



International  
Labour  
Organization

# INNOVATION COMING FROM THE FIELD

Systematisation of the ILO-Brazil  
Partnership Programme for the Promotion  
of South-South Cooperation (2005-2014)

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

# **INNOVATION COMING FROM THE FIELD**

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for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation (2005-2014)**

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International Labour Organisation

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Systematisation of the ILO-Brazil Partnership Programme for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation (2005-2014)

Brasilia, ILO, 2015

48p.

ISBN 978-92-2-829749-2 (print)

978-92-2-829750-8 (web pdf)

Also available in English: "INNOVATION COMING FROM THE FIELD - systematisation of the ILO-Brazil Partnership Programme for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation", ISBN 978-92-2-129749-9 (print) and 978-92-2-129750-5 (web pdf), Brasilia, 2015;

and Spanish: "LA INNOVACIÓN QUE VIENE DEL TERRENO – Systematización de la Alianza ILO-Brazil para la Promoción de la Cooperación Sur-Sur" (2005-2014), ISBN 978-92-2-329749-7 (print) and 978- 92-2-329750-3 (web pdf) Brasília, 2015.

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Printed in Brazil

Coronário Editora Gráfica Ltda. ([atendimento@coronario.com.br](mailto:atendimento@coronario.com.br))

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*Brazilian State Ministers and ILO Director General conclude the III Global Conference on Child Labour*

*“Charity is exercised vertically and from above;  
solidarity is horizontal.”*

**Eduardo Galeano**



*Opening Session of the III Global Conference on Child Labour*

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## Introduction

This study describes and analyses the experience of the ILO-Brazil Partnership Programme for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation since its inception in 2005, its results and its current prospects. The study is not intended to cover all forms of South-South cooperation (SSC) that the Brazilian government has implemented in partnership with the ILO in this period, but to systematize the actions undertaken under the Programme.

To this end, it is part of an effort to identify lessons that can be important for the ILO, Brazil, partner countries, tripartite players and other stakeholders, with a view to consolidating and advancing this initiative, as well as encouraging future South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation experiments as instruments to promote decent work.



# 1. Background

## 1.1 South-South Cooperation

Among the first expressions of coordination, exchange and collaboration between developing countries seeking harmonious and non-hegemonic international relations, two can be considered symbolic forerunners of the notion of South-South cooperation: the 1955 Bandung Conference, which led to the Non-Aligned Movement, and the 1964 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), from which the Group of 77 (G-77) emerged.

The biggest boost to the theme resulted from the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1978. Two decades of initial efforts towards cooperation among developing countries culminated in this Conference, an in a broad conceptual and programmatic framework for South-South cooperation: the “Buenos Aires Plan of Action” (BAPA).

The philosophy and principles that inspire international cooperation among developing countries are reflected in the following statements from the BAPA:

- a) TCDC has emerged as a new dimension of international cooperation for development, which gives expression to the developing world’s determination to achieve national and collective self-reliance and to the need to bring about the new international economic order;
- b) TCDC as well as other forms of cooperation among all countries must be based on strict observance of national sovereignty, economic independence, equal rights and non-interference in domestic affairs of countries, irrespective of their size, level of development and social and economic systems.
- c) The strengthening of TCDC must constitute an important component of any future strategy that seeks to accelerate development, to enhance human dignity and progress and to improve the performance of the world economy as a whole.
- d) TCDC is a multidimensional process, which can be bilateral or multilateral in scope, and sub-regional, regional or interregional in character. It should be organized by and between Governments that can promote, for this purpose, the participation of public organisations, private organisations and individuals.



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- e) TCDC is neither an end in itself nor a substitute for technical cooperation with developed countries. Increased technical cooperation of the developed countries is required for the transfer of appropriate technologies and also for the transfer of advanced technologies and other expertise in which they have manifest advantages.”

The thinking expressed in the BAPA translates into nine strategic objectives, of which the first three are:

- “a) To foster the self-reliance of developing countries through the enhancement of their creative capacity to find solutions to their development problems, in keeping with their own aspirations, values and special needs.
- b) To promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among developing countries through exchanges of experience, the pooling, sharing and utilisation of their technical resources, and the development of their complementary capabilities.
- c) To strengthen the capacity of developing countries to identify and analyse together the main issues of their development and to formulate the requisite strategies in the conduct of their international economic relations, with a view to establishing the new international economic order.”

The position of developing countries concerning South-South cooperation in the context of the new millennium was expressed by the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the G77+China convened at the first “South Summit” held in Havana, Cuba, in 2000, and afterwards at the “High Level Conference on South-South Cooperation”, held in Marrakesh, Morocco, in 2003, also under the auspices of the G77.

The South Summit and the Marrakesh Conference reaffirmed the importance of South-South cooperation, not only as an achievement of genuine international cooperation, but also as a vital instrument of a common foreign policy of the South that pursues sustainable development in a world in which the joint and harmonious action of developing countries, despite their differences, is essential to both assert their common interests in the international arena and to mutually enhance their own strengths to achieve individual and collective progress, thus helping to create a new international order.

In this context, in December 2003, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 58/220 on Technical and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, through which it first adopted the term “South-South cooperation”. Thus, TCDC and ECDC (Economic Cooperation

among Developing Countries) were integrated under the concept of South-South cooperation. This concept includes other forms of international cooperation implemented among developing countries, such as scientific and technological cooperation, educational, academic, cultural cooperation and humanitarian aid.

The political, conceptual and programmatic re-launch of SSC at the beginning of the new millennium came about at a time of strong momentum of concrete initiatives for bilateral, regional and interregional cooperation among developing countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Such initiatives have supported the increasing role played by SSC in the international scenario since 2000.

South-South cooperation became a key theme in the agenda of international fora such as the United Nations Conference on the Least advanced Countries (Brussels, 2001), the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2002) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002), which encouraged South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. A little later, SSC was also covered at the High-Level Forum on Aid Quality (Accra, 2008).

The height of the implementation of South-South cooperation initiatives as of 2000 was also enabled by a favourable global economic situation. After the end of the Asian crisis, the first decade of the 2000s was a time of economic growth, both for developed and for developing countries, until the financial crisis that broke out in 2008, strongly affecting the world's major economic powers. The years of economic boom were also reflected in the Official Development Assistance (ODA) figures, which doubled between 2000 and 2008.

The new economic weight of the largest developing countries led industrialized countries to invite them to their meetings. But it was only with the outbreak of the new world crisis in 2008 that the participation of these developing countries became indispensable, and they gained a definitive seat next to the developed countries in world economic and financial governance. This new status materialized with the G20 Summits in 2008, 2009 and 2010, which transformed this into the main permanent forum on international economic issues, replacing the G8 that role.

As part of preparations for the Nairobi Conference on SSC, held in December 2009, the Report of the UN Secretary General, "Promotion of South-South Cooperation for Development: A thirty-year perspective" was published in October of the same year, summing up the situation and challenges of South-South cooperation at the time as follows:



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- a) Developing countries as a group now have the entire range of modern technical competencies, with centres of excellence in key areas that have increased their national and collective self-reliance;
- b) Many developing countries also continue to suffer from serious socioeconomic deficits, and some are not on track to achieve the minimum goals set by the Millennium Summit of the General Assembly;
- c) A growing number of developing countries with pivotal influence in South-South cooperation are becoming middle-income economies and the largest of them are gaining a voice in global governance;
- d) Regional integration has fuelled economic progress, leading to further expansion of South-South flows of finance, technology and trade;
- e) The industrial growth of the South poses growing environmental problems;
- f) United Nations agencies and programmes have had a key role in promoting cooperation among developing countries, but stronger mechanisms for coordination, cooperation, funding and reporting are needed to further improve their performance.”

The ILO-Brazil South-South cooperation initiative arose from this context of changes, reaffirmation and emergence of South-South cooperation. The initial contacts and first actions between the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the ILO took place in 2005, initiating the process of development of the “ILO-Brazil Partnership Programme for Promotion of SSC”, which started its actions in 2009, just before the Nairobi Conference.

## **1.2 Brazil's South-South cooperation**

Brazil's participation in international cooperation began in the 1940s, as a recipient of aid from northern countries, and gradually evolved into a dual condition in which the country, without renouncing assistance, also began to provide cooperation to developing countries.

As of 1973, based on the experience of cooperation among national institutions taking place within the country, known as “internal technical cooperation”, and the intensification of Brazilian diplomatic action in Latin America and Africa, the foreign technical cooperation

programme was gradually extended, thus initiating Brazil's first experiences of official technical cooperation provided to other countries at the intraregional level (Latin America) and to African Portuguese-speaking countries (PALOP).

With the end of military rule in 1985, the expansion of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) gained momentum, becoming increasingly important and seen as an instrument of diplomatic action. This was crucial for the creation of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) in 1987, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

From the beginning, cooperation provided by the ABC has been based on the following principles: i) establishment of increasingly horizontal relations among countries; ii) development of partnerships upon request from developing countries as opposed to offering cooperation; iii) non-interference in the domestic affairs of countries; and iv) no conditionalities imposed on recipients.

With the beginning of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's administration in 2003, the search for new strategic partnerships, particularly with other Southern countries, was strengthened and became the defining line of Brazil's new foreign policy, defined by former Foreign Minister Celso Amorim as "active and proud". Evidence of this change includes strengthening of ties with South American countries and Brazil's contribution to the strengthening of Mercosur and the creation of UNASUR in 2008; strengthening of relations with African Portuguese-speaking countries (PALOP) and East Timor and closer relations with India and South Africa, leading to the IBSA (2006), as well as with China and Russia, resulting in the BRICS (2008). As of 2008, together with other emerging countries, Brazil has been participating in the G20 meetings.

In line with the new foreign policy, South-South cooperation (SSC) has received a major boost as one of the important tools to strengthen the ties of friendship and solidarity with other developing countries, especially in South America and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP).

The expansion of SSC in that period was also enabled by the country's favourable economic situation, as well as the positive results of its economic and social policies that turned Brazil into an important reference in various areas of development strategies, thanks to its accumulated experience, knowledge and skills. As these positive results were expanded and consolidated internally, Brazil's international recognition increased, as did requests received by the government to share its experiences.



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Indeed, according to data from IPEA and ABC<sup>1</sup>, from 2005 to 2009 Brazilian cooperation reached a total figure of nearly R\$ 2.9 billion (equivalent to USD 1.6 billion) for the entire five-year period. More than 76% of this total consisted of contributions to international organisations and regional banks, and nearly 24% were directed to other modalities (humanitarian aid, scholarships and technical cooperation). The annual amount of cooperation resources almost doubled between 2005 and 2009, from R\$ 384.2 million to more than R\$ 724 million respectively. An increase of almost 50% in real terms is estimated, considering equivalence in dollars, from USD 242.9 million to USD 362,200 million in 2009.

As of 2005, after overcoming some institutional and legal challenges, the country resumed the growth of SSC with more energy and a trend towards thematic diversification, geographic expansion and interest in the development of triangular cooperation. It was during this period that the ILO and the Brazilian Government started working together in the context of South-South cooperation.

## **2. The ILO-Brazil Partnership Programme for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation**

Chronologically, collaboration between the ILO and Brazil under the Partnership Programme for Promotion of South-South Cooperation has thus far been developed in three stages. The first was from 2005 to 2006, and was characterized by initial contacts and projects between the ILO and the ABC; the second was between 2007 and 2009, characterized by negotiation and formulation of legal and programmatic instruments; the third, which began in 2010 and is ongoing, is characterized by the programme's implementation and expansion.

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<sup>1</sup> Brazilian Cooperation for International Development: 2010. IPEA,ABC. Brasília, 2014.

PHASES	
<b>Preliminary phase</b> (2005-2006)	ILO/ABC initial contacts and first projects paving the way for the programme's emergence
<b>Formulation phase</b> (2007-2009)	Negotiation and formulation of the legal and programmatic instruments of the Brazil/ILO Programme for Promotion of SSC
<b>Implementation phase</b> (2010-2014)	Implementation of the SSC projects with interested countries

## 2.1 Preliminary Phase (2005-2006)

The strengthening of high level relations between the Government of Brazil and the ILO, the political importance gained by the Decent Work theme in the country as of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by President Lula and the ILO Director General in 2003, and the search by the ILO Office in Brazil for new possibilities to fund technical cooperation led to the definition of an alliance around SSC as an area of mutual interest and benefit.

For the ILO, this relationship began with a discussion on alternatives to continue the work on child labour prevention and eradication in the country 10 years after the start of the IPEC programme in Brazil. This discussion took into account, on the one hand, the increased capacity of Brazilian institutions to address the problem (with important experiences concerning mainstreaming of the objective of child labour prevention and eradication in a range of policies and instruments) and, on the other, the funding crisis caused by the gradual reduction of traditional technical cooperation directed to Brazil (due to the institutional, political and social advances in the country).

In addition, as already mentioned, Brazil's success in various public policy areas, including programmes and activities developed in various areas of the Decent Work Agenda, such as fighting child labour and slave labour, aroused increasing attention from the international community and generated interest from other developing countries that welcomed eagerly the new government's cooperation possibilities. For these reasons, the ILO team in Brazil began to consider South-South cooperation as a new opportunity to disseminate the experience developed in these areas, focusing initially on the theme of child labour, since this is the most consolidated technical cooperation area of the ILO in the country.



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For the Brazilian government, the increased importance attached to SSC was reflected, among other aspects, in efforts aimed at expanding the programme, diversifying its themes and cooperation as well as structuring alliances to strengthen the implementation capacity of Brazilian SSC.

In this context, and in a process of dialogue between the ILO Office in Brazil and ABC, the “Basic Agreement between Brazil and the ILO for cooperation with other countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia” on labour issues, signed in 1987, was resumed as a key instrument to enable this alliance. Within this framework, the first two South-South cooperation projects funded by the Brazilian government were negotiated and approved by ABC. Both were aimed at fighting child labour. The first was approved in December 2005, targeting Angola and Mozambique, and the second, approved in November 2007, targeted Haiti.

## **2.2 Formulation phase of the Programme’s instruments (2007-2009)**

The encouraging results of these first two projects, as well as recognition of the importance of South-South cooperation as an instrument for implementation of the National Agenda for Decent Work (May 2006) and the establishment of ambitious child labour elimination targets at the 16<sup>th</sup> American Regional Meeting of the ILO held in Brasilia on the same occasion, led ABC and the ILO Office in Brazil to discuss the possibility of raising this partnership to a higher level.

The intention of both parties to move in this direction was expressed by the signing of two Memoranda of Understanding. The first was on child labour elimination (December 2007) and the second on promoting social protection (March 2008), both with the purpose of promoting these two dimensions of decent work through South-South cooperation between Brazil and other developing countries in Latin America and the CPLP.

After the signing of these two MoUs, negotiations began on how to operationalize the intention to deepen collaboration, while some preliminary actions were implemented, such as the development of systematic studies of good practice and identification of needs and demands of other developing countries.

The experience of implementing these early projects highlighted the ILO’s capacity to contribute (technically, politically and institutionally) to the cooperation between Brazil and other developing countries, in a more coordinated and comprehensive manner. From then

on, discussions moved towards the establishment of a model of triangular or trilateral cooperation that drew on the initial experiences and advanced towards the definition of programmes rather than ad hoc projects.

This was considered an important step, both for the ILO and the Brazilian Government, to strengthen Brazil's South-South cooperation general, particularly in the context of the Agenda Decent Work. However, since there was no previous experience to be replicated, nor a specific model to follow, it was necessary to build a new model for joint work. Thus, a pioneering experience emerged, opening paths and generating learning and the development of concepts and operational mechanisms, both within the ILO and the Brazilian Government, that strengthened this cooperation modality.

### **Complementary Adjustment**

The result of this process of discussion and negotiation was the signing of the "Complementary Adjustment to the Agreement between the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on technical cooperation with other countries in Latin America and Africa, for the implementation of the ILO-Brazil Partnership Programme for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation" in Geneva on March 22, 2009, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Celso Amorim, and the Director General of the ILO, Juan Somavia.

This instrument has a broader scope than the two MoUs signed in 2007 and 2008, as it is not limited to the issues of child labour and social protection, but establishes parameters for the creation of a Partnership Programme for the Promotion South-South Cooperation, with a view to providing, through a technical mechanism of South-South cooperation, support for implementation of the four strategic objectives and crosscutting themes of the Decent Work Agenda.

The adoption of the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalisation in June 2008 by the 97<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the International Labour Conference was a key factor in the definition of the parameters and assumptions of the Cooperation. Its terms are defined broadly, referring to the promotion of the four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda and its crosscutting themes as set out in the Declaration.

The Complementary Adjustment established the guiding principles of the Partnership Programme: equality between the parties, mutual support, local ownership and solidarity



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among nations. In light of these concepts, it defined as its *modus operandi* the formulation of a programme document, from which specific project documents would be derived, to be formulated and approved by Brazil, the ILO and the countries concerned. The projects were to contain a description of the context, rationale, objectives, strategies, expected results and beneficiaries, as well as their duration, technical and financial resources and national authorities responsible for their implementation, both in Brazil and in the countries concerned.

The ILO Office in Brazil was designated as responsible for coordinating activities to be undertaken under the Complementary Adjustment, taking responsibility for the management of financial resources to be mobilized under the programme in accordance with its rules, regulations, guidelines and administrative procedures.

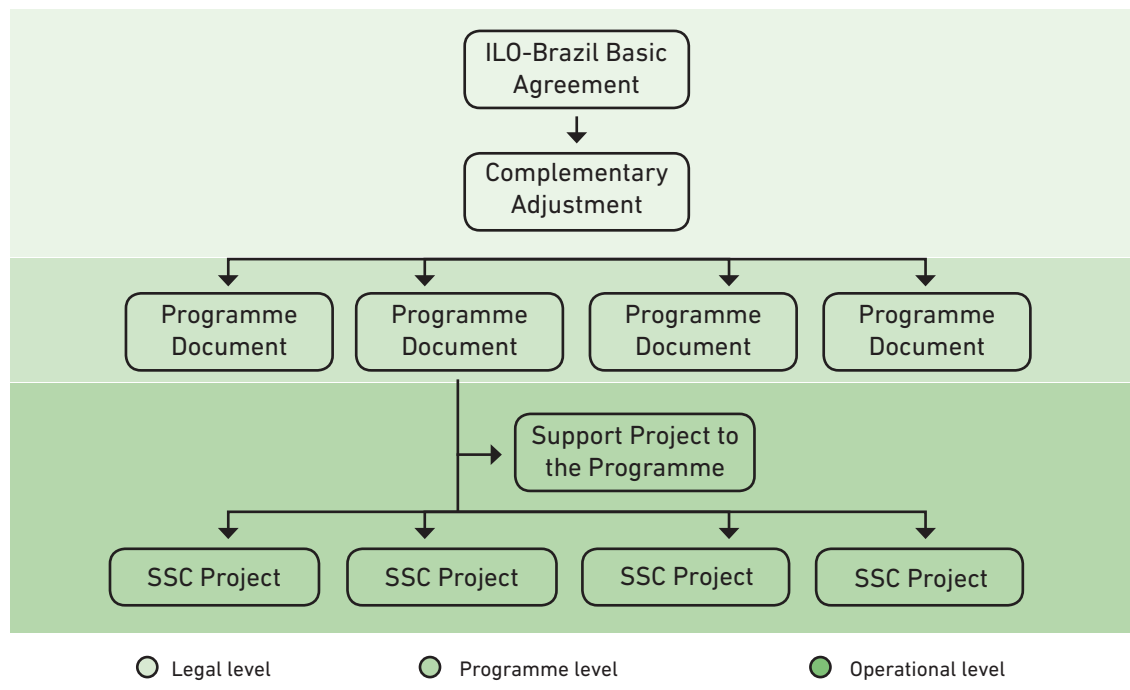
It was established that a biannual report on the programme's funds and expenditures would be prepared by the ILO and sent to the Brazilian government. The ILO would also provide an annual technical report and a final report for each project. A Programme Review Annual Meeting was also planned to evaluate the outputs and outcomes achieved by projects and activities carried out under the Complementary Adjustment.

### **2.3 Programme implementation phase (2009-2014)**

Following the signing of the Complementary Adjustment, four Programme Documents were approved between 2009 and 2010 in the following areas: i) child labour elimination; ii) promotion of social security; iii) strengthening of trade unions and; iv) elimination of forced labour and promotion of green jobs.

The programmes in the area of child labour elimination and social protection expansion began to be implemented in 2009 and continued in subsequent years. Under the first two programmes, 10 projects were approved in the area of child labour (including a programme support project) and 3 projects were approved in the area of social security (also including a programme support project). Financial restrictions affecting ABC as of 2010 hindered the implementation of the other two programmes. However, as of 2012, a new funding modality enabled the expansion of the Partnership Programme to new areas.

Thus, the programme's implementation scheme was designed as follows:



## The Child Labour Programme

The “ILO/Brazil Partnership Programme for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation for Child Labour Prevention and Eradication in the Americas” was approved in May 2009, with an initial duration of three years (2009-2012) and an indicative value of USD 3 million subject to the approval of specific projects. Based on the projects approved until December 2014, this amount has been increased to USD 11.1 million, and its duration has been extended to 2017.

The programme aims to strengthen Brazil’s South-South cooperation in this area, disseminating knowledge and best practices and their adaptation to the realities and needs of each country, according to their specific demands. It also intends to strengthen existing initiatives at national, regional and global levels, and to advance the implementation of international commitments on child labour elimination.



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The programme formulates a set of expected results, organized into five strategic areas: i) development of knowledge about the problem; ii) development of legislation; iii) development of institutional capacity to meet the standards; iv) public awareness of the negative aspects of child labour; and v) development of direct child and adolescent protection actions.

The programme also defines the project design strategy based on the demands of the countries concerned, following the principles of equality between nations, mutual support and solidarity, prioritizing the work carried out by the National Commissions for Child Labour Eradication, and participation of a wider range of responsible institutions in the different countries, through three stages: i) preparatory missions to identify demands and partner institutions; ii) tripartite planning workshops to jointly define the main results of the project, and based on this iii) preparation of the final project document for approval by Brazil, the partner country and the ILO.

In two years (between October 2009 and December 2011), eight projects were formulated and approved, for a total of 11 countries and one sub-regional bloc divided into three regions: Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia.

After a period without new projects being approved due to financial constraints suffered by ABC, the support project to the III Global Conference on Child Labour was approved in October 2012, with funds from the Ministry of Social Development and Fight against Hunger. Along these lines, in May 2013, with funds from the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the revision of the Support Project to the IT Programme was approved to include logistical support to the III GCCL and the goal to develop and implement the Regional Initiative for Latin America and Caribbean Free from Child Labour. In early 2015, the support project to the III Global Conference on Child Labour was expanded, with new resources, including a new component aimed at productive inclusion through decent work for beneficiaries of poverty-reduction programmes.

### **The Social Security Programme**

The document of the ILO-Brazil Partnership Programme for South-South Cooperation in the area of Social Security was signed in June 2009 in Geneva. It was initially approved for a period of two years (July 2009 to June 2011), with an indicative budget of one million dollars, depending on the projects approved under the programme. This amount rose to

USD 1.13 million, and the programme's activities were extended until December 2013, when it was concluded.

The programme aimed to systematize practices, experience and expertise developed in Brazil concerning extension of social protection coverage and to support their transfer and adaptation to the socioeconomic and institutional realities of countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The programme assigned to the ILO the role of facilitating and encouraging this process alongside the National Agenda for Decent Work, in coordination with other interventions implemented in the countries.

Drawing on the Brazilian experience and in accordance with national priorities to be defined by the selected countries, the programme was intended to contribute in four areas: i) generate information on unprotected vulnerable groups to support proposals to extend social protection coverage; ii) formulate proposals to extend coverage agreed through social dialogue mechanisms; iii) conduct prospective studies to ensure the sustainability of the expanded coverage, and iv) develop capacity building and training programmes to disseminate the values and importance of social security.

The programme was based on the provisions of three key programmatic documents: i) the Brazilian National Agenda for Decent Work, which includes among its action lines the progressive extension of social protection to workers in the informal economy; ii) the Hemispheric Decent Work Agenda for the Americas, which set as one of its goals a 20% increase of social protection coverage between 2005 and 2015, and iii) statements of 22 ministers of labour and security social approved at the CPLP meetings in Portugal (Óbidos 2009) and East Timor (Díli, 2008), emphasizing the need to deepen cooperation between countries in the field of social protection.

Three projects were approved under this Programme: the programme support project (October 2009) and the projects targeting East Timor (June 2010) and Paraguay (November 2010).

### **Other Cooperation Areas**

A partnership in the field of humanitarian cooperation was initiated in 2011 between the Brazilian Government and the ILO International Training Centre in Turin with a view to implementing a training programme on the theme of catastrophes and natural disasters, with a contribution of USD 997 thousand. The ILO-Brazil and Turin Centre partnership



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had a duration of 36 months (January 2011 to December 2013), focusing on countries that suffered crises or natural disasters, seeking to reduce the impact of the difficulties faced by populations through sustainable development initiatives. The beneficiaries of the training programme were governments, workers' and employers' organisations and civil society in Portuguese-speaking countries, Palestine, Haiti, Nigeria and East Timor. Brazil and the ILO developed methodologies and strategies to provide humanitarian aid to the populations of countries at risk and to encourage prevention, rehabilitation and recovery through institutional strengthening and promotion of sustainable development mechanisms.

At the end of 2014, confirming the trend of diversification of areas and funding sources, two new projects were approved. The first, "South-South Cooperation to protect the rights of workers and migrant workers in Latin America and Caribbean Region", received USD 625.7 thousand from the MTE. The project will address primarily issues related to migration legislation, design of a new National Policy and promotion of research to provide a better description of the reality of migration in Brazil, with a view to updating legislation and developing useful knowledge for government action to strengthen the Policy and specific legislation proposals. Through the project's actions, the aim is to work directly to ensure migrant rights in Brazil, strengthening internal actions and relations between Brazil and countries in the Americas.

The second project also approved in 2014, "South-South Cooperation to promote sustainable development through decent work and social protection" in the amount of USD 600 thousand dollars, inaugurated the partnership between the Ministry of Environment and the ILO in the field of South-South cooperation. The ultimate goal of this project is to support decent work and social protection as means to promote sustainable development.



*Campaign "MERCOSUR united against Child Labour"*

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### 3. Analysis of the experience

#### 3.1 Key characteristics of the programme's evolution

##### Evolution of the initiative in geographical terms

As of 2009, the South-South Programme began to be developed in Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay, and was later extended to MERCOSUR countries, then to Tanzania (Africa), East Timor (Asia), Portuguese-speaking African countries (Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe) and finally to Haiti.

We can say, first, that in geographical terms the initiative evolved from projects directed to individual countries to projects aimed at groups of countries (such as PALOP), projects directed to regional integration blocs (MERCOSUR), regional projects (support to the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free from Child Labour) and projects with a global scope (support to the III Global Conference on Child Labour).

In short, including projects to support the child labour and social security programmes, a total of 15 projects have been implemented in 11 countries and a sub-regional integration bloc in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia, as shown in the following table:

Countries/Regions	Child Labour Programme	Social Security Programme	Other Areas
Bolivia	✓		
Ecuador	✓		
Paraguay	✓	✓	
MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay)	✓		
East Timor	✓	✓	
PALOP (Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Sao Tome and Principe)	✓		
Tanzania	✓		

Haiti	✓		
Latin America and the Caribbean			✓ Sustainable development ✓ Migrations
Global	✓		

### Evolution of the initiative by cooperation areas

Concerning cooperation areas, developments under the ILO-Brazil Partnership for promotion of SSC are characterized by expansion from child labour issues to a whole set of themes that are part of the decent work agenda.

As seen in the preliminary phase of the initiative, the initial 2006 and 2007 projects focused on the fight against child labour. Their success led to a quick realisation of their potential as a strategy to promote the decent work agenda in general among developing countries. To that end, in 2006 SSC promotion was included in both the Brazilian National Agenda for Decent Work and the Hemispheric Agenda for Decent Work adopted by the American Regional Meeting in Brasilia.

A little later, the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2007 and 2008 indicated the willingness and commitment of both parties to move from a collaborative arrangement towards the promotion of South-South cooperation, beginning with two specific areas, namely child labour and security social.

Finally, in 2009, the Complementary Adjustment established the Programme's scope of activity as broadly as possible, referring to the promotion of the four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda and its crosscutting themes, as set out in the 2008 ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalisation.

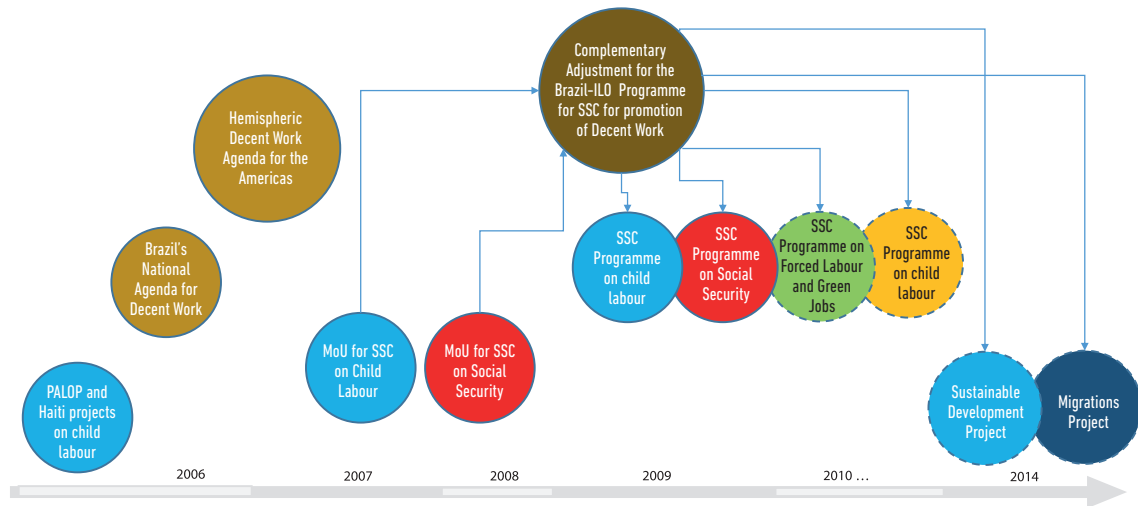


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## Thematic Evolution of the ILO-Brazil Programme for SSC

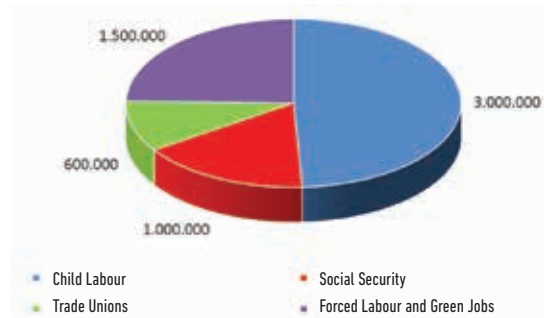


### Evolution and distribution of funding

#### The Brazilian contribution

According to the four programmes approved under the Partnership Programme, an amount of USD 6.1 million was planned. Of this amount, 49% corresponded to the child labour programme, 25% to the forced labour and green jobs programme, 16% to the social security programme and 10% to the trade union strengthening programme.

### Total amount of funds per approved programmes



In fact, due to the approved projects, Brazil's financial contribution to the programmes was much higher than planned. By the end of 2014, the Brazilian contribution totalled USD 14.4 million, including the first projects in 2006 and 2007 and a new generation of projects that went beyond the programmes initially formulated.

## Financial Resources per Approved Projects (USD)

Programme / Area	Project	Amount
Child Labour	Fight against Worst Forms of Child Labour in Portuguese Speaking Countries in Africa (Angola and Mozambique)	200,00.00
	Elimination and Prevention of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Haiti	289,823.00
	Support Project to South-South Programme for Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in the Americas	4,048,788.00
	Social Protection and Promotion for Children and Adolescents and Their Families in Child Labour in Paraguay	283,894.74
	Contribution to the development of national policies and programmes to prevent and eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Bolivia	219,362.11
	Project to Reduce Child Labour through South-South cooperation in Ecuador.	742,064.58
	Programme to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labour in East Timor	261,891.37
	Project to support the Regional Plan for Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour in Mercosur	308,298.52
	Support the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour in Tanzania	276,318.00
	Support for actions aimed to achieve the 2015 goals of elimination of the worst forms of child labour in Portuguese-speaking African countries (PALOP) through knowledge, awareness and South-South Cooperation	450,000.00
	Strategies to Accelerate the pace of decline of the Worst Forms of Child Labour - Global Conference	3,733,439.00
	Protection of children against child labour during the initial phase of Haiti's recovery	300,000.00
<b>Sub-total Child Labour</b>	<b>11,113,879.32</b>	
Social Security	Support to the Brazil/ILO Partnership Programme for the Promotion of South-South cooperation in the area of Social Security	563,886.96
	Promotion of South-South Cooperation in the area of Social Security in East Timor	385,825.96
	Promotion of South-South Cooperation in the area of Social Security in Paraguay	184,001.00
	<b>Sub-total Social Security</b>	<b>1,133,712.96</b>
Humanitarian Cooperation	Initiative with the ILO training centre in Turin to promote a course in the area of Crisis and Natural Disaster Prevention	998,000.00
Migration	South-South cooperation for protection of the rights of workers and migrant workers in Latin America and the Caribbean	625,730.00
Sustainable Development and Decent Work	South-South Cooperation for Promoting Sustainable Development through Decent Work and Social Protection	600,000.00
<b>TOTAL APPROVED (USD)</b>		<b>14,470,322.28</b>

### INNOVATION COMING FROM THE FIELD

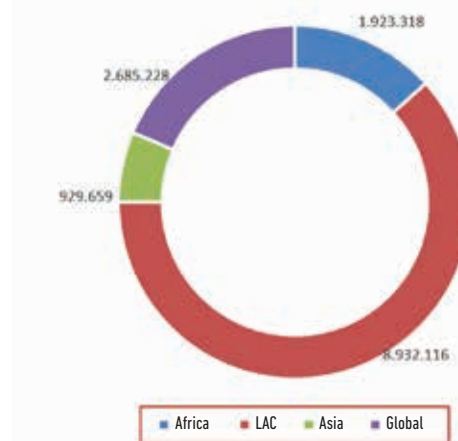
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Both the child labour programme and the social security programme were able to formulate and approve projects with a higher budget than provided for the programme documents. In the case of child labour, the difference was truly remarkable, of more than three times the amount initially approved for the programme. As a result, the allocation of resources by theme was also different from planned. Regarding the total amount of approved projects, the child labour area accounts for 76.8% of the funds, social security for 7.9% and new themes represent 15.3% of the funds.

As to regional distribution, out of the total of approved funds, 61.7% were allocated to projects with Latin American and Caribbean countries, 18.5% to global projects, 13.3% to projects with African countries and 6.5% to projects with Asian countries.

### Approved project funds per geographic area

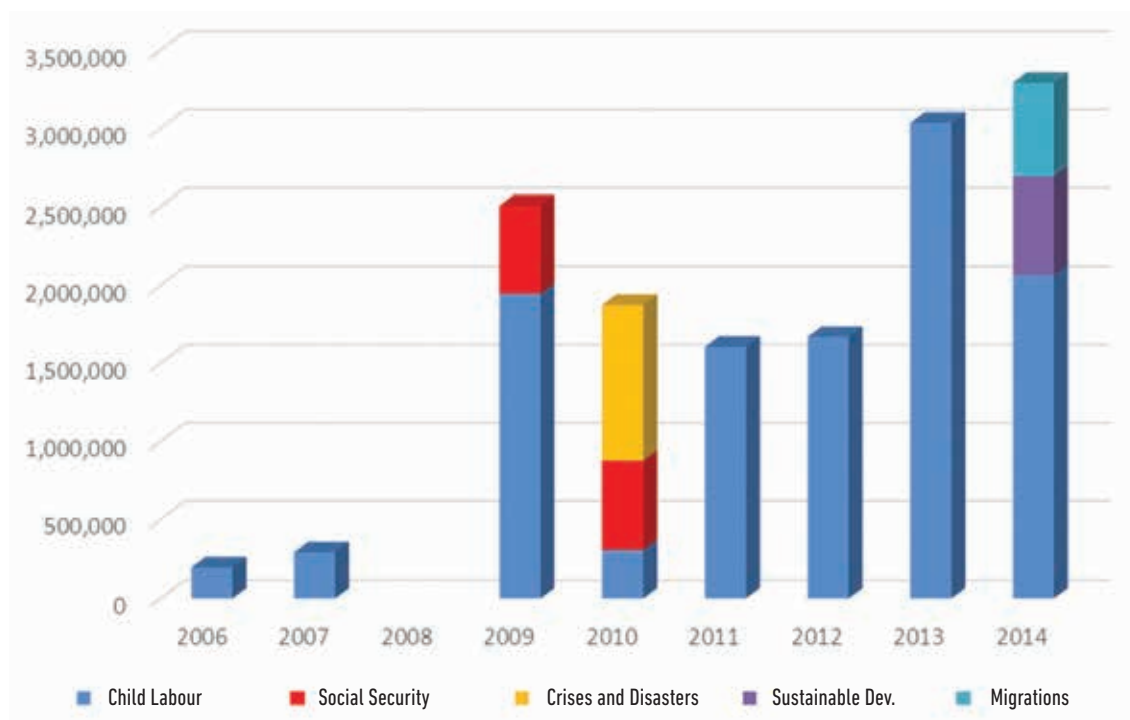


The evolution of the initiative was affected as of 2011, when a public spending restriction policy was started in Brazil as part of a series of government measures to protect the country from the effects of the global economic crisis. This determined, at least temporarily, the end of the expansion phase of Brazilian technical cooperation initiated in 2003. The child labour projects approved in 2011 were the last under the Programme to be funded with ABC funds

However, the adoption in 2012 of the support project to the III Global Conference on Child Labour funded by the Ministry of Social Development (MDS), and the approval in 2013 of the review of the support project to the child labour programme for inclusion of logistical support to the III GCCL and support to the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean

Free from Child Labour, with funding from the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MTE), kept the South-South partnership moving forward. In late 2014, confirming this trend, two new projects on the theme of migration were approved with MTE funds amounting to USD 625,730, and another project in partnership with the Ministry of Environment was approved to promote sustainable development through decent work and social protection, with USD 600 thousand in funds. This step, from projects funded by the ABC to projects funded by other Ministries, is one of the most important developments of the initiative, from a financial point of view.

**Annual amount approved, by area**  
(Brazilian contribution in USD)



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## **Mobilisation of other resources**

Besides the Brazilian contribution, the ILO-Brazil SSC initiative generated the mobilisation of a reasonable amount of financial and non-financial resources from other sources that came to support the implemented projects.

An ILO counterpart totalling USD 1.1 million was established in the approved project documents. This amount reflected, very tentatively in fact, the internal mobilisation of resources that the Programme's implementation would require in the scope of the ILO. In particular, this amount did not reflect the contribution in knowledge, experience, technology, political influence, alliances, logistical facilities and other intangible resources that are hard to assess.

On the other hand, the initiative enabled attracting resources from traditional donors, the US being the first among developed countries to step in. The US financial support totalled USD 8.2 million, considering: i) the horizontal cooperation project in Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay; ii) the complementary project to the PALOP project, and iii) the triangular cooperation project in Haiti.

Financial support from donor countries, in particular the US, contributed to the results achieved by the Programme's projects. This support enabled the work of international experts and ILO national staff in the countries where the projects funded by the ABC were implemented. In addition, it allowed increasing the exchange of experiences among countries and supported national initiatives resulting from this learning.

Last but not least, the contribution of the countries where the projects are implemented should be considered. Although the project documents do not register their contributions, it is obvious that their implementation required an investment by the institutions involved, consisting, for example, of the participation of national staff and experts, from the project design phase to the development of adaptations or new solutions based on the exchange of experiences with their Brazilian counterparts.

## **Evolution of the SSC arrangement**

As we have seen, the partnership for promotion of South-South cooperation developed based on the initial discussions in 2005 was a real novelty for both the ILO and Brazil. For the ILO, it was the beginning of its intervention in this field. For Brazil, it was the first

example of a type of triangular cooperation in which the country could count on full support from an international organisation to enhance Brazilian cooperation with other developing countries.

Nevertheless, in the course of its implementation, the Programme's experience provided to both parties other innovations under the triangular cooperation arrangement.

### *Triangular Cooperation*

According to the various instruments adopted by the international community on South-South cooperation from the Buenos Aires Conference (1978) to the Marrakesh Conference (2003), triangular cooperation could be implemented through the support of a developed country or an international organisation provided to a cooperation arrangement between developing countries. However, according to the Nairobi Conference (2009), in order for triangular cooperation to succeed it needs to belong to Southern countries and be directed by them.

For the ILO, triangular cooperation happens when a Northern partner is involved as a third element, financially supporting cooperation between two or more developing countries, whether by providing technical resources or by mobilizing other financial or logistical resources. Still according to this definition, triangular cooperation consists of a financial contribution from a Northern partner combined with the technical skills offered by a Southern partner, which will then be implemented in another developing country.

These variants can be represented as follows:

#### **Triangular Cooperation Arrangements**



Accordingly, the triangular cooperation established between Brazil and the ILO for the benefit of other developing countries corresponded to the last two arrangements above.



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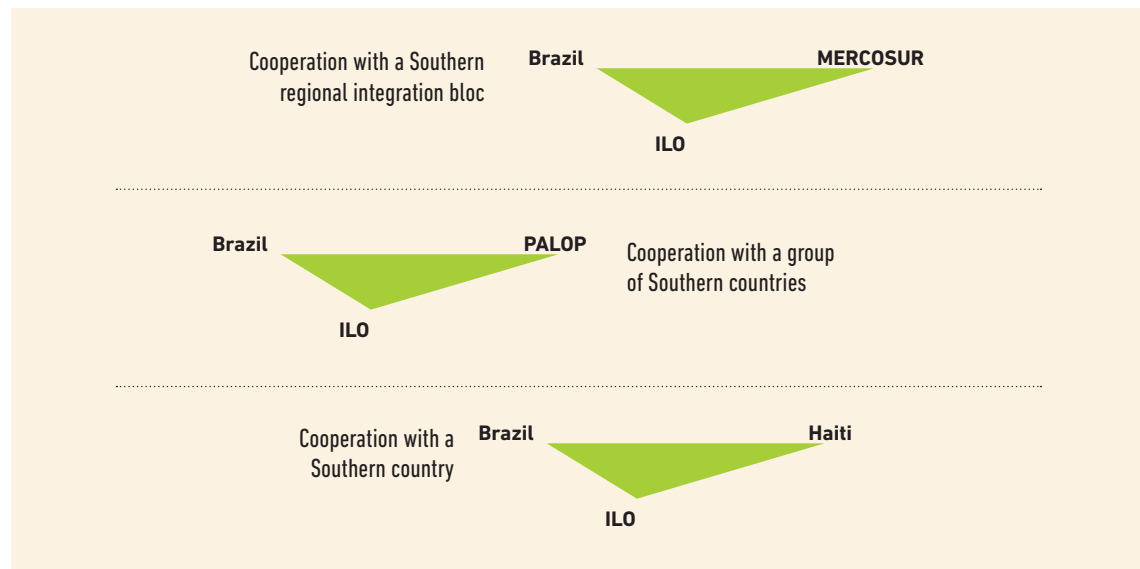


## From the Programme's cooperation with a partner country to cooperation with a bloc of countries

Clearly, one of these formats was implemented in a simplified manner in the first project with Haiti (2006), where the three parties involved were Brazil and Haiti on the SSC side, and the ILO on the other side of the triangle.

With the Angola and Mozambique project (2006), the basic triangular cooperation arrangement had a first consistent variation, since it could benefit a group of countries rather than just one developing country, as in the case of the PALOP project (2011), or a regional integration organisation, as with the MERCOSUR project (2010).

We can represent these variants as follows:



Triangular cooperation with groups or blocs of developing countries was facilitated by the fact that the ILO is present not only at country level, but also in supranational and sub-regional and regional integration bodies. Thus, it was possible to promote political commitments successfully, as in the case of the 2002 MERCOSUR Presidential Statement on Child Labour, or the 2010 CPLP Joint Action Plan for Child Labour eradication, which enabled the development of cooperation mechanisms with those country groups.

### **Implementation of the Programme with a Northern country**

The positive experience of the ILO-Brazil programme for promotion of SSC quickly attracted the attention and support from traditional ILO donors, especially on the theme of child labour eradication. Among them, as mentioned above, the United States, Spain, Ireland and Norway, but the development of triangulation with the United States is especially important and interesting.

As seen above, the US first approached the ILO-Brazil Programme for promotion of SSC through the ILO horizontal cooperation project in South American countries, funded by USDOL (2009). Even without a formal agreement, the project focused on the same countries as the projects funded by the ABC in Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay, with an explicit complementarity mandate.

The results of this collaboration were so encouraging that, as of 2010, the ABC, the US and the ILO have advanced in negotiations to implement a triangular cooperation initiative on Child Labour. The intention to do so is formally expressed in the Triangular Memorandum of Understanding for North-South-South Cooperation signed in 2010 between Brazil, USA, Haiti and the ILO. This was the first triangular cooperation agreement with the support of a traditional partner for development in the history of ILO.

An intermediate stop on that route occurred in the case of the PALOP project, in which there was no agreement as with Haiti, but rather the intention to implement a triangular cooperation initiative. In this case, despite the joint planning and formulation of the initiative, the support components funded by the ABC and USDOL were established in separate project documents.

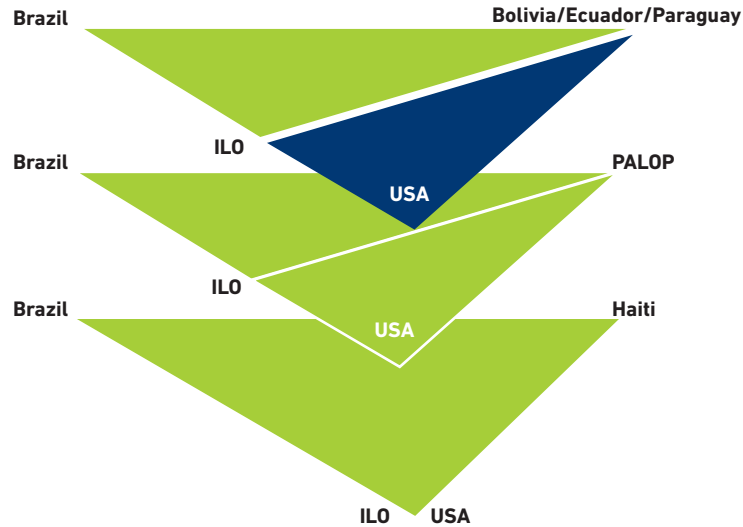
Finally, the initiative was improved in the Haiti project (2011), with the triangular cooperation arrangement being established in a single project document.



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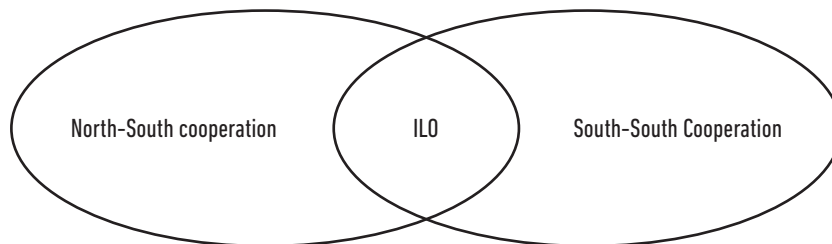
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It is also interesting to analyse the case of the collaboration established with the regional ILO/IPEC project for Latin America and the Caribbean funded by Spain. In this case, it was an effort towards complementarity and synergy between the two projects. To this end, for example, the IPEC regional project participated in 2010 in joint planning workshops with projects funded by the ABC and USDOL in Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay.

Later, several of the exchange initiatives promoted by other countries in the region such as Colombia (2012) and Panama (2012) were supported by the IPEC Regional project. Finally, as of 2013, support to the regional initiative “Latin America and the Caribbean Free from Child Labour” has become a point of convergence for the ILO-Brazil SSC initiative.

This ability to coordinate North-South cooperation projects with SSC projects under different forms in the field, synchronizing and complementing actions to increase their benefits, is another advantage demonstrated by the ILO in practice, and in this case, it has played a central role in NS and SSC cooperation.



### 3.2 Implemented South-South strategies and methodologies

#### Inclusion of new players in SSC

The tripartite structure of the ILO, which entails the participation of workers' and employers' organisations together with government entities in all its actions, as well as its experience of working with non-governmental organisations, contributed to convert the SSC between Brazil and partner countries into a process with new stakeholders, while simultaneously introducing SSC in the strategies of new partners.

#### Demand for cooperation

Demand-driven action is one of the cornerstones of SSC. This principle explicitly shaped the instruments and the modus operandi of the ILO-Brazil Partnership. The approved programmes avoid defining countries, specific problems and best practices targeting the countries, or the amounts allocated to projects. All this is to be defined with the countries concerned, following the principles of equality between the parties, mutual support, local ownership and solidarity among nations.

#### Capacity and innovation of the South as a guide

Various forms of materializing the exchange of knowledge, experiences and collective action among partners in development were put in place as the central axis of cooperation, providing an interesting repertoire of experiences.



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SSC Mechanisms	Modalities developed	Examples
Knowledge exchange	Joint technical visits	Joint technical visits carried out by tripartite delegations from Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay to Brazil
	Exchange groups	Exchange groups by areas of interest established among institutions in Tanzania and Brazil
	Study missions	Study missions to Brazil made by tripartite delegations from East Timor, Tanzania, Haiti
	Missions of Southern experts	Technical assistance missions of Brazilian experts on topics such as child labour inspection, labour statistics or social security, undertaken to different partner countries
	Experiences exchange events	Workshops, seminars, meetings and conferences in virtually all projects
	Horizontal training	Training of East Timor's technical staff to operate the new social security system
	Online platform of good practices	Online platform implemented by the III Global Conference on Child Labour
Collective actions	Joint studies on compared legislation	Compared legislation studies on child labour undertaken by MERCOSUR and CPLP
	Common instruments for enforcement of standards	Common protocol for child labour inspection adopted by MERCOSUR
	Joint awareness-raising campaigns	Campaign MERCOSUR united against child labour Caravan Africa Free of Child Labour

### Horizontality, mutual benefit and reciprocity

The intention to ensure a horizontal cooperation relationship with partner developing countries is expressed through the terms set out in the Complementary Adjustment and the Programme Document approved by the ILO-Brazil Programme. The demand-driven cooperation rule, which governs the project negotiation and design strategy with the countries concerned, is a first step towards a horizontal relationship.

Horizontality is also expressed through the achievement of mutual benefits among project partner countries and, in some cases, mutual cooperation received by Brazil. Some of the most obvious direct benefits obtained by Brazil in providing cooperation through the implemented projects have been the strengthening of institutions, as a result of systematising their experience in order to share it, as well as lessons learned through

the experiences brought by partner countries and joint reflection on the possibilities for replication and adaptation to other realities. These lessons can serve both the institutions and future SSC initiatives.

### 3.3. Projects step-by-step implementation and identified success criteria

Preparation for SSC	<p><b>Available experiences/ solutions from the South</b> Experience/solution that the country shares was successful in any of the decent work strategic objectives and the country has national institutions prepared for the exchange.</p>
	<p><b>National development needs defined</b> The country interested in a South experience/solution has a national plan for decent work or a particular area of decent work, national legislation or ratified ILO conventions, expressing their sovereign will and national priorities on the subject.</p>
SSC request	<p><b>Requesting country demand for cooperation</b> The SSC project idea emerges upon request by the country interested in receiving it, in response to certain priority themes related to promoting decent work defined by the country.</p>
SSC Project prospection	<p><b>Horizontal cooperation</b> Voluntarily and without imposing any conditions, countries define the needs and capabilities that will be addressed by the SSC project, identifying stakeholders and institutions responsible for exchange on both sides.</p>
	<p><b>Planning with all stakeholders</b> With broad participation of all stakeholders from both sides, including tripartite representations of countries, planning workshops are conducted to produce by consensus inputs for the project's design.</p>
Project design and approval	<p><b>Light and flexible project document</b> The planning results are formalized in a project document approved by the requesting country, the cooperating country, the ILO and the donor country. The project document is based on a logical framework and is formulated in a simple and flexible way, defining responsibilities of the parties, necessary investments and timeframes.</p>
	<p><b>Exchange modalities focused on results</b> The exchange modalities/mechanisms and/or collective actions to be implemented are not considered ends but means to obtain certain outputs and clearly defined outcomes, taking into account the particularities of the context and of the partner institutions.</p>
Implementation	<p><b>Adaptation</b> National institutions adapt the experience shared by the cooperating country and the specific conditions and needs, ensuring the usefulness, ownership and sustainability of the outputs achieved and their results.</p>



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	<p><b>Innovation</b> National institutions apply the lessons learned from the shared experience in creating new, distinct and unique solutions. The outputs meet the project's motivating needs and the expected results, ensuring their ownership and sustainability.</p>
Results	<p><b>Self-Sufficiency</b> The project objectives are achieved generating knowledge, skills and technology in the requesting country without creating any dependence on the cooperating country or partners.</p>
	<p><b>Mutual benefits</b> By sharing their experiences/solutions and supporting the partner country in adapting or creating new solutions, the cooperating country learns valuable lessons for its own institutions and for future SSC actions.</p>



*Workshop in Sao Tome and Principe*

## 4. Main results of the South-South Programme

Some of the Programme's key results that can demonstrate its effectiveness and the various benefits it has achieved for the different parties involved are described below.

### 4.1 Main results achieved in the countries

#### Bolivia:

- The Ministry of Labour developed and put into operation a Child Labour Monitoring and Surveillance System based on information technology.
- With the support of NGOs as implementing agencies, the Ministry of Labour implemented and systematized two pilot programmes for youth professional training and employment targeting adolescents above the minimum employment age removed from hazardous work.
- With the support of a Brazilian expert, the Ministry of Education conducted a comparative study of the Bolivian Bono Juancito Pinto Programme and the Brazilian Bolsa Família Programme, to strengthen the Bono Programme's conditionalities.

#### Ecuador:

- The Ministry of Labour Relations (MRL) developed a unified Child Labour registry (Surti) based on information technology, for use by all ministries that are part of the Inter-Institutional Committee for the Elimination of Child Labour (CIETI).
- The MRL developed an online platform for self-training of labour inspectors on child labour.
- The MRL and the Ecuadorian Professional Training Service (SECAP) created a training and professional integration programme for adolescents above the minimum employment age.
- The MRL systematized and agreed to share with other countries its experience of complete eradication of child labour in municipal landfills, including among the candidates for their cooperation municipalities from the state of Bahia, Brazil.



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## **Paraguay:**

### *In the area of child labour*

- The National Programmes ABRAZO (protection for children working on the streets) and TEKOPORA (conditional cash transfers) have been integrated to progressively extend protection to other forms of child labour.
- The Ministry of Justice and Labour established institutional and inter-institutional guidelines on child labour and started a training programme for inspectors on the theme.
- The Ministry of Education and Culture adjusted school curricula to include the issue of child labour, child domestic labour and commercial sexual exploitation.
- The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare included indicators on child labour and hazardous work in the Adolescent Care Protocol (IMAN)
- The National Secretariat for Childhood and Adolescence restructured the FONOA YUDA service to include care of children and adolescents engaged in or at risk of child labour.

### *In the area of social security*

- The Vice Ministry of Labour and Social Security led the tripartite debate on the ratification of ILO Convention 102.
- The tripartite players increased their knowledge on the situation of the country's social security system and the options for expanding coverage, especially for protection against unemployment.

## **MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay):**

- The countries adopted a common protocol for inspections in the area of child labour and implemented a joint training programme for inspectors.
- The countries carried out a comparative study of legislation to harmonize the bloc's legislation and update the Social and Labour Declaration on the issue of child labour.
- The presidents of the MERCOSUR member countries, convened at the Mercosur Summit in Mendoza, Argentina (2012) adopted a second Presidential Declaration on child

labour prevention and eradication, reiterating their commitment and determination to deepen actions in this area.

- The countries conducted a study of the consolidated results of rapid diagnoses on child labour in border areas, focusing on domestic and farming work.
- The countries launched a joint awareness campaign called “MERCOSUR United Against Child Labour”, focusing on the worst forms of child labour, with emphasis on domestic and agricultural child labour and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents.

### **East Timor:**

#### *In the area of child labour*

- The tripartite players in the country established a working group that conducted the dialogue and the initiative to prevent and fight child labour.
- The tripartite working group developed the Terms of Reference for the formal establishment of the National Tripartite Commission Against Child Labour (CNTI), which was validated by the Prime Minister and is being implemented.
- The tripartite working group also began the process of defining a hazardous child labour list.

#### *In the area of social security.*

- The country’s first social security system was created, initially targeting civil servants.
- The Ministry of Social Solidarity developed the capabilities of its technical staff to operate the new social protection system.

### **PALOP (Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe)**

- The Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs of the CPLP adopted the “Maputo Declaration” (April 2013), reaffirming the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in CPLP countries, especially in the fight against child labour.



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- CPLP trade unions and employers organisations held a Bipartite technical meeting (August 2013), during which they signed the “Brasilia Bipartite Declaration”, highlighting the importance of tripartite social dialogue, South-South and triangular cooperation and the CPLP contribution in the fight against child labour.
- The countries carried out a comparative study on the application of ILO Conventions 138 and 182 in the national legislation of CPLP countries.
- A broad awareness raising campaign, “Caravan Africa free of Child Labour”, was carried out, with great mobilisation of governmental and social players in each country.
- Among the material produced to be disseminated by the countries participating in the Caravan, attention should be drawn to the documentary “Child Labour in Portuguese Speaking Countries in Africa”, which describes the historical background and current situation of child labour in these countries and also addresses the current legal framework, policies and actions of individual countries, based on international best practices and good examples.

## **Tanzania**

- In a bipartite meeting, employers’ and workers’ organisations devised a joint programme to implement the National Action Plan for child labour eradication.
- The Child Labour Unit received a mandate from the authorities to work as a Task Force Committee focused on strengthening the capacity of the tripartite players to implement the National Action Plan, through South-South exchange and tripartite training and high-level technical missions.
- The country’s authorities reviewed and improved the structure of the national reports to the ILO regarding compliance with child labour Conventions. The tripartite players established the terms of reference of the Child Labour District Subcommittee and the Child Labour District Coordinators. The Child Labour Unit initiated the establishment of a Child Labour District Subcommittee (DCLSC) in districts that had not yet established one.

## Haiti

- The National Tripartite Committee against Child Labour was created, initiating the consultation process for defining a list of Worst Forms of Child Labour and the formulation of a National Plan to Fight Child Labour.
- Haitian inspectors trained by their Brazilian counterparts formulated a memorandum for the development of the List of Worst Forms of Child Labour and the formulation of a National Plan Against Child Labour.
- With support from the Brazilian NGO “Viva Rio”, a training course on construction, targeting adolescents, was developed in Haiti. The Social Security Institute (IBERS) and the National Institute of Professional Training (INFP) are working to provide adequate training in the area of construction for adolescents removed from the worst forms of child labour.

### 4.2 Main benefits for Brazil

Briefly, the Programme produced the following benefits for Brazil:

- Strengthening of the Brazilian South-South cooperation’s implementation capacity and achievement of the goals of geographic expansion and diversification, as well as expansion and diversification of themes and stakeholders.
- Production of a collection of Brazilian best practices in the field of promotion of decent work to be shared with other developing countries.
- Strengthening of solidarity and mutual support ties between Brazil and Latin America, Africa and Asia, around decent work objectives.
- Development of a new model and instruments for South-South triangular cooperation that were later adapted to new initiatives with other international organisations.
- Development of a partnership with the United States formalized in 2011 by the Memorandum of Understanding between the two countries to promote decent work through South-South and triangular cooperation.



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- Strengthening of the CONAETI International Affairs Subcommittee.
- Strengthening of Brazilian institutions responsible for sharing successful experience through preparation and lessons learned from the exchanges.

### **4.3 Main benefits for the ILO**

The ILO-Brazil Partnership Programme for SSC also resulted in several benefits for the ILO, both for demonstrating its effective role in promoting decent work across countries, and for being an innovative experience that started the conceptual, programmatic and operational development of South-South and triangular cooperation within the organisation, from the highest level.

In short, the initiative has contributed to the following changes/benefits in the scope of the ILO:

- Emergence of Brazil as the first country in the South to contribute financially to the organisation's technical cooperation programme, which was followed by others.
- Revelation of SSC and triangular cooperation as important means of promoting decent work. Emergence of other SSC and triangular cooperation initiatives and inclusion of SSC components in the projects.
- Adoption of a new way of looking at Southern constituents from the technical cooperation perspective in the organisation.
- The organisation has become aware of the advantages that it has in playing an important role in the promotion of SSC and triangular cooperation among its Northern and Southern constituents.
- Emergence of triangular cooperation as a new mechanism to attract resources from traditional partners to meet the organisation's goals.
- Inclusion of SSC in the programme and budgets for the 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 biennia.
- Adoption of a strategy of the organisation for South-South and triangular cooperation (2012).

- Permanent establishment of an SSC area in the organisation's headquarters.
- Development of new criteria and guidelines for technical and administrative coordination of an SSC and triangular initiative covering two or more countries, but which is managed from one of the organisation's field offices.
- Strengthening of partnerships and linkages between the organisation's field offices and sub-offices, regional offices and headquarters.
- Development of skills and capabilities of the organisation's technical and administrative staff on the roles they can play within the principles of South-South cooperation.
- Production of a collection of publications of the organisation on good SSC and triangular cooperation practices in promoting decent work, including those submitted by the organisation at the South-South EXPO since 2010.



*Director-General of the ILO, Guy Ryder and President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff*

#### **INNOVATION COMING FROM THE FIELD**

Systematisation of the ILO-Brazil Partnership Programme for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation (2005-2014)

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## 5. Prospects and challenges of the initiative

In late 2014, several factors influenced the programme's prospects, including: i) the context of the global crisis, which spread from developed countries to developing countries and had an impact in Brazil as well; ii) the context of discussion on Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs, and; iii) the context of the ILO's internal reform.

The initiative came to a halt in 2012 as a result of financial constraints generated by the global crisis in the country. The intensity of Brazilian SSC did not decrease due to lack of interest or capacity to continue to cooperate on various topics, but for lack of resources.

However, in the same context, the funding of projects to support the III Global Conference and the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free from Child Labour, without budget funds from the ABC, but from other ministries such as MDS and MTE, emerged as a means to re-launch the initiative in 2013 in the area of child labour.

The new child labour projects inspired the emergence of a number of new initiatives with various sources of funding. It should be noted that some of these projects are intended to share Brazilian experiences, but also to provide support to strengthen Brazil's own experiences, which can then be systematized and shared.

In this sense, while the sources of funds to continue the initiative have been diversified, there is also a change in project profiles. New projects have a tendency to be regional or global, in an attempt to go beyond the initial phase of country-level projects that involve a heavy administrative management burden for all parties.

In short, the initiative resulted in a mature experience and installed capacity in the multiple parties involved in order to continue moving forward. And, despite the crisis context, or perhaps because of it, it is constantly evolving and finding new ways to keep growing.

On the other hand, in the SDG formulation process, the promotion of decent work is in a much better position than when the MDGs were approved in 2000. Likewise, South-South and triangular cooperation themes are presently more mature and may become a powerful platform to assert both the priority of the decent work goals for sustainable development as well as SSC and triangular cooperation as fundamental means to achieve the SDGs.

Although there is still much uncertainty about the end of the current period of global crisis, it is possible that the SDGs will become a key focus of a new growth period for cooperation, both from the North and the South. Meanwhile, ILO's internal reform process could be an excellent opportunity to prepare the organisation for that moment, capitalizing on, promoting and replicating SSC and triangular cooperation experiences such as the ILO-Brazil Partnership Programme for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation.



*Meeting of the Network of Focal Points of the Regional Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean Free from Child Labour*

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**





Exchange visit to the Landfill in Brasilia, Brazil



International  
Labour  
Organization



Programa de  
Cooperação Sul-Sul  
**Brasil-OIT**



**ABC**  
BRAZILIAN  
COOPERATION  
AGENCY

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS