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Questions to Consider When Designing Support Mechanisms for Triangular Cooperation (Triangular Cooperation) Projects

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This document offers a set of potential questions to guide the design of support mechanisms for Triangular Cooperation projects. It was developed based on discussions from the first MÁS QUE TRES Co-Laboratory in Tela, Honduras. As a dynamic and evolving resource, this inventory aims to support and enhance the creation and improvement of these mechanisms in the region. Countries are encouraged to contribute by sharing questions and decisions they have encountered when developing or reflecting on their own current or future processes.

Questions Regarding the General Structure of the Fund/Mechanism

- What is the rationale for creating or renewing the mechanism (e.g., new Triangular Cooperation policy, presidential agreement, resource surplus, etc.)?
- What legal framework will support the mechanism or the partnership (if it is a joint mechanism)?
How can the partners' models be aligned to reflect the horizontal nature of Triangular Cooperation?
- How will responsibilities be shared among the partners creating the fund or mechanism?
- Will a governance body, such as a steering committee, be established?
Who will participate?
How often will meetings be held?
How will decisions be made? (voting, consensus, etc.)
- What will be the phases or operational cycle of the mechanism? (consider timelines for project calls and implementation)
- What will each partner contribute to the creation of the fund (both technical and financial)?
Is it a one-time contribution?
Is it an annual contribution, and if so, for how many years?
- How will the resources be managed?
Will they be transferred to one of the partners for management (e.g., Chile-European Union Fund)?
Does the partner have the administrative capacity to receive and manage the funds?
Will a third party handle the administration (e.g., Costa Rica-European Union Fund, Colombia-Germany-European Union Tripartite Fund)?
Is the third party a partner in the fund, or solely an administrative entity?
What is the cost of outsourcing fund management?
Will each partner manage its own resources (e.g., Brazil-European Union Fund)?
What types of expenses will each partner be responsible for?
Are the procurement processes clear?
- How will the fund or mechanism be managed from a technical perspective?
By the triangular cooperation departments of the institutions launching the fund?
Or will it be delegated to a third party?

Questions Regarding the Impact of the Mechanism's Creation within the Institution(s) Promoting it:

- What new processes does this fund create for the country or organization launching it (project call management, financial management, monitoring and accountability processes, task forces for project identification, etc.)?
- Which areas of the institutions involved need to be engaged in managing the fund or mechanism?
At what point will each area be involved?
- Is cross-departmental reflection or collaboration needed to process lessons from designing or implementing the fund or mechanism?
- Is the process for registering new projects in the information systems clearly defined?

Questions Regarding the Projects the Fund or Mechanism may Support

- How will project proposals be identified?
Through an open call?
Through a closed call?
Will the mechanism's sponsors proactively seek project opportunities?
- How long will the call be open for countries to propose projects?
Is this timeframe sufficient for countries to submit proposals?
Will questions be accepted during the open call?
How will the call be publicized?
- What themes or sectors can the projects supported by the mechanism cover?
Any theme or sector?
A selection of specific themes or sectors agreed upon by the countries launching the mechanism (e.g., through a thematic priority alignment between partners)?
Will there be cross-cutting criteria that must be met?
- Who can participate in the projects supported by the mechanism?
Does it have a regional focus?
Is there an emphasis on any particular type of proponent?
Will it be mandatory for actors from each of the countries in a joint fund to participate in the technical exchange?
What role will cooperation lead institutions play?
Official channel?
Potential proponent?
Publicizing the call?
- Will a maximum amount be defined per project?
- How many initiatives can be supported?
In total
Per country
By maximum funding per project
By total available funding



- **What guidance will the fund or mechanism provide to clarify doubts and facilitate proposal development?**
 - Online sessions for clarifying doubts (general or country-specific)?
 - Methodology guide?
 - Instructions for completing forms?
 - Form templates with sample proposals?
 - Support from local offices, embassies, or Training Centers?
 - Pre-training?
- **What criteria will be used to select initiatives?**
 - Will there be post-selection feedback? Will it be general, country-specific, or project-specific?
- **What type of commitment is required from the stakeholders, and at what stage of the cycle should it be presented?**
 - No commitment, unofficial agreement, official letter of commitment, or co-funding commitment for a percentage of the total project costs?
 - What types of co-funding are eligible?
- **What expenses will the fund or mechanism cover?**
 - What level of co-funding is expected from other partners (minimum percentage, type of contribution, effort required)?
 - What expenses can the financial co-funding cover?
 - What expenses can in-kind co-funding cover?
- **What level of co-funding is expected from other partners (minimum percentage, type of contribution, effort required)?**
 - What expenses can the financial co-funding cover?
 - What expenses can in-kind co-funding cover?

Questions Regarding the Post-Selection Phases of Projects

- How much time will be provided for the design or planning of selected initiatives?
- What type of support will be offered for the design or planning phase?
- How will coordination roles for project execution be distributed by the fund or mechanism?
- What type of information needs to be collected from the start to ensure accountability for contributions (financial or otherwise)?

Ongoing Reflection

This inventory is continuously evolving and is enriched by new questions and lessons learned from Ibero-American funds and mechanisms. Future editions of the MÁS QUE TRES Co-Laboratory will continue to contribute knowledge for the subsequent phases of the operational cycle of these mechanisms.

[Share your learnings!](#)

