



# Media Advisory

## Global South-South Development EXPO 2011

### *Worldwide Stakeholders Coming Together to Showcase Southern-Grown Development Solutions*

NEW YORK: 8 November 2011 - With a motto of "Solutions, Solutions, Solutions!" the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo), a UN system-wide forum developed by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to showcase successful Southern development solutions, will be hosted at the headquarters of The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, Italy on 5-9 December 2011.

Rather than simply discussing the challenges faced by the global South or debating generalized prescriptions for overcoming them, the GSSD Expo provides a forum for developing countries and their development partners, including donor agencies, UN organizations, and private-sector and civil society organizations, to showcase their evidence-based South-South development solutions.

Driven by the strong desire of the international community to continue to share and exchange South-South development solutions, the GSSD Expo 2011 will feature a wide-range of activities showcasing shining examples of Southern successes in dealing with the complex cross-cutting development challenges that arise from food insecurity.

Building on past successes the GSSD Expo 2011 will kick-off with a High-level segment featuring: Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser of Qatar, President of UN General Assembly's Sixty-Sixth Session; Ambassador Macharia Kamau of Kenya, President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation; Ambassador Jorge Argüello of Argentina, Chairman of the Group of 77; Jacques Diouf, Director-General of FAO; Kanayo Nwanze, President of IFAD; Josette Sheeran, Executive Director of WFP; Getachew Engida, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO; David Nabarro, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Representative for Food Security and Nutrition; J. Brian Atwood, Chair of the OECD/DAC; and Ahmad Modamed Ali, President of the Islamic Development Bank Group.

Following the High-level segment a Leadership Round Table, moderated by Zeinab Badawi of the BBC, will feature an interactive dialogue with renowned leaders in South-South and triangular cooperation: Yuan Longping, Researcher, Hybride Rice, China; Rajendra S. Paroda, Former Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR); Esther Penunia, Secretary General of the Asian Farmers Association; and Monty Jones, Chairperson of the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) and CEO of the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA).

The GSSD Expo will feature Solution Exchange Forums on: Agriculture and Capacity Development; Social Protection and Agriculture; Climate Change, Environment and Agriculture; Nutrition and HIV/AIDS; Global Health and Agriculture; and Renewable Energy and Agribusiness.

Since its inception in 2008, the GSSD Expo has been a strong symbol of the United Nation's commitment to promoting South-South cooperation. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UNDP Administrator Helen Clark have both stressed the importance of South-South cooperation in helping the global South achieve its many goals, chief amongst them the Millennium Development Goals. "The growing trend among Southern countries to look not only to reducing poverty within their own borders but also to raise the development prospects of other developing countries is exhibited across a range of countries, including strong emerging economies and other South-South pivotal countries," said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Borne out of the High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation and the call within the Nairobi Outcome Document, the GSSD Expo, as part of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation's 3-in-1 multilateral support architecture, is facilitating closer links and sharing among Member States and the United Nations development system.

While much of the world has faced difficulty in their efforts to achieve the MDGs, several countries of the South have seen major successes in realizing achievements in reducing extreme poverty, improving school enrolment and child health, and expanding access to clean water, malaria control and HIV/AIDS treatment. The GSSD Expo, through highlighting the innovative solutions that have yielded these advances, seeks to provide a roadmap for Southern countries that are in comparable circumstances and face similar challenges in the hopes of creating a stronger South in the future.

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Achieving food security for all is at the heart of **The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**'s efforts - to make sure people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

FAO's activities comprise four main areas: Putting information within reach, Sharing policy expertise, Providing a meeting place for nations, and Bringing knowledge to the field.

**The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation (SU/SSC)** was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1978. Hosted in UNDP, our primary mandate is to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation on a Global and United Nations system-wide basis. Our work is broadly organized into three focus areas: Policy, Dialogue & Development; Public Private Partnership; and Southern Development Exchange.

**[www.southsouthexpo.org](http://www.southsouthexpo.org)**