

WIPO ROUNDTABLE ON SOUTH-SOUTH & TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

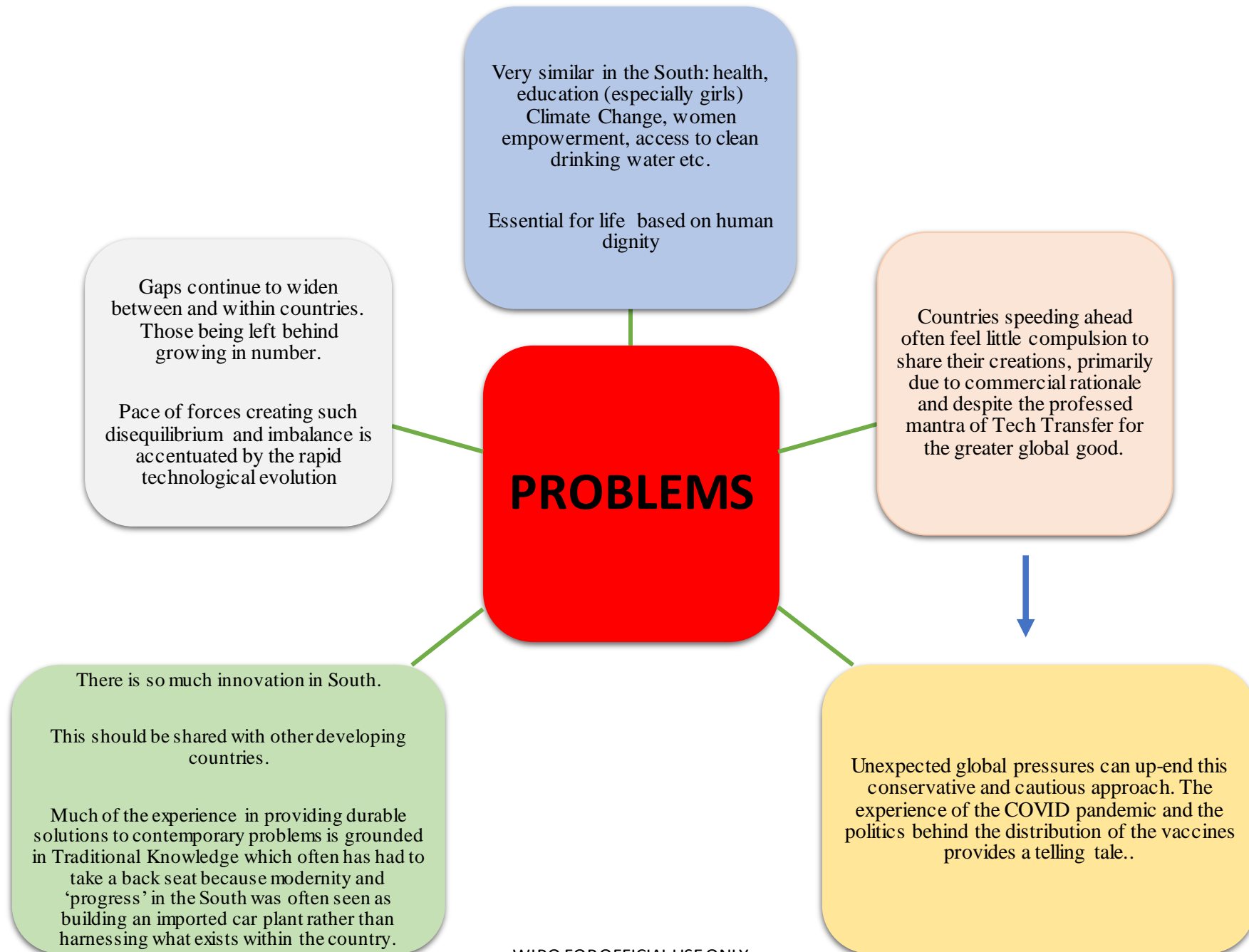
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HERITAGE AND LEGACY

- South-South Cooperation: IMPORTANT CONCEPT and COMMON PURPOSE for the post-colonial developing world.
- Solidarity eg: G-77 and NAM
- Optimistic days of Bandung to sobering experience of Globalization in 80s/90s to the “Me First” narrative
- Existing order was seen as exploitative. Multinational corporations replaced the colonial model with their own. It was business as usual in terms of bad business deals. Resource extraction from the South only sped up.
- New found POLITICAL FREEDOMS were not matched by economic ones. The South remained impoverished and in many cases regressed.
- The North ascribed this situation essentially to POOR GOVERNANCE, ELITE CAPTURE and CORRUPTION. Even though those were factors, the reality could not be explained away so simply.
- Within the South it is NOT A UNIFORM PICTURE. Those countries with better planning and long term vision have changed their societies with proactive policies. Others however are floundering, trapped in MEANINGLESS MANTRA devoid any true progress or any culture of innovation.





CHALLENGES

- The global **HEALTH CRISIS** sharply exposed the core issues.
- **CLIMATE CHANGE** is another pressing crisis that warrants urgent cooperation.
- The coming **WORLD FAMINE** and the inevitable **NEXT PANDEMIC** demand partnership solutions beyond generating profits or Governments comfortably reclining in armchairs of business-as-usual.

SOUTH-SOUTH & TRIANGULAR COOPERATION BEYOND GOVERNMENTS:

PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

Private sector important partnership role in South-South cooperation in IP

Unfortunate complicated history, South-South cooperation ideological genesis traditionally wary

Did not happen naturally. Consequence of South raising its collective voice on political platforms.

Already much activity in South-South Cooperation is taking place outside the Government-guided formal structures.

Instead of constraining such private ventures, Governments should be encouraging this business activity with IP tools under the aegis of South-South Cooperation.

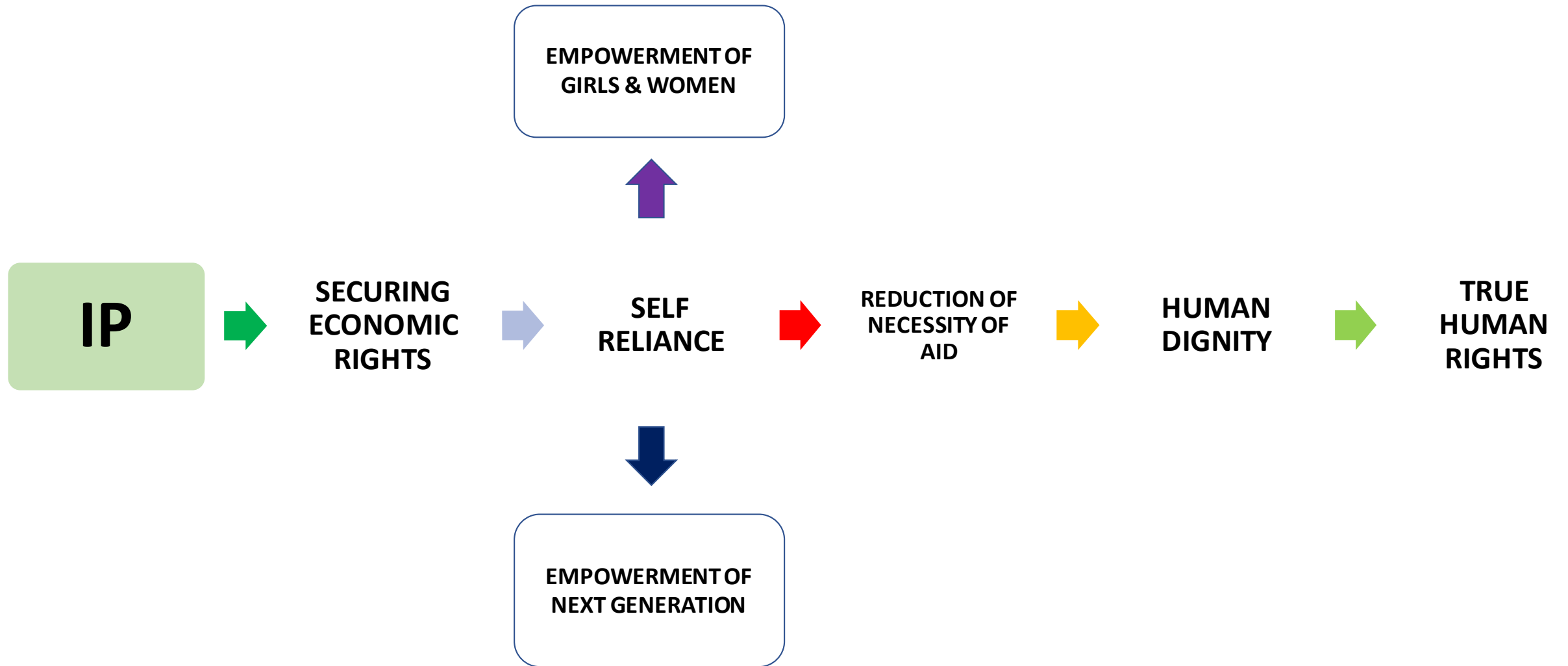
Time to move to economic platforms in tangible ways using IP

Private sector has come a long way. More inclusive approach in its activities.

Governments of South now value private sector role on a more equitable playing field.

Makes good business sense

IP IN THE CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENT AND DIGNITY IN THE SOUTH



ROLE OF IP IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

South-South Cooperation should ideally **BE A GIVEN** and in the context of Triangular Cooperation very much achievable.

Given that **IP PERMEATES VIRTUALLY EVERY ASPECT** of modern life, IP tools and partnership with WIPO should be the **NATURAL COURSE**.



The reality is that many Developing countries have **COME OF AGE**, reached **ECONOMIC MATURITY** and are increasingly attractive options for partnership.

Potential to become the norm across the South



Differentiation within the South. More IP developed countries in South can help those left behind. Learning from each other

Full Spectrum: from basic to high inventions

TECHNOLOGY TOOLS are available for everyone. One set are the IP ones that can help secure and preserve the rights of the South. The tragedy is that those countries locked in the **DATED RHETORIC** of the 1960s are unwilling or unable to grasp the challenge, preferring tired, lofty speeches to administrative and political will, legislation and true enforcement.



The IP tools **EDUCATE AND HELP INNOVATORS** in the South. The North has a major head start having developed the technologies. South-South and Triangular Cooperation must adapt and adopt these skills.



Not an abandonment of Triangular Cooperation with the North but a **POLICY MIX** of optimizing South-South options/pathways



WIPO once again is the perfect coordinating platform for the exchange of ideas, experience and skills

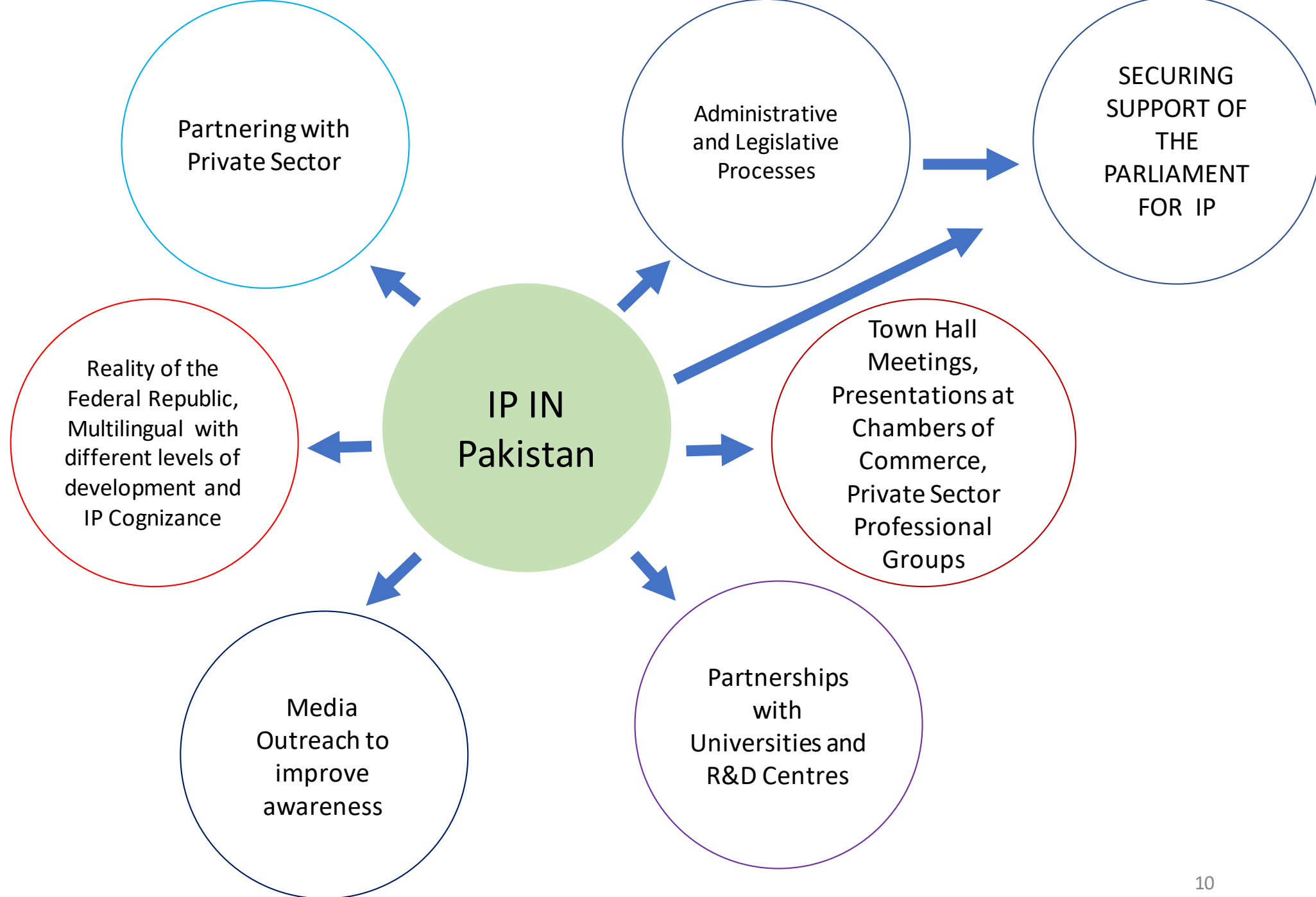
TWO INNOVATION EXAMPLES FROM PAKISTAN THAT CAN HELP IN THE SOUTH-SOUTH & TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

- Portable ECG machine developed over 2 years by AKU, Karachi
- Patent secured. Working with private sector to mass produce for use in primary health care settings in remote regions.
- Developed by team of cardiologists, bio-medical & electronic engineers, software experts.
- Global Applicability. Tool for South-South Cooperation.



- Low cost Earthquake proof, flood resistant zero-carbon housing designed by architect Ms.Yasmeen Lari: “Making traditional techniques safe”. 40K Built.
- Local materials: bamboo, lime, mud. Very low cost (\$ 175). Tested to resist Richter 7.5 Earthquake
- Committed to open source (or sharing IP for free) to all poor communities, especially the South
- Proven innovative solution. Community self-build. Global applicability





WAY FORWARD

- Climate Change, COVID Pandemic, Food Insecurity etc unfortunate as they are, do however **provide an opportunity** for the Developing Countries to **revisit the core concepts** of South-South Cooperation to make it meaningful in the contemporary context.
- There is **so much innovation in the South**. This should be **shared** with other developing countries. Much of the experience in providing durable solutions to contemporary problems is grounded in Traditional Knowledge which often has had to take a back seat because modernity and ‘progress’ in the South was often seen as building an imported car plant rather than harnessing what exists within the country.
- For example, instead of medicines-from-plants and rights to Genetic Resources being syphoned off by globally agile and wily Multinationals, the IP family provides profitable pathways in realizing the commercial potential of the national resources.

WAY FORWARD

- The dire need for **TOTAL DIGITIZATION** would speed up the South-South interaction because it would ease the flow of data and ideas for a mutually beneficial outcomes especially in Triangular Cooperation with WIPO at the helm as a guiding hand.
- An interdependent world has meant a wide spectrum convergences, which in turn give more options
- Right mix of policy to optimize South-South and North-South cooperation tailored to each country's goals.
- Must be beyond just Government to Government
- Informal sectors are vital, flexible.
- Its been nearly 70 years since Bandung, 60 years since birth of G-77. Opportune time for a new start?
- Time for reset to South-South cooperation core concepts?