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.
Very similar in the South: health, education (especially girls), Climate Change, women empowerment, access to clean drinking water etc.

Essential for life based on human dignity

Countries speeding ahead often feel little compulsion to share their creations, primarily due to commercial rationale and despite the professed mantra of Tech Transfer for the greater global good.

Unexpected global pressures can up-end this conservative and cautious approach. The experience of the COVID pandemic and the politics behind the distribution of the vaccines provides a telling tale.

Gaps continue to widen between and within countries. Those being left behind growing in number. Pace of forces creating such disequilibrium and imbalance is accentuated by the rapid technological evolution.

There is so much innovation in 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 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.
Rapid tech evolution
Accelerated lead by the North

Communication technologies have breached national and societal barriers, changing the world forever.

The rapidity plus ease of communication and its movement outside formal Government channels puts everyone in touch across the world in an instant.

e-Commerce has opened up previously unavailable business pathways with new methods of linkages and connections between people.

Democratizing access to business activities, riding on the emergence of e-Commerce

This kind of empowerment has given a huge impetus to IP empowered Start-Ups in the Private Sector

This must be factored into the evaluation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
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 happened naturally. Consequence of South raising its collective voice on political platforms.
- Time to move to economic platforms in tangible ways using IP

- 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.

- 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

EMPOWERMENT OF GIRLS & WOMEN

SECRURING ECONOMIC RIGHTS

SELF RELIANCE

REDUCTION OF NECESSITY OF AID

HUMAN DIGNITY

TRUE HUMAN RIGHTS

EMPOWERMENT OF NEXT GENERATION
**ROLE OF IP IN SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

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<th>South-South Cooperation should ideally <strong>BE A GIVEN</strong> and in the context of Triangular Cooperation very much achievable.</th>
<th>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 <strong>DATED RHETORIC</strong> of the 1960s are unwilling or unable to grasp the challenge, preferring tired, lofty speeches to administrative and political will, legislation and true enforcement.</th>
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<td>Given that <strong>IP PERMEATES VIRTUALLY EVERY ASPECT</strong> of modern life, IP tools and partnership with WIPO should be the <strong>NATURAL COURSE</strong>.</td>
<td>The IP tools <strong>EDUCATE AND HELP INNOVATORS</strong> 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.</td>
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<td>The reality is that many Developing countries have <strong>COME OF AGE</strong>, reached <strong>ECONOMIC MATURITY</strong> and are increasingly attractive options for partnership.</td>
<td>Not an abandonment of Triangular Cooperation with the North but a <strong>POLICY MIX</strong> of optimizing South-South options/pathways.</td>
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<td>Potential to become the norm across the South</td>
<td>WIPO once again is the perfect coordinating platform for the exchange of ideas, experience and skills.</td>
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<td>Differentiation within the South. More IP developed countries in South can help those left behind. Learning from each other</td>
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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
Partnering with Private Sector
Administrative and Legislative Processes
SECURING SUPPORT OF THE PARLIAMENT FOR IP
Town Hall Meetings, Presentations at Chambers of Commerce, Private Sector Professional Groups
Partnerships with Universities and R&D Centres
Media Outreach to improve awareness
Reality of the Federal Republic, Multilingual with different levels of development and IP Cognizance
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?