



## **ANCSSC Side Event Concept Note**

### **How can South-South and Triangular Cooperation ensure no one is left behind in today's world:**

Exploring the nexus between civil society, government, and the private sector in promoting economic inclusion, digitalisation, and education.

Date: 14 September 2022

Time: 9-10 am

Venue: Hybrid /Bangkok /virtual

#### **1. Framed within the GSSD Expo 2022, the ANCSSCs' side event objectives are:**

- A. To discuss the role of civil society in promoting triangular cooperation, South-South initiatives, and continual recovery efforts post-COVID19
- B. To highlight the opportunities for civil society in today's world - particularly in education, economic inclusivity, digitisation, and AI
- C. To promote South-South multi-stakeholder developmental initiatives, the ANCSSC App as a cooperative mechanism, and foster the growth of strong resilient communities between ANCSSC members
- D. To reaffirm the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle within our advocacy, campaigns, and programmes

#### **2. Purpose of side event:**

An integral part of South-South and triangular cooperation modalities is to develop multi stakeholder partnerships and capacity building of civil society. In today's world the global landscape has significantly changed. Along with the impact of COVID 19 we are also facing a triple planetary crisis – climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. This means we have to work more smartly and effectively through sharing of best practice, innovation and local solutions The aim of this event is to focus on how civil society is working across the global South to ensure that no one is left behind.

It has now been over two years since COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic by WHO. The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over. The danger of new variants of concern arising remains high due to the virus's intense transmission and inadequate vaccination levels in many parts of the world. This raises the prospect of new outbreaks of catastrophic disease, mortality, and societal and economic disruption.

In 2021, WHO established a global goal of vaccinating 70% of the population in all countries in order to end and recover from the pandemic. Only 52 nations have attained the target, while 69 countries have yet to fulfil the interim milestone of 40 percent coverage. Significant inequalities in COVID-19 vaccine coverage threaten to disrupt long-term economic recovery, particularly in low-coverage countries. Ultimately, progress within the COVID-19 sphere must not be seen as separate from that of progress within health security as a whole.

Civil society organisations and NGOs throughout the Global South have stepped up by playing a key role in supporting vulnerable communities during the COVID-19 outbreak through food pack distributions, supplying Personal Protective Equipment, giving trauma and mental health support, supporting bereaved families with burial arrangements etc. NGOs, grassroots organisations, and civil society have been at the frontlines of this pandemic. They often face critical challenges such as threats, attacks, funding cuts and disproportionate restrictions. These are just some of the challenges civil society organisations face in the Global South, and the Coronavirus pandemic has worsened their working conditions. It is therefore important to promote the sharing of best practices and experiences relating to implementing sustainable developments and sharing of experiences.

To secure supply chains, protect communities, and ensure no one is left behind, the tools of cooperation, advocacy, and action are indispensable. And this event will serve to highlight existing initiatives and future avenues for the role of civil society within education, economic inclusion, and digitisation.

The pandemic is only unique in scale and it is not unique in cause, harm, nor societal impact. We ought to continually place importance on health globally to future proof all developmental efforts and this event will highlight how education, digitisation, and economic inclusivity could play leading roles.

This side event will provide an opportunity to NGOs and CSOs to share their experiences, best practices, and challenges in this post COVID 19 world. It will explore the ways in which government and private sector can work with civil society to address economic inclusion, digitalisation, and education; serving as a chance for multi-stakeholder engagement and an opportunity to showcase best practice in these areas. It will also provide the opportunity to reflect on and discuss how all stakeholders are building on existing interventions on the SDGs and inequality through capacity-building, strengthened partnerships and better governance within states and territories. South-South and triangular Cooperation highlights the value of partnerships for inclusive growth. The ANCSSC aims to promote locally led and coordinated approaches to advocacy, humanitarian, and developmental issues and this will be highlighted in this event through the ANCSSC members contribution to the discussion.

### **3. Cross cutting themes –**

#### **3.1. Leaving No One Behind: Refugees and migration in context of South-South Cooperation**

At the end of 2021 as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, or events seriously disturbing public order 89.3 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced. Another 53.2 million people have also been internally displaced, meaning they have not yet crossed a border to find safety and instead are either trapped within a conflict or prevented from leaving for other reasons. As a result, analysts estimate 1 in 88 people globally have been forced to flee from their homes.

Therefore, we have to realise that contemporary efficient responses, which maintain good practices, require us to work together and communicate effectively. And so, this event will venture forward and detail just how cooperation in digitisation, education, and economic programmes could be just one way of spearheading positive change in today's world.

#### **3.2. Gender equality and gender justice within South-South Cooperation:**

Research from McKinsey found that women's jobs during COVID-19 were up to 1.9 times more likely to be vulnerable. Although women compose 39% of total global employment they contributed to just over 54% of total job losses.

Simultaneously, we also see positive data globally that recognises private industries which maintain a higher level of gender and ethnic diversity achieve greater levels of economic performance. Hence, given all the risks that have arisen from the pandemic there is a danger that diversity will recede and with it the potential for recovery. It seems downgrading diversity in times of crisis will surely thwart recovery long term.

Therefore, all stakeholders must realise that the maintenance and acceleration of gender equality globally is tremendously desirable - and a key to recovery. Now within civil society we need to find ways to better tap into that potential and this event will intend to do so whilst relating gender to parallel discourses within education, economic inclusivity, and digitalisation. If no one is to be left behind we must understand our responsibilities also through a gender inclusive lens.

#### **4. Showcasing ANCSSC App:**

The ANCSSC developed a capacity-building, knowledge-sharing & networking app in collaboration with the Computer Science Department of University College London (UCL). This systems integration project aimed to create a web application for ANCSSC member NGOs operating under UN guidelines. The goal of the application is to provide a digital platform for the member organisations to share knowledge and resources easily, as well as to connect and form partnerships in order to facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Through the app, the ANCSSC's aim is to highlight best practices in supporting impoverished communities through a number of ways such as infrastructure, training, equipment and creating opportunities for a better life.

#### **5. Importance of economic inclusion for South South cooperation:**

This side-event will highlight the importance of economic inclusion if we are to achieve Agenda 2030 and spotlight the ANCSSC Fund which has been recently formed.

Economic inclusion can help boost the income and assets of the world's poorest individuals and households with a "big push" of coordinated interventions. Through economic inclusion, Global South countries are able to demonstrate the strong potential to improve livelihoods as part of integrated policy responses focused on containing the pandemic, ensuring food security and supporting medium-term recovery. It is therefore crucial to highlight the importance of funding and economic inclusion for the Global South.

In recent years, there has been an increasing global push to promote inclusive economic development and "Leave No One Behind". Addressing this challenge through equitable and sustainable growth is a critical action under the SDG agenda (SDG 8). Economic inclusion initiatives that aim to achieve this are flourishing today, and they have the ability to expand on pre-existing national efforts to strengthen social protection systems and job strategies around the world. By empowering these NGOs and CSOs and increasing their capacity, a stronger structure is established, allowing services to continue in the event of further challenges linked with development initiatives. In order to increase capacity and sustain NGOs and CSOs, the collaboration of stakeholders is crucial to achieving these goals. Funding NGOs and CSOs in the Global South will bring social change and generate empowerment directly to where it's needed most.

#### **6. Organisational Background: ANCSSC**

The Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation (ANCSSC) strives to enhance civil society's understanding of the value of South-South and triangular cooperation

in developmental, humanitarian, and related spheres. It encourages sharing of knowledge, expertise and contextually appropriate technologies and assets among NGOs and CSOs, particularly the ones that have been developed in their respective organizational and operational experiences in developing countries.

The Alliance liaises with governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations to promote South-South Cooperation policies and disseminate best practices across its work.

The activities of the ANCSSC are aimed at popularising South-South and triangular Cooperation modalities and approaches in the work of NGOs and CSOs in developing countries wherever these are deemed more appropriate and cost effective in undertaking specific tasks. Towards this goal, it seeks to strengthen the capacities of NGOs and CSOs when and where needed, through partnerships with other NGOs and CSOs capable of providing such services.

## **7. Expected Outcomes:**

- To understand the important role of civil society within triangular cooperation, South-South initiatives, and continual recovery efforts post-COVID19
- To focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by the interplay between digitisation efforts and the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing the digital divide
- To create greater visibility for South-South developmental initiatives and capacity building efforts.
- To acknowledge the importance of leaving no one behind within our recovery efforts, particularly in economic inclusivity projects, digitisation, and education
- To enhance capabilities for creating strong resilient communities between ANCSSC members

## **8. Proposed Agenda and Speakers:** Event duration: 75 minutes, including break

Dr Husna Ahmad, Global Coordinator ANCSSC, Moderator – 5 min

- Video contribution - Welcome Address - ANCSSC International Advisory Council - *Baroness Uddin of Bethnal Green* – 5 min
- Introductory remarks – Mr. Denis Nkala, Chief, Intergovernmental and UN System Affairs– 5 min
- The importance of Economic inclusion in promoting South-South Cooperation – Dr Seinye OB Lulu- Briggs, *ANCSSC Fund Chair* – 7 min
- How the private sector can enable economic inclusion in South and Southeast Asia – *Tarikhul Kabir, Head of CSR, BSRM Ltd.* – 5 min
- AI for the common good – Digitalisation in pursuing South -South modalities *Professor Dean Mohammedally* University College London – 7 min
- Promotion of Digitalisation through local government in Kenya, Ahmed Nadhir Omar – 5 min
- How multistakeholder partnerships can ensure no child is left behind - Mustafa Ali, Secretary General Global Network of Religions for Children – 5 min
- Leaving no one behind, Girls Education – Meera Tiwari, University of East London – 5 min

- Leaving no one behind, working in a multi-stakeholder setting – *Raihan Kadery Mahmood, GO Bangladesh* - 5 min
- Q&A – 10 min
- Concluding remarks and recommendations - 5 min