

# RESULTS OF ILO'S ACTIVITIES AT THE SECOND HIGH-LEVEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION (BAPA+40)

**Buenos Aires, 20-22 March 2019**

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## **ILO Delegation**

- Fabio Bertranou, *Director, DWT/CO- Santiago*
- Pedro Américo Furtado de Oliveira, *Director, DWT/CO - Buenos Aires*
- Anita Amorim, *Head, PARDEV-ESPU*
- Maria Olave, *National Project Coordinator, IPEC, RO-Latin America and the Caribbean*
- Noortje Denkers, *National Project Coordinator, DWT/CO-San Jose*
- Alejandra Pangaro, *Programme Officer, ILO Country Office for Argentina*
- Christoph Ernst, *Employment Specialist, ILO Country Office for Argentina*
- Elva Lopez Mourelo, *Inclusive Labour Markets Officer, ILO Country Office for Argentina*
- Gustavo Ponce, *Focal Point for Child Labour Activities, ILO Country Office for Argentina*
- Javier Cicciaro, *Programme Assistant, ILO Country Office for Argentina*
- Maria Munaretto, *National Project Coordinator, ILO Country Office for Argentina*
- Pablo Maria Sorondo, *Communication Officer, ILO Country Office for Argentina*
- Fernanda Barreto, *National Programme Officer, CO-BRASILIA.*

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**Background:** BAPA+40 was organised in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 20 to 23 March 2019. Within the framework of the conference, the ILO organised two side events on the 21 March 2019.

## **Objectives of ILO Delegation during BAPA+40:**

1. To support the organisation of the ILO Side Events “*BAPA+40: The Future of Work, Youth Employment and South-South Cooperation*”
2. To support the side event organised by the ILO Regional Office: “*Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour*” on the 21 March 2019
3. To represent the ILO and participate in main and side events on employment and future of work-related issues organised by different agencies during the conference.

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***Objective 1: To support the organisation of the ILO Side Events “BAPA+40: The Future of Work, Youth Employment and South-South Cooperation” on the 21 March 2019 (8.30 to 10.15 am) at the University of Buenos Aires, Law Faculty, Salon Verde, and the side event organised by the Regional Office: “Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour”.***

This panel discussed SSTC and the future of work for youth from three angles: policies for skills development, green jobs, and social dialogue. The discussion took into account the report by the Global Commission on the Future of Work, launched on January 22, 2019 to mark the beginning of ILO's centenary celebrations.

The panel included:

- **Mr. Carlos Correa** as the *moderator*. In his introduction, Mr. Carlos Correa emphasized on the need for policy makers to review and reform the education systems and their respective youth employment policies. He advised that there is no one-size-fits-all solution and it is necessary that the educational reform take into careful consideration the local labour market characteristics and skills demand, so that the future generations can participate and take advantage of the upcoming digital era and the future of work. In this view, Mr. Carlos Correa reiterated the important role of South-South Cooperation as well as the contribution of the South Centre with its mandate of supporting collaboration among developing nations.
- **Ms. Rebeca Grynspan**, *Secretary-General of the Ibero-American General Secretariat, member of the Global Commission on the Future of Work*. Ms. Grynspan mentioned the most relevant issues regarding youth employment in the Global South considering the report on the Future of Work produced by the Global Commission. She emphasised on the following points:
  - The BAPA +40 conference is a historic moment to reflect the important changes over the last 40 years in the role of South-South Cooperation with regard to the dynamics of development cooperation within the framework of the 2030 Agenda
  - On January 22, the ILO presented the Final Report of the World Commission on the Future of Work which proposed “a people-centered program” as an instrument for a successful transition to the future of work. A program based on investing in the skills of workers, updating labour institutions and promoting decent and sustainable work. One of the main focuses is youth, which will be the protagonist of the future, but that currently suffers acutely underemployment and informality at work.
  - The discussion on the future of work is commonly based on an alarmist view of future of work without employment. However, the Commission’s diagnosis is that instead we should be focusing on the inequalities caused by an asymmetrical labour market. This is especially true for the young people who are constantly changing from one job to another and will not be protected by the current labour institutions.
  - Investment in our young people will be mainly educational and will strive to equip them with the skills needed to get the good jobs of the future.
  - In this matter, the Ibero-American space has much to contribute. Examples include “Campus Iberoamerica” with which SEGIB are developing a similar program as ERASMUS that will allow university students to move and cross the Atlantic in search of these enriching experiences that are formidable in the promotion of soft skills.
  - The policies developed in the new educational ecosystem proposed by the World Commission will be profoundly enriched by South-South Cooperation. It is highly recommended to work together, sharing ideas and experiences, from the South-South Cooperation perspective, and systematising our efforts in reports that allow us to distinguish the best solutions and adapt them to the contexts of each country.
  - It is recommended that the Future of Work theme to be taken into consideration to the political and legislative agenda of the Latin America region.
  - Special highlights on the universal right to continuing education, the right to social protection (in times of labour transition), and the right to the universal guarantee of decent work that includes and reunites the achievements of the last century.

- **Ms. Brenda Cardozo**, *youth representative from ILO's SafeYouth@Work project in Latin America*, identified the key issues in the linkages between green jobs for youth and SSTC. She focused on the following issues:
  - The new paradigm of sustainable development promoted by the 2030 Agenda requires the promotion of public policies with a comprehensive vision of sustainability. Latin America has enormous potential in terms of the green economy and it should guide itself based on the principle of sustainability
  - To generate green and productive jobs for youth, it is imperative that governments and stakeholders acquire new knowledge about the transition to a green economy and how to translate risks into benefits
  - In Latin America, the modernisation of the forestry sector, both in sustainable farms and in the conservation of primary forests, represents a niche for important green jobs. On the other hand, the region should also take advantage of innovation and talent and give them the opportunity to contribute to the dynamism of the future economy and to entrepreneurship and innovation.
  - Another important issue is the aspect of financing and mechanisms to expand youth employment action with potential involvement of the private sector, beside the fundamental role of the public sector
  - It is highly valuable to stimulate innovative thinking and collaboration to exchange lessons learned and good practices on innovative financing in Latin American. In this regards, youth and South-South cooperation play a central role of creating links and networks of solidarity with young people from the Global South
- **Mr. Fabio Isaac Masis Fallas**, *Executive Director of the Costa Rica Chamber of Private Enterprises- UCCAEP*. Mr. Fallas presented the employers' perspective on the future of work challenges linked to youth and SSTC with the following main points:
  - Challenges in youth employment should be addressed through coordinated efforts by state actors and stakeholders across various disciplines, especially in Latin America where nearly 30 million young individuals – are “NEET”.
  - The challenges can be effectively addressed through education, training, and support for entrepreneurship. This in turn requires the evolve of the education systems with the changing needs of the labour market. This is where social dialogue can play a big role – to anticipate, communicate and share information on the skills and competencies needed in the immediate future, and to ensure that education systems (through the Ministries of education, universities, TVET institutions, apprenticeships systems, training institutions) are educating the youth with the right skills, and most importantly, helping them have the right attitudes.
  - Education and training programs should create an environment promoting business development, risk-taking and innovation with the establishment of new micro and small enterprises, and creating decent, productive jobs in the formal economy.
  - Employer organisations and private sector employers are pursuing initiatives that promote the development of young people and create opportunities for them. For example, private sector employers throughout the world operate apprenticeships, mentorship, internship and education programs, often jointly with colleges and universities. Private sector companies are partnering with national and international organizations like UNICEF to support and even deliver early childhood education programs that have a real and lasting impact

on young people. Actually UCCAEP is promoting the Global Apprenticeship Network in Costa Rica

- Employer organisations and the private sector more generally can be very more effective joining force with local, national and international institutions to deliver programs that promote the future of young people and, in turn, a sustainable future. Governments and other stakeholders must do their part to encourage and support such initiatives.
- **Mr. Kjeld Jakobsen**, *Consultant for the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (CSA)*. Mr. Jakobsen discussed the role of workers from the global South to promote SSTC and youth employment. He emphasised on:
  - The concerns about employability in general in the future of work, and for youth in particular, since this is already neglected in the current framework.
  - The importance of state policies and international organisations, supported by employers and trade unions to advance the decent work agenda and the employability of youth.
  - These policies include development co-operation where SSTC can establish common practices in developing countries from practical experiences.
  - Research conducted in the Southern Cone in 2014 found that most young people want to study and work.
  - Trade union involvement is important, as there are already practical experiences such as GLU and actions, for example, by CUT Brazil in Latin America and Africa.
  - Current and future work requires transformations and strengthening of the unions to make it more representative.
  - Social dialogue is an important instrument, but it will not produce results if the actors are weak.
- **Ms. Victoria Alonsoperez**, *SDG Young Leader as discussant*. Ms Alonsoperez shared her perspective and expectations, as a young person, on the future of work and youth employment, towards greener economy, and in achieving the Agenda 2030. The following issues were highlighted:
  - Latin America region is full of opportunities for young people.
  - Technology is revolutionising the world, and the world of work is no exception. All stakeholders, whether governments, employers' and workers' organizations, or international institutions, must take responsibility for building the future of work that all of us want, with determined and collective actions at higher levels of trust and coherence. South-South and triangular cooperation must be part of the answer.

This March 2019, for example, during the ILO-South Centre event on the Future of Work and South-South cooperation in BAPA+40 , I will be forwarding the Voice of Youth from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The panelists also provided recommendations for BAPA + 40 participants on effective integration of South-South and triangular cooperation into Youth Employment Policies.

During the side event, Mr Fabio Bertranou launched the report *Decent Work Good Practices on the Road to BAPA +40 and beyond*



It was a great opportunity to give light to the Future of Work report in the Americas in a HL Conference of the UN System, as well as to reflect to the contribution of youth therein.

Video of the event should be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tnqIAjyubAE>



*Panellists and ILO Delegation*

## **RESULTS:**

- Enhanced visibility and successful reiteration of the ILO's commitment to engaging SSTC as an efficient cooperation modality for the realization of the DWA and SDGs, particularly in the topic of youth employment and the future of work
- Successfully showcase of and fruitful discussion on the Future of Work Report prepared by the Global Commission
- Established first step cooperation with the Ibero-American General Secretariat in SSTC
- Raised voice of youth in the topic of youth employment policies and the future of work through the presence of youth representatives from the region

- Successful launch of the report *Decent Work Good Practices on the Road to BAPA +40 and beyond*
- Enhanced collaboration with the ILO's social partners in Latin America
- Strengthened collaboration with the South Centre

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***Objective 2: To support the side event organised by the ILO Regional Office: “Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour” on the 21 March 2019***

ILO Delegation participated in the organization of the side event organised by the Regional Office: “Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour” on the 21 March 2019 from 13:00-15:00 at the University of Buenos Aires, Law Faculty, Salon Verde

The ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean hosted a side event during the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) on 21 March 2019. This event presented the Regional Initiative as a successful South-South Cooperation mechanism to end child labour by 2025 in the countries that make up the sub-regional groups of Mercosur, SICA, and CARICOM, and jointly reach Goal 8.7 of the 2030 Agenda.

Ms. María Olave, of the ILO Regional Child Labour Team, moderated the panel of experts including:

- Cecilia Garau, Director of Labor Protection and Equality of the Secretariat of Promotion, Protection and Technological Change of Argentina and Focal Point of the Regional Initiative;
- Cecilia Malaguti, General Coordinator of Trilateral Technical Cooperation with International Organizations of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC);
- Víctor Navalpotro, General Coordinator of the Technical Office of Cooperation in Uruguay of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), and
- Pedro Américo Furtado de Oliveira, Director of the ILO Office in Argentina, representing the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Initiative.

The event, held at the Faculty of Law of the University of Buenos Aires, highlighted the following issues: (1) Regional integration and complementarity with effective national policies for the prevention and eradication of child labour towards the achievement of target 8.7 (2) Tripartite dialogue and promotion of South-South Cooperation – Experience in child labour and (3) The role of UN agencies and South-South and triangular cooperation in the perspective of decent work

The Regional Initiative is a prime example of South-South cooperation when it underlines the joint efforts undertaken by countries within various sub-regions of Mercosur, SICA and CARICOM. Furthermore, it is also promoting a horizontal exchange with the African Union in order to promote collaboration in addressing one of the main pending challenges: the strengthening and mobilization of technical and financial resources for the achievement of target 8.7. The Argentinian focal point for the RI presented the results of the Initiative and the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation, ABC, emphasized that the RI created innovative mechanisms and methodologies to identify good practices and expanded Brazil's capacity on SSC. The Spanish Cooperation agency, a strategic development partner of the RI, highlighted the importance of triangular cooperation and explained how the RI is an example of how

traditional development cooperation projects have been transformed into an innovative regional inter-governmental platform that effectively promotes SSC and Triangular cooperation.

Video of the event should be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQ6IV1iE0NI>



*The Panel Discussion*

## RESULTS

- Showcase of the *Regional Initiative: Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour* as a successful South-South Cooperation mechanism to end child labour
- Enhanced collaboration with ILO's partners, in particular Brazil and Spain, as well as other countries in Latin America
- Raised awareness of the importance of tripartite dialogue and SSTC in combatting child labour in LAC countries

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***Objective 3: To represent the ILO and participate in main and side events on employment and future of work-related issues organised by different agencies during the conference.***

ILO Delegation attended the following events and meetings:

### **Tuesday, 19 March 2019**

**Discussion about South-South Cooperation in a Digital Era and the launch of the UNOSSC “South-South Galaxy”** at Museo De Arquitectura Y Diseno

The event was organized by the Finance Centre for South- South Cooperation (FCSSC) in partnership with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

This was a high-level dialogue highlighting the importance of leveraging South-South cooperation for development in a digital era, with the participation of the President of Uruguay Mr. Vázquez, H.E. Mr. Tianyun Hong, Vice Minister of China State Council Leading Group for Poverty Reduction, and Mr. Cai E'Sheng, Chairman of the Finance Centre for South-South

Cooperation, Former Vice Chairman of China Banking Regulatory Commission. The session was moderated by Mr. Jorge Chediek, Director UNOSSC and Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation.

During the event, FCSSC and UNOSSC launched a prototype of a global knowledge sharing and partnership brokering platform entitled “South-South Galaxy” that will be able to respond more systematically and effectively in supporting Southern countries’ demand to connect, learn and collaborate with potential partners digitally.



*The Envoy of the SG on SSC and the President of Uruguay*

Visit the South-South Galaxy platform: <http://www.unsouthsouth-galaxy.org>

For more information about this event: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/03/1035001>

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IP6O\\_clqISI&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IP6O_clqISI&feature=youtu.be)

This is an opportunity to showcase the ILO’s SSTC meeting point: [www.southsouthpoint.net](http://www.southsouthpoint.net)

### **Meeting of the Trade Union Network for Development Cooperation (RSCD) at Hotel Argenta Tower**

This meeting was organised by the Confederación Sindical de Trabajadores y Trabajadoras de las Américas (CSA). ILO Delegation was invited for a speaking role at this event on the topic of SSTC and the SDGs and presented the role of social dialogue in promoting SSTC and decent work Agenda as well as SDGs by using examples from the Global University of Labour (GLU) and the ILO’s collaboration with regional, sub-regional and inter-regional organisations such as BRICS, IBSA, g7+, the CPLP, MERCOSUR, the Pacific Community, ASEAN, ECOWAS and UN regional economic commissions. ILO Delegation also reiterated the importance of social partners to the ILO and its Decent Work Agenda, in particular the contribution and engagement of unions and workers’ organisations in ILO’s SSTC projects and initiatives around the world, and in the Americas.

**Wednesday, 20 March 2018**

**First plenary meeting** – at Plenary Hall- Buenos Aires Exhibition and Convention Centre

ILO Delegation attended the First Plenary Meeting with the Agenda included: (1) Opening of the Conference (2) Election of the President, adoption of agenda (3) General debate.

The summary of the meeting can be found here: <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/1st-plenary-meeting-summary-Bapa40.pdf>

**Side Event: A Glimpse of the Future South-South and Triangular Cooperation - Asia-Pacific's Contribution in Science, Technology and Innovation** at Aula Magna Law Faculty, University of Buenos Aires

This event is co-organised by UNOSSC, Bangladesh; Korea; Indonesia; Malaysia; UNESCO; ISTIC; All-India Disaster Mitigation Institute, ILO. ILO Delegation participated in this event with discussant role. During the discussion, the ILO representative emphasised the evolving role of technology in the future of work by mentioning the report of the Future of Work by the Global Commission. She highlighted the report's human centred agenda, which places people and skill development at the centre of economic and social policy – an approach that should be taken on board, especially in the changing world of science, technology and innovation.

The ILO Delegate also highlighted some examples of ILO's technology-related SSTC projects in Asia and the Pacific including: (1) the ongoing (2018-2019) SSTC project to strengthen the Pakistani compensation system for workplace injury, based on learnings from Malaysia and Thailand. The project improved governance and computerized management systems and expanded coverage and the effective delivery of benefits and (2) the South-South virtual meeting point, which provides access to a wealth of knowledge and resources related to SSTC and decent work. It has managed communications through an online "regional learning journeys" on development cooperation for ILO staff.



*ILO representative (Anita Amorim) at the side Event*

ILO representative at the Side Event

**Second Plenary Meeting** - Plenary Hall- Buenos Aires Exhibition and Convention Centre

ILO Delegation attended the second Plenary Meeting.

The summary of the meeting can be found here: <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2nd-plenary-meeting-summary-Bapa40.pdf>

**Matchmaking workshop on “Public Service Innovation through South-South Network”, at Law Faculty, University of Buenos Aires, Sala Velez**

This was a part of the side event A Glimpse of the Future South-South and Triangular Cooperation - Asia-Pacific’s Contribution in Science, Technology and Innovation”. ILO Delegation participated in this workshop.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019**

**Assessing the contribution of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) to development results in agriculture, rural development, food security and nutrition, at Law Faculty, University of Buenos Aires, Salon Verde**

This event was organised by the Rome-based Agencies. ILO Delegation was invited for speaking role in the panel. The ILO representative presented the preliminary findings of the ILO’s study on SSTC results. It has triggered the debate on how to better capture SSTC results as well as the framework to integrate and improve SSTC reporting in the existing M&E system.

**Interactive panel discussion 1 at Conference Room D - Buenos Aires Exhibition and Convention Centre**

The ILO Delegation attended this meeting and was given the floor. The ILO’s intervention emphasised the comparative advantages of SSTC to the ILO’s Decent work Agenda in three ways: (1) Deepening regional cooperation and integration towards achieving decent work for all and sustainable development (2) Developing national productive capacities through exchanges of knowledge, lesson learned, and experiences; and (3) Disseminating and sharing of innovative development solutions from the countries of the South.

The ILO representative presented examples of the ILO’s SSTC works in collaboration with regional, sub-regional and interregional organisation (BRICS, IBSA, g7+, the CPLP, MERCOSUR, the Pacific Community, ASEAN, ECOWAS and UN regional economic commissions), SSTC projects in different regions (Africa, Middle-east, Asia) to promote national productive capacities in employment issues, and the efforts to promote the dissemination of good practices and innovative solutions from the Global South through the ITC and South-South meeting point.

The summary of the interactive panel discussion can be found here: <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Panel-discussion-1-summary-Bapa40.pdf>

**National Ecosystem for South-South and Triangular Cooperation at CCK-Auditorio 6-14**

This side event was co-organised by the South Centre, the Islamic Development Bank and the UNOSSC.

**Spotlight (gender) Meeting at CCK-Auditorio 6-14**

This side event was co-organised by UN-Women, ILO and other agencies.

**The Power of International Value Chains in the Global South at Palacio San Martín-Sala de Prensa**

This side event was co-organised by the ITC and RIS.

**Friday, 22 March 2018**

**4th plenary meeting at Plenary Hall- Buenos Aires Exhibition and Convention Centre**

ILO delegation attended this meeting and was given the floor. ILO statement focused on the following main points:

- ILO's commitment to SSTC through the strategy adopted by the Governing Body in 2012 as well as its revision in 2018
- The 1 November meeting, co-hosted with UNCTAD and the South Centre, that gathered 20 Geneva- and Rome-based agencies in preparation for BAPA+40
- The "Declaration of Panama for the centennial of the ILO: for the future of work in the Americas (October 2018)", where delegates from governments, employers and workers of the Americas have affirmed the importance of International cooperation, including SSTC for development cooperation, in the framework of ILO's Centenary.
- The ILO's various advocacy activities to sensitise its constituents, employers and workers' organisations as well as governments to the importance of integrating SSTC in employment policies, including examples from the close collaboration with ITC and CINTERFOR, and the effective promotion of sharing good SSTC practices through South-South meeting point portal
- The ILO's uses of the potential offered by SSTC to support social justice and advance the four pillars of the Decent Work Agenda, namely: (1) labour standards and fundamental principles and rights at work; (2) employment opportunities; (3) social protection; and (4) social dialogue
- The report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work, launched on the 22nd of January 2019, which proposed a human-centred Agenda for a decent future of work
- The importance issue of youth employment and ILO's Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth
- Important future steps that are relevant to the larger UNDS, as highlighted by ILO's governing Body in March 2018



*Fabio Bertranou represented ILO at the 4th plenary meeting*

The summary of the 4<sup>th</sup> plenary discussion can be found here: <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/4th-plenary-meeting-summary-Bapa40.pdf>

## RESULTS

- Ensured presence of the ILO in main and side events on employment and future of work-related issues organised by different agencies during the conference.
- ILO's perspectives and strategies as well as achievements in SSTC were successfully reflected and presented in the main side events
- Successful presentation of the preliminary findings of ILO's study on SSTC results
- Strengthen collaboration with ILO's social partners in the region, in particular the CSA
- Secured opportunities for future collaboration/partnerships in SSTC with other UN Agencies and potential partners
- Various communication pieces produced for the promotion of ILO SSTC activities

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### *Lesson Learned:*

- The importance of SSTC in promoting Decent Work can be clearly demonstrated in ILO's projects in all regions, notably in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.
  - ILO's partners were well informed of SSTC modality and successfully applied it in their respective development projects.
  - It is important that BAPA+40 addresses sufficiently all the essential cross-cutting issues such as climate change, gender equality, especially through promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships and sharing of experiences and lesson learnt.
  - There are various opportunities to expand partnerships in SSTC with other UN Agencies and it is important to further develop potential collaborations with traditional and emerging development partners (e.g. India, China, IBSA etc.).
-