

# **PROGRAM FOR DECENTRALIZED SOUTH-SOUTH TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

## **I. BACKGROUND**

It wasn't until the 90's and early 2000 that several cities in Brazil and Latin America embraced a common practice among their European counterparts, namely international initiatives. The reasons for undertaking this experience are many, among which we can highlight international fundraising, exchange of knowledge and experience, national and international visibility and, often, coordination with international political trends.

Recent changes in the global scene offer local governments the opportunity to play a leading-role in the process of redeveloping the international cooperation agenda, under the decentralized modality. The concept of decentralized international technical cooperation focuses on strengthening the federal structure of the State. Thus mobilization and coordination between government levels concerning the guidelines of foreign policy have become important not only for the country's insertion on the international scene, but also a source of development for sub-national governments.

The implementation of federal international cooperation requires the negotiation of a common agenda on international issues of mutual interest such as international technical cooperation, border integration, regional integration, South-South cooperation, trilateral cooperation, among others. However, the development of a common agenda must not intervene in the agendas of local governments, which vary in purpose and form in the different levels of government. Therefore, this policy must be guided by the respect for autonomy, agendas and international interests of sub-national governments, respecting their constitutional powers and limits. This policy must also be combined with a non-interventionist behavior and shall not instrumentalize sub-national governments.

South-South cooperation is part of this perspective and has become extremely prominent in recent years. South-South countries have made direct investments in technology transfer, sharing solutions, new techniques and regional integration initiatives. The guiding principles of South-South cooperation are respect for sovereignty, equality, horizontal relationship, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual benefit. South-South cooperation is an act of solidarity between southern

countries. It allows national welfare improvement and contributes to the achievement of international commitments, such as the Millennium Development Goals.

In this context, the Deputy Office for Federative Affairs from the Secretariat of Institutional Relations of the Office of the President of the Republic, (SAF/SRI/PR) and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of External Relations (ABC/MRE) have gathered efforts to foster greater participation of sub-national units in the international cooperation agenda of the Brazilian Government.

ABC/MRE and SAF/SRI/PR are launching this Program for Decentralized South-South International Cooperation Projects seeking to increase their role in promoting this international initiative of Brazilian states and municipalities. This action aims at capitalizing the strategic potential of the Brazilian Federation to strengthen sub-national governments, by supporting the coordination of their international initiatives with Brazilian Foreign Policy and, at the same time, making it more accessible to the whole Federation.

## **II. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **1. Within the context of Brazilian technical cooperation, what does “decentralized technical cooperation” mean?**

Brazilian technical cooperation is strategically focused on the institutional strengthening of its partners. This is a crucial condition for effective knowledge transfer and intake. Brazilian cooperation does not seek profit nor has commercial interests. The purpose of technical cooperation is to share successful experiences and best practices according to the demand of partner countries.

In this sense, decentralized international technical cooperation refers to international actions undertaken by Brazilian sub-national governments (municipalities and states). Such initiatives contribute to overcome development challenges and strengthen public policies of the foreign partner by building capacity of local actors.

### **2. What countries are eligible for this Program?**

This program aims to encourage technical cooperation relations between the governments of Brazilian states and municipalities with their counterparts in developing countries.

### **3. What topics are covered by the Program?**

- Health;
- Education;
- Citizen security;
- Local Governance;
- Sustainable territorial development;

- Sustainable agriculture;
- Food Security;
- Conservation and Restoration of heritage;
- Sport and leisure;
- Technological innovation and scientific development;
- Vocational training;
- Sustainable Tourism;
- Environment and climate change;
- Culture, and
- Strengthening of expertise to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

#### **4. What are the states and municipalities covered by this Program?**

This program focuses on the performance of the Brazilian state and municipal governments in matters related to the exchange of knowledge and experience, institutional strengthening and capacity-building. Authorities from Brazilian states and municipalities must submit a proposal prepared with authorities from partner countries, according to their demands.

Brazilian and foreign private sector institutions, nongovernmental organizations, universities, development agencies and international organizations may participate in projects as associate/partner agencies, in as long as they observe the terms of cooperation and implementation of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC).

#### **5. What is the amount of the proposal?**

The amount of funding for proposals may not exceed USD 200,000.00 (two hundred thousand U.S. dollars), disbursed by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency – ABC. Also, the Brazilian Technical Evaluation Committee will evaluate the proposals case-by-case.

The project may dispose of a budget which exceeds the amount of funding (two hundred thousand U.S. dollars) if it has other sources of funds. These funds shall be properly itemized and detailed in the project form and in each activity.

The Committee will evaluate the technical feasibility, the methodology applied and the expected social impact according to the potential integration of each project to the context of beneficiary countries.

The technical and financial contributions will be directly executed by ABC/MRE.

In the submission form under the field "project budget", indirect costs such as technical hours, the use of infrastructure, logistics, equipment, as well as direct financial contribution of local authorities and partners involved in the initiatives shall be indicated.

## 6. Eligible and Ineligible expenses

Project proposals under the Program for Decentralized South-South Technical Cooperation may have as eligible expenses:

- 1) payment of airplane and bus tickets (cheapest available); Per Diems (amount determined by ABC depending on location), travel insurance (for international travels);
- 2) payment of individual and corporate consultancy (by means of a selection process and evidence of institutional inability to develop the topic);

Other costs may be considered eligible by means of specific justification and approval by ABC prior to submission of project proposal.

The operation of expenses foreseen above will follow ABC's implementation criteria and procedures, which are to be informed upon the approval of the proposal.

Costs related to the regular administrative management of institutions such as the payment of water, electricity, gas, telephone, internet etc, must be considered ineligible expenses.

## 7. What are the principles of decentralized technical cooperation?

**7.1 Local ownership / response to demands:** The initiatives must meet local demands with regards to institutional strengthening and increase of technical capacity, promoting coordinated actions between the Brazilian sub-national governments and foreign local authorities.

**7.2 Strong partnerships & strategic institutions:** The Program will support partnerships between state and local governments in Brazil and foreign local authorities based on mutual interests, boosting technical cooperation in major public policy topics and issues under the responsibility of sub-national governments;

**7.3 Knowledge Exchange:** The initiatives supported aim to facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge among Brazilian sub-national governments and foreign local authorities in order to increase and add value to local expertise, acting as a coordinated process of social change ;

**7.4 Project management and coordination:** The Program will mainly support initiatives which clearly describe the objectives and results developed by the parties. Such actions may involve, among others, aspects identified as priorities by SAF/SRI/PR and ABC/MRE, the transfer of technical and technological knowledge, enhancement of public management practices, as well as the exchange of good practices.

**7.5 Results Achieved:** Cooperation results can be replicated and debated. To this end, at least one national thematic meeting shall be conducted by SAF/SRI/PR and ABC/MRE in partnership with the National Mayors' Front (FNP), the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM), the Brazilian Association of Municipalities

(ABM) and the National Council of Planning State Secretaries (CONSEPLAN). Partner countries will also attend the meeting.

**7.6 Management Strategy:** project proposals submitted to this program shall present description of a clear management and evaluation strategy, including the monitoring by the Technical Evaluation Committee.

**7.7 Communication Strategy:** Project proposals submitted to this program should include the objective description of a multilevel communication strategy, capable of publicizing the achievements of the project, giving widespread visibility to all partners involved.

## **8. What are the criteria for Selection?**

Proponents shall follow the rules and procedures governing international technical cooperation, as well as procedures established through international and bilateral acts.

**8.1** Selected proposals will be those that best meet the needs of the local foreign government. The technical, budgetary and methodological aspects of each proposal will be assessed according to the criteria and score below:

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b>
Expected Results	300
Suitability/Adequacy of Project	250
Social Impact	175
Technical and financial management capacity	100
Budget compatibility	100
Counterpart of the foreign partner (local government)	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

**8.2** During evaluation of proposals, issues such as political context and domestic security of partner countries will be taken into consideration.

**8.3.** Proposals that fail to comply with the rules and conditions of this tender will be disqualified.

## **9. What is the deadline for project implementation?**

Projects will be valid for one year, as of the signature of approved projects, and may be extended for an equal period of time upon approval of the Committee Secretariat.

An additional term deferral of up to 3 months will be considered for receipt of final reports and eventual publications.

## **10. Who will evaluate the proposals?**

The Technical Evaluations Committee will be composed by representatives of the following institutions:

- Deputy Office for Federative Affairs from the Secretariat of Institutional Relations of the Office of the President of the Republic (SAF/SRI);
- Brazilian Cooperation Agency from the Ministry of External Relations (ABC/MRE);
- National Mayors' Front; (FNP);
- National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM);
- Brazilian Association of Municipalities (ABM);
- National Council of Planning State Secretaries (CONSEPLAN).

**10.1** Technical Evaluation Committee activities will be supported by the Committee Secretariat, composed of the Deputy Office for Federative Affairs from the Secretariat of Institutional Relations of the Office of the President of the Republic and by the Brazilian Cooperation Agency from the Ministry of External Relations .

**10.2** The proposals will be examined in Brazil during collective meetings of the Technical Evaluation Committee on the dates specified in item **13.2** of this document.

## **11. To whom the proposal may be submitted and what aspects shall it cover?**

Project proposals shall be jointly prepared by Brazilian sub-national governments and foreign partners local authorities, indicating the name(s) of the coordinating institution(s) of the project.

**IMPORTANT.** The projects, written by both Parties, must accompany a formal request for cooperation from the foreign local government, as well as a letter of acceptance of the Brazilian local government.

Proposals can only be submitted by electronic means to the following email:

- [cooperacaosulsul@presidencia.gov.br](mailto:cooperacaosulsul@presidencia.gov.br)

An email confirmation will be forwarded by the Committee Secretariat to the applicant upon receipt of its proposal.

In addition, the beneficiary country requesting agency/institution must submit a formal request for cooperation to its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who will submit the demand to the local Brazilian Embassy, so that all projects implemented under the auspices of this Program are in line with Brazilian Foreign Policy.

## **12. Is there a specific format for submitting project proposals?**

Yes there is one and it shall be completed and submitted before the deadline for receipt of proposals, in the following format: "Times New Roman 12" single spaced.

The form can be accessed via the following web page:

Deputy Office for Federative Affairs (SAF)

<http://www4.planalto.gov.br/saf-projetos>

## **13. What is the deadline for submission of proposals?**

In 2012, there will be two dates for receipt of proposals. The first deadline will end on **June 29, 2012**, and the second on **August 31, 2012**.

**13.1** No proposals will be accepted after the deadline established in this Program.

### **13.2 Calendar**

- February 29, 2012 - Official Release of the Program for Decentralized South-South Technical Cooperation;
- June 29, 2012 - 1st deadline for receiving proposals
- July 9, 2012 - Technical Evaluation Committee Meeting
- July 13, 2012 - Announcement of Selected Projects
- August 31, 2012 - 2nd deadline for receiving proposals
- September 10, 2012 - Technical Evaluation Committee Meeting
- September 14, 2012 - Announcement of Selected Projects

## **14. Can the State/Municipality submit more than one proposal?**

No. The state or municipality may submit only one proposal, which must follow the provisions mentioned in this Program.

## **15. When will you be informed if the proposal was accepted?**

- Up to July 13<sup>th</sup> – First deadline
- Up to September 14<sup>th</sup> – Second deadline

## **16. To whom may I address my questions?**

Omitted and special cases or questions concerning the interpretation of the rules governing this program shall be forwarded to the Committee Secretariat at the following e-mail address: [cooperacaosulsul@presidencia.gov.br](mailto:cooperacaosulsul@presidencia.gov.br)

