry in Argentina. It was affiliated to the General Confederation of Labour (CGT-RA), and the Building and Woodworkers International (BWI). UOCRA as a union covered all Argentina, with more than 400,000 registered workers.

The project had both practical and theoretical elements. In practical terms it sought to foster the rational use of energy and to promote technical training in the installation of solar panels. Its theoretical content consisted in awareness workshops on good practices in order to achieve lifestyle changes for the rational use of natural resources and training manuals on good environmental practices and renewable energy and sustainable homes.

The projects aimed to encourage the formation of desirable habits for individual and social protection, through capacity building to implement good environmental practices and establish measures to prevent risks at work. It involved training in theory and practice with the aim of ensuring sustainable construction and the use of renewable energies. The project also sought to strengthen cooperation between countries of the region through exchanges of good environmental practices and the development of adaptable and replicable initiatives that promoted inclusive green economies.

UOCRA was committed to exchange experience and to develop South-South cooperation projects with countries in the region where conditions were favourable and where the access of rural residents to traditional energies with high environmental impact was insignificant or non-existent.

A number of major study tours and South-South and triangular cooperation events had boosted the promotion of the project, such as the II Workers Union Conference on Labour and Environment (2009), which had as its main objective to strengthen relations between countries of the region for the exchange of experience in the areas of work and environment, in order to address several common challenges in the region. The conference had been organized by the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (CSA), UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and Sustainlabour. In the event over 70 trade union representatives of the Americas participated, including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay, and some regional unions.

The Conference enabled the exchange of experience, challenges and initiatives on key issues such as the socio-environmental situation in the region, climate change policies and their implementation at the subregional level; and future alternatives to build a sustainable development. Discussions enhanced relationships involving the development of alternative uses of low impact energy.

Among the benefits of horizontal cooperation, she highlighted three main areas: 1) the promotion of renewable energies guaranteed substantial autonomy in one of the most important variables for growth – access to traditional energy and the variation of fuel prices, which was a topic of particular relevance to the countries of the region; 2) collaboration between countries where traditional energies were centralized and where many citizens were still excluded promoted solidarity and the sharing of experience to offer practical and sustainable solutions to regions that experienced difficulty in access to energy; 3) renewable energy was clean energy, and respected the

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principles of sustainable development “without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

Ms Castro also made reference of the potential for South-South cooperation, explaining that UOCRA and the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (CSA) sought to promote networking with international institutions that allowed the implementation of initiatives such as training activities, exchanges, the dissemination of research and realization of international events to strengthen horizontal cooperation and increase the impact of clean energy initiatives, for example, in the framework of MERCOSUR.

South-South cooperation could also be beneficial in the transition to a greener economy in the post-2015 agenda. Cooperation between trade unions from the South could enhance the implementation of the ILO’s fundamental principles and rights at work.

### 3. Developing skills for green jobs

**Mr Javier Bonilla**, Head of the Automotive Mechanics Department at the Costa Rican National Learning Institute of Costa Rica, highlighted the importance of South-South cooperation in the region. The regional network of technical vocational education and training institutions of Central America and the Dominican Republic sought to standardize and improve technical vocational training programmes in line with the latest labour market developments. The initiative that he presented was developed by the network in collaboration with the ILO to strengthen the institutional capacity of public labour institutions and to facilitate the labour insertion of marginalized groups in Central America.

The Network of Vocational Training Institutes, conceived in 2008, placed priority on the development of Technical Standards for Professional Competence and standardized curricular development in the region. The XV Tripartite Plenary Meeting of the Network of Vocational Training Institutes of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic had as a result reached agreement to standardize norms and competences on green jobs. Its main objective was to harmonize and implement technical and methodological tools regionally agreed for professional and business training with a focus on gender and economic development.



Between 2008 and 2009 the network defined the priority sectors for the approval of standards and curricula as follows: teacher training, construction, tourism, agriculture, agribusiness, renewable energy, cleaner production and sustainable development. By March 2010 it had completed and published a total of 22 technical competency standards. In November 2010 all technical standards and curricula, 213 labour competency standards including 8 on green occupations, and 44 curriculum developments were compiled. In addition, 2 courses were developed on environmental responsibility and clean production.

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In November 2011 a seminar on “Vocational Training towards a Carbon-Neutral Economy” in Costa Rica took as its main objective to identify changes and trends in the international and national labour market linked to the emergence and development of greener production activities (carbon-neutral) and its implications for vocational training

ILO/FOIL/AECID developed four training sessions for officials of the institutions of the Network through South-South cooperation (SSC). For this purpose specific Technology Foresight Methodology was developed by the National Industrial Training Service of Brazil (SENAI). Implementation of this methodology was being monitored and would lead to the publication of studies in 2013–2014.

He highlighted four main benefits of such cooperation for the countries of Central America and the Caribbean: learning and the application of new methodologies, techniques and tools; information and experience sharing; feedback on time for the processes of work; and streamlining the achievement of the set objectives.

Countries like Brazil could through SENAI help other countries in the Americas to enhance their vocational training institutions and environmental knowledge and practice. South-South cooperation in this context offered the advantage that it would allow developing countries receive financial, logistical, educational, and technological support for the development of projects related to current issues. Many countries in the region had advanced environmental systems that could be replicated in other countries.

#### 4. Promoting green entrepreneurship among young women and men: Cobitech’s experience

**Mr Samson Gichia**, CEO of Cobitech, introduced the Youth Entrepreneurship Facility, a partnership between the African Commission, the Youth Employment Network and the International Labour Organization (ILO). The partner countries were Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda.

Mr Gichia, who also won the GSSD 2013 partnerships award, explained that Cobitech’s experience in the biogas technology sector was wide. It had experience of promoting domestic use of biogas, targeting rural households practicing zero-grazing dairy cow farming. The company had partnered with micro-finance institutions (MFIs) to make biogas technology more affordable. Another initiative was Biogas for Schools, which promoted biogas technology as an alternative source of energy from firewood for boarding schools in Kenya.



The ILO-YEF Enablis Business Plan Competition promoted ecological best practices and had proved to be a successful mechanism to promote interaction, elicit greater interest in green business, and kick-start green ideas among partner countries. The Youth Entrepreneurship Facility (YEF) was a partnership between the Africa Commission, Youth Employment Network (YEN) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). Cobitech had won the Enablis Business Plan Competition 2010 in the Green Business category, and received business skills training, advisory services and mentorship.

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Among the South-South exchange opportunities with other entrepreneurs in Africa, he highlighted the visit by a delegation of 40 people from Africa to the green business start-up supported by YEF (experience sharing at Cobitech). In May 2013 Cobitech had been invited by InfoDev (through Kenya CIC) to a Climate and Mobile Application Innovation Conference in East London (South Africa); in September 2013, Cobitech participated in the East African Countries Conference at Nairobi; in October 2012 they attended the 15th International Business Forum (IBF) organized by GIZ; and in May 2011 Cobitech was invited by CTI/PFAN in Johannesburg, South Africa to present a project on biogas power generation.

These events had meant a great boost for young entrepreneurs; platforms for knowledge and experience sharing were beneficial to scale up initiatives by young entrepreneurs from the Global South, and as a way to access opportunities and receive support to implement initiatives. He stressed the importance of South-South knowledge-sharing workshops as a means of showcasing working technologies and success stories among entrepreneurs within Africa; they promoted sustainable green business growth by linking entrepreneurs to mentors, investors, financiers and BDS from different countries; and they disseminate good practices to scale up pilot projects and help entrepreneurs commercialize their prototypes.

## **5. SENAI's South-South Cooperation Strategy: The case of a triangular cooperation initiative between SENAI (Brazil), SENATI (Peru), and GIZ (Germany)**

**Ms Eliana Nicolini**, Coordinator of the South-South Cooperation Portfolio at the National Confederation of Industry of Brazil (SENAI, SESI, IEL).

This presentation highlighted the results of a triangular cooperation initiative between the Brazilian National Service for Industrial Apprenticeship (SENAI), in partnership with the Peruvian National Service of Skills Development in Industrial Labour (SENATI) and the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) to create the Centre for Environmental Technologies, which was based in Peru.

SENAI had been recognized by ILO as a model of TVET in Latin America. Its mission was to provide technical and vocational education, facilitating innovation and the transfer of industrial technologies to contribute to increasing the competitiveness of Brazilian Industry. Among its priority work areas were technical and vocational education; and industrial innovation and technology.

SENAI received more than 3 million new students each year. The challenge for 2014 was to achieve 4 million enrolments. More than 58 million workers had qualified over 70 years in its 817 operational units. Two other challenges were to expand the training of the workforce, maintaining quality; and to implement an effective agenda of technology and innovation, both with high levels of competitiveness.

SENAI was not only about partnerships: it also maintained valuable relationships. The centre had been one of the main partners of CINTERFOR for the past 50 years; it had developed joint projects on the themes of vocational training and youth employability to support Latin American institutions. SENAI had transferred its methodology of prospective studies and opened its database of courses and curricula.



Referring to SENAI's international scope of action, she mentioned that the portfolio of South-South and triangular technical cooperation projects on TVET centres was wide, and included Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Paraguay, East Timor, Guatemala, Jamaica, Haiti, Sao Tome and Príncipe, Angola, and Peru (Centre for Environmental Technologies – CTA).

The transfer of knowledge of international technologies to Brazilian industry was a priority in order to support education, technology and innovation schedules. Moreover, SENAI was engaged in technical cooperation with developing countries

aiming to transfer knowledge and technologies to governments and related institutions.

The Centre trained professionals in areas related to clean production and environment. It sought to enhance research and laboratory services in areas such as water and sanitation, clean air and clean development mechanisms, land and the recuperation of degraded landscape, solid waste, clean production and energy efficiency. In addition, it offered continuing education courses on environmental community-based monitoring, environmental monitoring (technical level) and eco-efficiency.

The mechanism for such triangular cooperation involved SENATI as responsible for the implementation and management of the CTA with international technical support from SENAI, the Brazilian counterpart and GIZ, the German counterpart. The Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation, together with the Brazilian Agency for International Cooperation, were in charge of the political coordination of the project with GIZ's participation.

South-South and triangular cooperation represented an opportunity for SENAI to receive knowledge of energy efficiency and water management from Germany. Through SSTC, Brazilian companies in Peru could be supported in their efforts towards internationalization.

In conclusion, Ms Nicolini reiterated its commitment to South-South Cooperation and to working jointly with the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation.

## **6. Managing your Agricultural Cooperative (My.COOP) through South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

**Mr Youssef Alaoui Solaimani**, consultant and trainer on Social and Solidarity Economy, explained the concept of the My.Coop initiative. Managing your Agricultural Cooperative (My.COOP) was a training package published in 2011. My.COOP training packages targeted agricultural cooperatives and was developed by various organizations from countries of the North and South such as Kenya, the Netherlands, Nigeria, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and the United Kingdom. He also had experience with the “green cities” project, which covered decent work and sustainable development exchanges between cities.

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Training activities were meant to strengthen the management of agricultural cooperatives so they could offer high-quality, efficient and effective services to their members. Moreover, they provided guidance to ensure member satisfaction, facilitate business opportunities and address social considerations. They covered the managerial challenges that many agricultural cooperatives faced, and were based on the idea that strong cooperatives were necessary for the more equitable distribution of income, democracy, and economic and social development.

The My.COOP training package included a trainer's manual, four modules, and a mobile learning toolkit. The existing training materials were available in Spanish, English and French. The initiatives had 5 different components to deliver its strategies: a training of trainers and training of managers (delivered by the ITC-ILO), a network of partners and trainers, face-to-face, self-learning and distance learning, use of a My.COOP community platform where a series of services and tools could be found, such as a distance learning programme for the training of trainers. My.COOP training materials had been translated and adapted, and information was available on its partners, as well as a package containing the manuals and modules in booklets.

My.COOP was a partnership initiative between Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania (technical and scientific support), the Netherlands (financial and scientific support), Switzerland and Italy (technical, academic and logistical support). Other support organizations included Agriterria, the Cooperative College of Kenya, FAO, ITC-ILO, the Kenya National Federation of Agricultural and Business Studies, the Nigerian Cooperative Development Centre, the Royal Tropical Institute, the Uganda Cooperative Alliance and the Wageningen University and Research Centre.

Direct beneficiaries of the training package included trainers of cooperatives, managers of agricultural cooperatives, and members involved in managerial tasks. Employees and members of the agricultural cooperative and the local community indirectly benefited from the programme due to organizational changes.

Pilot training activities and country adaptations were taking place in Bolivia, Nigeria and Peru. The My.COOP network of partners would allow the training package to be extended to other countries.

## **7. Discussant: Ms Anita Amorim, Head, Emerging and Special Partnerships Unit, ILO Department of Partnerships and Field Support**

Ms Amorim stated that the Global South-South Expo was the result of close collaboration between sister agencies, and she thanked UNEP in particular for hosting the event and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) for its organization.

How could inter-agency collaboration to promote South-South cooperation be taken further? The ILO had a joint project with the UNOSSC on social protection floors. In addition, the ILO worked with UNEP on green economy, as well as with all its sister agencies on topics with links to South-South cooperation.

How could SSTC ensure substantive cooperation? What were the lessons from Rio+20 that could be carried through into the post-2015 agenda?



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Institutional strategies were important. To be officially mainstreamed, South-South and triangular cooperation must be in budgets and strategic plans. The ILO Governing Body had in 2012 adopted a strategy, and had made budgetary provisions for SSTC in each of the past three biennia. The ILO had been cooperating with UN strategic frameworks on SSTC in the framework of QCPR, IBSA and concrete joint cooperation projects.

In the field of green jobs and sustainable development, as presented in the forum, the ILO was cooperating with programmes that promoted and replicated or adapted such models to other developing countries. For example, the impressive experience of SENAI, the successful practices of the automotive industry in using electric energy and recycling materials, and the experience of sustainable development in cooperatives, had all been prepared with the support of many governments of the South, and had often been supported by traditional development partners through triangular cooperation.

Further reflection was needed on how to leverage further the comparative advantages of South-South cooperation and to make it more complementary to North-South cooperation. It should further enhance projects that promoted social, inclusive and sustainable development. It needed to involve not only governments, but also a wide array of stakeholders including workers' and employers' organisations, civil society, parliamentarians, foundations, and local government.

The first International Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio in 1992, had given particular attention to the involvement of cities and local government: the ILO was enhancing this commitment through City-to-City and South-South cooperation. How could this be strengthened?

### III. Question & Answer Session

Participants were particularly interested in questions relating to SSC and the social and solidarity economy, green jobs and workers' rights, and training for youth on sustainable technologies and biogas.

A social entrepreneur from Kenya expressed his concern regarding the effects of global warming in his country and asked Mr Gichia of Cobitech whether biogas could offer a solution. Mr Gichia said that awareness-raising activities were being undertaken and the use of biogas was efficient, as the material used to feed the biogas plant was scalable in terms of energy production.

A representative of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) expressed interest in exchanging knowledge and experience with SENAI, particularly since the region shared the same environmental concerns as Brazil regarding forest conservation. His interest was to share ideas on how to maintain a balance between environmental, social and environmental concerns. SENAI explained the mechanisms for such cooperation, which could involve signing an agreement between the countries involved or through direct institutional cooperation between SENAI and similar institutions in other countries.

A Moroccan participant interested in the My.Coop programme asked Mr Youssef Alaoui whether such a programme existed in Morocco. Mr Alaoui stated that My.Coop did not exclude any country; its materials were currently available in English, Spanish and

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French and would be translated into Arabic to increase its scope. The ITC Turin was the focal point for access to such training. He emphasized that other activities were taking place in Morocco, such as the 2013 session of the Academy on Social and Solidarity Economy held in Agadir: the ILO provided scholarships for participants from the global South to be part of this event. The Academy was a useful forum to discuss the links between the Social and Solidarity Economy and South-South cooperation. Morocco was taking the lead in other green initiatives such as the “ville verte” or green city which was being developed in Marrakesh.

Replying to a participant who expressed concern on how to promote green jobs that were also worker-friendly and how South-South cooperation could help combine workers’ rights and environmental concerns, Ms Amorim quoted the ILO definition of green jobs: green jobs were decent jobs that reduced the consumption of energy and raw materials; limited greenhouse gas emissions; minimized waste and pollution; and protected and restored ecosystems. The ILO promoted jobs that were not only green, but were also decent and respected workers’ rights. A discussion on the topic had been held at the International Labour Conference in 2013. Mr Schwettmann stated that the ILO Department of Partnerships and Field Support was in charge of project appraisal, and that the respect and promotion of workers’ rights was a key criterion.

A question to Mr Gichia raised through the GSSD Expo social media asked whether Cobitech offered training programmes for Kenyan youth. Mr Gichia responded positively and mentioned that last year a training course had been held through a youth polytechnic school.

A representative of the Government of Colombia was interested to learn from the experience of Central America presented by Mr Javier Bonilla on the creation of the regional network of training institutions.

Mr Bonilla replied that there were several challenges involved and lessons learned. The features of each institution were important for the success of the network. It was important to work with homologous institutions, with similar vision, mission, culture and methodologies. Communication could also be a challenge, as there were few meetings; sometimes technical field work was necessary, and online conferences had to be held regularly to ensure coordination. In this regard, he highlighted the importance of ensuring the transfer of knowledge within the same institution at different levels.

#### **IV. Closing Remarks**

Mr Schwettman thanked all speakers and participants in the Forum. He highlighted the importance of their presence to the success of the Forum and to the overall outreach of the Global South-South Development Expo in order to continue promoting South-South cooperation and to better tackle environmental issues.

Mr Schwettmann reiterated the commitment of the ILO to South-South cooperation for the promotion of decent work and topics related to skills development in green economies. All these initiatives had been born in the South and took place in the field. Therefore the contribution of every single partner who had contributed to the implementation of the projects was of the utmost importance.

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Finally, he emphasized the potential and benefits of promoting knowledge and experience-sharing platforms such as the Global South-South Development Expo to upscale endeavours towards the transition to a greener economy which could serve as inspiration for other stakeholders from the North and South to engage in South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives.