

Joint Declaration of Intent
between
the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India
and
the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of the
Federal Republic of Germany
on
the implementation of Triangular Development Cooperation projects in Third
Countries

India is a staunch supporter of South-South cooperation and has for decades assisted developing countries especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in their sustainable development initiatives. Germany, on the other hand, has world-wide experience in development cooperation, and triangular cooperation in particular, and is proud of the longstanding partnership with India. In line with their shared commitment to support global development efforts that are consistent with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) issue this Joint Declaration of Intent on the implementation of Triangular Development Cooperation with third countries.

Scope and Purpose

This Joint Declaration of Intent is a concrete deliverable of and contributes to the India-Germany Partnership for Green and Sustainable Development. It provides a framework for cooperation between India and Germany to jointly design and implement projects for furthering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and related climate goals in third beneficiary countries and to strengthen their strategic partnership. The primary focus would be in Africa and Asia. Cooperation activities

may also cover developing countries in Latin America and the Caribbean region and the Indo-Pacific region. To achieve the joint objective for assisting third countries to address development challenges, India and Germany will explore opportunities to work together in priority sectors like clean energy, sustainable agriculture, green mobility, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, women's empowerment, connectivity and health.

Joint Agenda

Both sides aim at sharing development cooperation experiences and the exploration of innovative ways of cooperation, contributing individual strengths of traditional donors, emerging development actors and third beneficiary partner countries. They are driven by the shared objective to offer a sustainable and inclusive alternative approach of development cooperation to third countries as stated in the BAPA+40 outcome document from 2019. They also draw inspiration from the "Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)" Vision put forth by India in 2015, the "Policy Guidelines for the Indo-Pacific Region" adopted by the German Federal Government in 2020 and the India-EU Connectivity Partnership launched in May 2021. Their joint endeavour is founded on the shared understanding that the unique development experience of India can contribute to more effective and inclusive international development, while the experiences of the traditional development partner Germany can add institutional and technical know-how.

Guiding Principles

- i. India and Germany will, based on beneficiary countries' needs, jointly decide on sectoral and regional priorities pertinent to, and coherent with own development cooperation policies.
- ii. Activities/Projects carried out under the framework of Triangular Cooperation will be complementary to but independent of bilateral development cooperation activities of India and Germany, such as under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme of Government of India.

- iii. The joint activities in third countries could include technical assistance, capacity building and training, as well as uptake of innovative solutions to development challenges; wherever possible, both sides strive to align such activities with their respective ongoing bilateral cooperation with third countries to maximize synergies. To begin with, India and Germany will focus on training and capacity building programmes in and with third countries and based on experience gained, both countries will look at carrying out specific development projects in third countries.
- iv. The two sides will also explore co-financing and other innovative partnership models to support joint activities in third countries. This could include engagement and partnership with NGOs and the private sector.
- v. While offering co-financing and administrative as well as technical expertise, the projects undertaken will be guided by the principles of South-South development cooperation, will be based on the interests and development priorities of the beneficiary countries and will be implemented in close consultation and cooperation with them.
- vi. Both sides will ensure transparency and continuous consultations with all relevant stakeholders to avoid any communication gaps. Identification of specific projects/beneficiaries will be done with the active involvement of Indian and German Missions/Posts in the selected third countries.

Modalities

In order to realize the objectives of this Joint Declaration of Intent, the two sides intend to proceed as follows:

- a) Entrust the Development Partnership Administration (DPA) in MEA and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH as the nodal agencies with the implementation of triangular development cooperation projects.

- b) Set up a Steering Committee to provide strategic guidance, decide priority third countries, identify and approve triangular projects, regularly review the progress of joint activities, and engage in mutual learning. The sides will each appoint senior representatives to partake in annual steering meetings.
- c) Establish a Joint Implementation Group (comprising of, but not limited to, DPA and GIZ representatives) which will, under the guidance of the Steering Committee, jointly decide on responsibilities, detail the scope of work, decide on indicators, and communicate and monitor the allocation of resources to the activities/ cooperation.
- d) Appoint a coordinator at the technical level who will be mainly responsible for ensuring the smooth preparation of the joint activities and for keeping alive the flow of communication between the sides.

The two sides will jointly finalise and approve the detailed terms of reference and composition of the Steering Committee and the Joint Implementation Group.

The exact scope and implementation modalities of project specific joint activities will be mutually decided between MEA and GIZ.

General Provisions

This Joint Declaration of Intent does not obligate funds or provide or give rise to legal obligations or commitments under domestic or international law from one government to the other or third parties.

Nothing in this Declaration is intended to supersede or interfere in any way with any agreements or contracts entered into by the two sides, either prior to or subsequent to the signing of this Declaration. The development assistance provided by the German side to triangular projects under this Declaration will not be treated as or have any impact on ongoing or future bilateral development cooperation programmes with India.

This Declaration may be modified in writing by mutual consent of the MEA and BMZ.

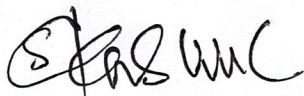
Either side may end its participation in this Declaration by notifying the other in writing and providing at least thirty (30) days' notice.

This Joint Declaration of Intent will come into effect on the day of signing by both sides and will remain in effect until 2030 unless ended earlier. The Joint Declaration of Intent may be extended further by the mutual written consent of both sides.

Signed in Berlin on May 2, 2022 in duplicate in English language.

**For the Ministry of External Affairs
of the Republic of India**

**For the Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development
of the Federal Republic of Germany**



Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
Minister



Ms Svenja Schulze
Minister