

# Organising Inclusive Ownership

## The EU's Structured Dialogue to strengthen cooperation with Southern non-state actors

### Conference in the European Parliament



Photograph: Javier del Campo

Read the experts' comments on the unique experiences  
of South-South Cooperation:

Partners in South-South Cooperation  
Social Watch  
Cordaid Communities of Change

Comments expressed during conference in the European Parliament

# COLOPHON

## Editor

Mirjam van Reisen

## Editorial Assistance

Kees Bos

## Copy Editor

Mark Speer, Contactivity bv

## Layout and Design

Andreas Langner, Filip De Keukeleere

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EEPA (Europe External Policy Advisors) is a Brussels-based group of experts specialising in EU development policy. EEPA's work is motivated by the goal of promoting a socially responsible European Union, based on the values of solidarity and equality and with a strong focus on global poverty eradication. EEPA's objective is to strengthen the participation of actors that can contribute to building a responsible, social Europe. EEPA is both a politically and financially independent organisation.

## EEPA

Rue Stévin 115

1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel. +32 (0)2 230 07 32

Fax. +32 (0)2 230 37 80

E-mail: [info@eepa.be](mailto:info@eepa.be)

Website: <http://www.eepa.be>



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# Conference in the European Parliament

**Organising Inclusive Ownership, the EU's Structured Dialogue to strengthen cooperation with Southern non-state actors  
31 May 2011, the European Parliament**

This conference focused on the Partners in South-South Cooperation, in the heart of the European Parliament's impressively huge building in the key city for European decision making, Brussels. Experts on the project discussed the cooperation with interested Members of the European Parliament on 31 May 2011.

Speakers engaged in a serious debate, sitting around an enormous round table in a spacious conference room on the building's 5th floor. The audience, meanwhile, seated around the speakers, fired volleys of inspiring questions at the speakers.

## Thijs Berman



- Member of the European Parliament for the Dutch Labour Party, PvdA, since 2004
- Former journalist in Paris and Moscow
- Studied psychology in Amsterdam and Utrecht, and philosophy at Université Vincennes Saint-Denis (Paris VIII)

Thijs Berman chaired the meeting. He welcomed the guests and speakers, and opened the meeting by giving the floor to René Castro Salazar, Costa Rican Minister of Foreign Affairs.

## René Castro Salazar



- Minister of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica, since 2010
- Former Minister of Environment and Energy (1994-1998); performed the first CO2 transaction in the world
- Master's and doctorate from Harvard University

Minister René Castro Salazar expressed the view that every country is capable of effecting policy change. His country, Costa Rica, is an example. It was one of the first countries to reverse deforestation.

With this view in mind, Castro asked the European Union to learn from the success of the cooperation between Costa Rica, Benin and Bhutan. This partnership in South-South cooperation can be used as a model for other cooperation projects.

The minister stressed it is important to clearly differentiate each party's responsibilities. 'The questions that need to be asked are: what is the role of the EU in this kind of South-South cooperation, and how can the EU facilitate South-South cooperation?'

*'The lessons learned should be absorbed by the EU.'*

# Panel 1: Relevance of South-South cooperation

## Marianella Feoli



- Coordinator of Partners in South-South Cooperation in Costa Rica, since October 2006

Just how successful is the Partners in South-South Cooperation? And what are the secrets of its success?

First of all, Marianella Feoli stressed the balanced participation by the three countries in the programme's 36 projects. 'This was a learning and sharing experience not only for private organisations, but also for public organisations, such as NGOs and universities.'

Feoli then showed a video that demonstrated the programme's added value. The projects have improved sustainable development, employment opportunities, economic growth and gender equality.

For instance, experts in Benin have introduced people in Costa Rica and Bhutan to the idea of cultivating edible insects as nutritional cattle feed and as a source of extra income. Bhutanese experts shared knowledge with farmers in Costa Rica and Benin on the cultivation of high-value shiitake mushrooms. And Costa Rican farmers taught their colleagues in Benin how to cultivate and market organic pineapples.

Thanks to this comprehensive approach, the programme received the United Nations Global Award for South-South Cooperation in 2010 in the 'Partnership' and 'Climate Change Solutions' categories.

The figures are impressive. To date, the programme has created 328 new enterprises and 174 new services; 8,885 families are using clean technologies, and 3,505 farmers have converted to organic production; 4,717 families have improved their annual income; and 1,200 women have been included in decision-making processes.

## Roberto Bissio



- Coordinator of Social Watch
- Executive Director of Third World Institute (ITeM)
- Studied architecture at Universidad de la República, Uruguay

The audience in the spacious room listened to Roberto Bissio talk about the ambiguous nature of South-South cooperation, as it can be applied in a number of fields. This particular form of cooperation mainly concerns trade and investment.

*'South-South trade, for example, has the highest added value compared to traditional North-South trade. It is a vital form of trade for the development of Southern countries.'*

Opportunities exist, according to Bissio, now that the European Union's new treaty, the Lisbon Treaty, provides a legal mandate and a yardstick for development cooperation. He suggested adopting a definition of South-South cooperation. There is also a need, in Bissio's opinion, to develop ways of measuring outputs, so that cooperation can be made accountable to the public.

## René Grotenhuis



- Executive Director of development organisation Cordaid, since 2003
- Former director of Pharos
- Studied theology at Katholieke Theologische Hogeschool Utrecht

The EU's approach to South-South cooperation is fragmented at the moment, said René Grotenhuis. 'A more systematic approach would increase the possibility of developing a targeted strategy.' Cordaid is using this kind of systematic approach in its 'Communities of Change' programme.

*'South-South cooperation has its own dynamics, and it is important that it is given all the room it needs.'*

The director of Cordaid said that 'the EU should use the Structured Dialogue and its focus on ownership to implement policies that include all stakeholders and identify the most promising development strategies.'

## Charles B. Todjinou



- Ambassador of Benin to the European Union in Brussels

'The EU should consider increasing its technical assistance and budget for South-South cooperation,' argued

ambassador Charles B. Todjinou. Why? Because in his view, South-South cooperation should supplement traditional North-South cooperation.

*'South-South cooperation is cheaper than traditional aid, and it builds on shared experiences.'*

The Beninese ambassador also called for an increase in the European Development Fund (EDF). Funding should be made available for projects in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

## Lhaba Tshering



- Senior Programme Officer at the Sustainable Development Secretariat, Thimphu, Bhutan
- Studied at the Boston University School of Management

Like the ambassador from Benin, Bhutan's representative, Lhaba Tshering, pointed out how important it is for the EU to learn from the positive South-South cooperation that has been supported by EU Member States such as the Netherlands, and not reinvent the wheel.

## Panel 2: EU and South-South cooperation

### Aristotelis Bouratsis



- Director of Direction F 'Thematic operations' of the EuropeAid Development and Cooperation (DEVCO) Directorate-General at the European Commission, since 2008

Aristotelis Bouratsis opened the second panel by saying that South-South cooperation has been practised for a long time. He gave the example of regional programming in the cooperation for the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries via the European Development Fund. In South America, for example, it represents around 60% of the total budget of the countries in the region.

But there are some key issues that should be taken into account, Bouratsis warned, because it is not only development that matters. Essential values like democracy, human rights and good governance have to be respected. If not, there can be no cooperation. These values are the most important thing that we have in the EU.

Bouratsis acknowledged there is a need to increase financial support (from three to five per cent) to facilitate the creation of continental and intercontinental networks, and to keep interregional programmes going.

*Bouratsis announced that the EU will continue to support regional networks.*

The top official of the European Commission also announced that there will be a Communication of the European Commission on the role of civil society in development in 2012.

### Izabella Toth



- Policy Advisor Institutional Funds at Cordaid since 2004
- Studied law at Erasmus University Rotterdam and literature at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest

Izabella Toth reminded the guests of the purpose of the Structured Dialogue, a process in which Cordaid took part, as one of the CONCORD representatives. A total of nine European platforms and 700 NGOs from around the world were involved.

The Structured Dialogue is a process that was launched on 23 March 2010 under the leadership of the European Commission to identify how the European Commission can improve its cooperation with civil society and local authorities globally.

Toth expressed the view that one of the most important outcomes of the Structured Dialogue is the clear acknowledgment of civil society's role in development. Important global principles have been reaffirmed and acknowledged by the rights-based approach to development and democratic ownership. The latter is very important, because it empowers civil society organisations in the cooperation process.

The EU has also been called on to adopt a specific strategy for engaging with civil society organisations and to draw from an appropriate mix of funding mechanisms (including modalities and selection procedures), incorporating sensible actor differentiation and a flexible set of responses adaptable to different local situations.

## Panel 3: Leadership for a European policy for South-South cooperation

### Charles Goerens



- Member of the European Parliament for the Democratic Party of Luxembourg, first elected in 1982
- Former Minister for Cooperation, Humanitarian Action, and Defence for Luxembourg 1999-2004

Charles Goerens, member of the EP Development Committee, commented on the financial side of the issue. He thinks there is not enough money in official develop-

*'There is a need to build capacity in the South.'*

ment assistance (ODA). It is important to consider what kind of cooperation is in the interest of the stakeholders. Goerens actively followed the Structured Dialogue. He agreed with Toth's view that the involvement of civil society is essential and pointed out that new initiatives should be taken, but without changing the rules.

### Gay Mitchell



- Member of the European Parliament for Irish party Fine Gael, since 2004
- Former Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs

MEP Gay Mitchell indicated the importance of property ownership to development. The Irish politician also argued that we need to enhance information technology and financial services in developing countries.

Gay Mitchell recalled the process of negotiating an instrument for development cooperation and reiterated the relevance of the target agreed with the Commission to spend 20% of official development assistance on basic health and education.

Gay Mitchell reminded the audience that poverty eradication must be at the heart of the EU's external policies.

## Obadiah Mailafia



- Chef de Cabinet of the ACP Secretariat

Former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Senior Advisor to the President of Nigeria

‘Leadership is a decisive part of South-South cooperation,’ Obadiah Mailafia told the conference in the European Parliament. Mailafia saw economic development as a learning process, not an instinct. It is something that one can learn from those who already have the experience. ‘This is why ACP countries should really look at South-South cooperation.’

South-South Cooperation has been going on for a long time (e.g., the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation – APEC fund), but it has not been mainstreamed into the development discourse. There is a need for a stronger framework for non-governmental organisations, and for trilateral engagement. He said that South-South cooperation is the way forward for African, Caribbean and Pacific states. The European Union is in the best position to offer support, and should therefore invest in this form of cooperation, he said.

*‘More resources are needed for EDF programming and South-South cooperation.’*

There is also a need to mainstream paradigms of sustainable development into organisations like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

## Thijs Berman



- Member of the European Parliament for the Dutch Labour Party, PvdA, since 2004

Thijs Berman closed the debate. The Dutch MEP promised the participants that the European Parliament will make sure that South-South cooperation will be on the agenda when voting takes place for the next Multi-annual Financial Framework.

## Mirjam van Reisen



- Professor of International Social Responsibility at Tilburg University, since 2010
- Director of the advisory group, EEPA, in Brussels, since 2003
- PhD from Maastricht University

Referring to the global character of today’s challenges, Mirjam van Reisen concluded that ‘it is time that the EU, as a leader in promoting aid effectiveness, supports South-South cooperation instead of just focusing on bilateral aid.’

‘South-South cooperation,’ she went on, ‘ensures that developing countries are equal partners in their own development. It creates joint global responsibility for global problems.’

# Recommendations

Following are some of the general lessons learned from the views of the many experts and politicians during the debates in the Parliament of the Netherlands and the European Parliament:

- South-South cooperation is the way forward.
- The Partners in South-South Cooperation initiative provides a good model for similar projects between countries in the South. The organisation has been successful at creating jobs and products, and improving both the environment and thousands of people's living conditions at a relatively low cost.
- Social Watch has demonstrated how to build civil society's capacity as a watchdog for monitoring governments and increasing their effectiveness and accountability.
- Globalisation means that problems are increasingly crossing borders. It is through South-South cooperation that communities of change can be built not only within but also between countries. The stronger they are, the more likely they will have the capacity to find solutions together.
- More resources are needed for South-South cooperation.
- South-South cooperation has its own dynamics, and it is important that it gets all the room it needs.
- It is time that the EU, as a leader in promoting aid effectiveness, supports South-South cooperation instead of just focusing on bilateral aid.

# 'A new way for development aid'

## Interview with Marianella Feoli

'A new, different way for development, that's what I call it. Instead of one party telling the other what to do, we need to learn from each other. Aid must be built on equality.' Young and cheerful Marianella Feoli is the coordinator in Costa Rica for the Partners in South-South Cooperation. In this programme, Costa Rica, Benin and Bhutan help each other to develop.

For example, farmers in Bhutan taught farmers in Costa Rica how to grow a variety of mushrooms. An expert farmer from the National Mushroom Centre of Bhutan spent two weeks in Costa Rica. He spoke to small groups of farmers who previously cultivated blackberries. But global warming meant they were harvesting less and less. 'Learning how to cultivate shiitake mushrooms meant they had a new product, and therefore a new market a well. This is just one of 36 projects that was launched.'

*How did you choose the projects?*

'We made an inventory of these countries' strengths and weaknesses. And then we made a connection. We looked at pineapple cultivation, for example, which is one of Costa Rica's strengths. Benin, on the other hand, was having difficulty growing them. So growers from Costa Rica gave advice to farmers in Benin.

'Bhutan is another example. It wanted to concentrate less on nature tourism and more on adventure tourism. A foreign rafting company was called in to help. And besides helping Bhutan's tourism industry, this company learned many other things in Bhutan.'

*Are there more projects on the horizon?*

'Yes, quite a few as a matter of fact. There is an organic farming project in the pipeline. Bhutan and Costa Rica want to improve their farmers' technical skills. How many insecticides are needed for the cultivation of red rice? And how can we create more opportunities for small-scale farmers? The new projects are getting a chance to grow thanks to the success of the 36 ongoing projects. We are trying to improve more than just the technical knowledge of those involved. We also want to improve the trade. Teach people how to sell something for US\$100, instead of US\$5.'

'So we try to bring together people from different countries and different sectors. Besides helping farmers' organisa-

tions with technical knowledge, we also provide logistical help. Pineapple growers are not only interested in increasing their yield per acre. In Benin, the yield has actually increased from 30,000 to 70,000 kilos per hectare, thanks to help from Costa Rica. But helping them sell their product on the European market is just as important. After all, there's no point increasing your yield if you can't sell your product.

*Aren't exporters from Costa Rica, Benin and Bhutan becoming competitors then?*

'The market in Europe is big enough to handle exports from all three countries. We are now on the market together. If one producer is short on produce, he recommends the products of a colleague from another country. We are three small countries, not competitors.'

*Will other countries join the partnership?*

'Sure! Right now, we have three very different countries operating on the market. A list of their differences would be very long! Just as the list of similarities would be short. But the point is, what do we have in common? This is the basis for participating successfully in a project like this. In South America, we have approached Peru, Ecuador and Guatemala, and they are interested. We also approached Haiti.'

*Haiti? Can you learn from such a poor country?*

'Absolutely. We were in contact with a small community in Haiti. They told us about a microcredit project that was handing out small loans. The people in Costa Rica were very interested in this project. That is an idea that we can further develop.'

*The partnership was created with a grant of €8 million from Dutch development funds. Will you ask the Dutch for more money?*

'No! The reason we are now in the Netherlands is to show people that their tax money was not wasted. It's really about accountability. We want people to be confident that their money is being well spent. Perhaps others would like to contribute, but we certainly will not ask the Dutch government for more money. We are grateful to you all.'

'It was a crazy Dutch idea to have three developing countries work together. But the best things come out of the craziest ideas.'

# ‘South-South cooperation starts to pay off’

**Matthijs van Bonzel, Ambassador of the Netherlands in Costa Rica, interviewed by EEPA on the success of the project run by Partners in South-South Cooperation**



*What makes the Partners in South-South Cooperation special and stand out from other programmes you have seen?*

‘Traditional development cooperation is very much North-South oriented. The North sends funds, experts and ideas, and the South receives them. South-South as conceived by Costa Rica, Benin, Bhutan and the Netherlands wanted to break through that trend. That takes time. South-South is still innovative today.’

‘South-South cooperation is starting to pay off. Gradually. Original, pioneering ideas are producing results today. To mention a few: the exchange of new agricultural methods, the exchange of best practices in eco-tourism, the discovery of Afro-Caribbean cultural links, music, how to promote micro-entrepreneurship for women, the diversification of rural people’s diets, coping with climate change in developing countries. And to mention a special case: the discovery of the happiness index as a useful tool to measure development worldwide, in addition to the traditional GDP index.’

*From the 36 partnership projects that were implemented, which three projects were very special for you?*

‘Sustainable agriculture. Costa Rica has been sharing 20 years of experience in integrated rural development, combining three things, win-win-win: helping farmers to reforest degrading land, diversifying agricultural production and protecting water supplies.

‘Mushrooms. Asians know how to produce, commercialise and consume them, while Latin Americans don’t. So Bhutan shows the way, helping women to organise and produce a new crop, and sell it to the better Asian health food restaurants in San Jose.

Music. I met up with enthusiastic musicians from Benin and exchanged knowledge and inspiration with Costa Ricans about the origin and current development of Afro-Caribbean music in Latin America.’

*Partners in South-South Cooperation won the United Nations Global Award for South-South Cooperation in 2010. Do you think they deserved it?*

‘New areas of cooperation and exchange are arising between developing countries and emerging nations. The UN welcomes this development. It is still moderate in terms of its impact, but nonetheless positive and on a global scale. That’s why it deserves the UN’s recognition. A well-observed and well-deserved award.’

*What impact has the programme had to have made it such a success?*

‘Southern nations have become both co-donors and co-recipients. They advise each other and work together. We welcome such partnerships. We are facing the dramatic consequences of climate change. North and South need to work on the basis of these kinds of partnerships.’

*You are the Dutch ambassador to Costa Rica. What do you think has been the value of the programme for the relationship between Costa Rica and the Netherlands?*

‘The programme set the tone for a balanced and mature relationship. It suits both our nations well. Our relationship is evolving nowadays through the promotion of international legal order and trade, not aid.’

*What is the future of the programme and of South-South Cooperation?*

‘Publish or perish. Whence the importance of conferences and reports that not only evaluate the results, insights and experiences of Fundecooperación, Costa Rica’s platform for cooperation between the government, civil society, private stakeholders and other sectors, and but also the other governments involved, the women’s cooperatives and the farmers.’

# Speakers' biographies

Hearing in the European Parliament – 31 May 2011

Time: 15:00 – 17:00

## Organising Inclusive Ownership The EU's Structured Dialogue to strengthen cooperation with non-state actors in the South



### Thijs Berman

*Member of the European Parliament*

Having started his career as a news correspondent in Paris and Moscow for, among others, Dutch Public Radio and IKON, Thijs Berman became a Member of the European Parliament in 2004, where he sits on the Development Committee and the Subcommittee on Human Rights, and chairs the Delegation for Relations with Afghanistan. In 2009, he headed the Dutch Labour Party in the European elections after winning the party primaries.

### René Castro Salazar

*Minister of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica*

René Castro Salazar earned his master's and doctorate degrees from Harvard University. His postgraduate studies concentrated on design, environmental economics and natural resources. He has held various positions in the public sector in Costa Rica including Minister of Environment and Energy, Vice-minister of Internal Affairs, National Director of Transportation and president of the local government of San José. He has also held positions as a board member in various organisations in Costa Rica, and has attended conventions on biodiversity, climate change and the ozone as chief representative for Costa Rica.

### Erik Nijland

*Capacity Development Coordinator, Hivos*

Erik Nijland started working with Hivos in Central America, where he was in charge of the regional office. Hivos is a non-governmental organisation, based in the Netherlands and guided by humanist values, working for a fair, free and sustainable world. After five years in Central America, Nijland moved to The Hague and became Head of the Bureau of Sustainable Economic Development.

### Marianella Feoli

*General Manager of Fundecooperación for Sustainable Development*

Marianella Feoli is an industrial engineer and the General Manager of Fundecooperación for Sustainable Development, a Costa Rican non-government organisation with inter-sectoral representation dedicated to promoting and financing sustainable development projects. She is in charge of the Secretariat of Partners in South-South Cooperation for Benin, Bhutan and Costa Rica. She is also a professor at the University of Costa Rica, as part of the Faculty of Industrial Engineering in the field of social responsibility.

### Roberto Bissio

*Coordinator of Social Watch and Executive Director of the Third World Institute*

Roberto Bissio, a journalist and researcher from Uruguay, is the Executive Director of the Third World Institute and Coordinator of Social Watch, a network of civil society organisations in 50 countries devoted to the analysis and debate of social policies. Bissio is a member of the civil society committee that advises the United Nations Development Programme administrator and sits on the boards of the Third World Network, the Women's Environment and Development Organization and the Montreal International Forum. He also teaches social responsibility at the Faculty of Industrial Engineering at the University of Costa Rica.

### René Grotenhuis

*Executive Director, Cordaid*

René Grotenhuis is Director of Cordaid, the Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid, in The Hague, the Netherlands. Grotenhuis gained experience in the field of development cooperation, initially as a policy officer and later as a member of the executive board of several Dutch development organisations (until 1998). He was until recently the President of the International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE).

### **Mirjam van Reisen**

*Professor of International Social Responsibility, Tilburg University and Director of EEPA*

Mirjam van Reisen is founding director of Europe External Policy Advisors (EEPA) based in Brussels. She has 20 years experience working both in and alongside European Commission institutions. In October 2010, Van Reisen was appointed Professor of International Social Responsibility at Tilburg University. She is the author of *Window of Opportunity: EU Development Cooperation after the End of the Cold War* (Africa World Press) and *EU Global Player* (International Books). Mirjam van Reisen sits on the steering committee of Social Watch and serves on the board of the Transnational Institute.

### **Aristotelis Bouratsis**

*Director of Direction F (Thematic Operations), DG – EuropeAid*

Aristotelis Bouratsis is currently director of Direction F 'Thematic operations' of the EuropeAid Development and Cooperation (DEVCO) Directorate-General. He started at the European Commission in 1981 as an administrator. In 2001, he joined the EuropeAid cooperation office where he headed several units, including co-financing with NGOs and relations with civil society and non-state actors. In March 2008, he was named Director of Direction F for EuropeAid. He holds a doctorate in business economy and law from the University of Montpellier (France).

### **Izabella Toth**

*Policy Officer, Cordaid*

Izabella Toth is a Policy Officer for Institutional Funds at Cordaid, co-convenor of the working group of the International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE) and Caritas Europa, Chair of CONCORD's Financing for Development and Relief working group and Vice-chair of the CONCORD Structured Dialogue Taskforce. This Structured Dialogue Taskforce is responsible for the ongoing negotiations with the European Commission, Member States and European Parliament regarding the future (post-2013) working environment for CSOs in development cooperation.

### **Bernd Nilles**

*Secretary General of CIDSE*

Bernd Nilles has a background in political science, international and comparative politics and economics. Before joining International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE), he was Senior Development Policy Officer for the Federal State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia. Bernd Nilles worked for MISEREOR, the German member organisation of CIDSE, from 1995 to 2005; there he was responsible for a wide range of issues and several campaigns on trade and food security, biotechnology patents, debt, human rights and official development assistance. Since January 2008, he has been the Secretary General of CIDSE.

### **Gay Mitchell**

*Member of the European Parliament*

Gay Mitchell was elected as a Member of the European Parliament for the Dublin constituency on 11 June 2004. Mitchell is a full member of both the Development Committee, and the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs. He is also Vice-chairman of the EU delegation to the ACP–EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. He is a substitute member of the Delegation for Relations with the People's Republic of China. He was Minister of the State Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Foreign Affairs.

### **Charles Goerens**

*Member of the European Parliament*

Charles Goerens is a member of the Democratic Party (PD) in Luxembourg and has been a member of the European Parliament since 2009, where he sits on the Development Committee and the Subcommittee on Human Rights. He is also Vice-chairman of the EU Delegation to the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) – EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly. Charles Goerens was Minister for Cooperation, Humanitarian Action and Defence and Minister for the Environment from 1999 until 2004. Goerens also briefly served as Minister for Foreign Affairs in July 2004.

### **Obadiah Mailafia**

*Chef de Cabinet, Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States*

Economist, banker and financial expert, Obadiah Mailafia is a former Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, where he was responsible for monetary policy, foreign exchange operations, research, statistics and international institutions. He was also an official of the African Development Bank Group. Until recently, he was a member of the National Economic Management Team (NEMT) – the group that advises the President of Nigeria on economic policy and oversees economic policy management. Mailafia has several publications to his name.

# Overview of PSSC in the Media

Costa Rica: 'El sentido de urgencia nos está haciendo falta'

Radio Netherlands Worldwide Latinoamérica - 30/5/2011 (Spanish)

Canciller René Castro visita el Parlamento Europeo

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores - Republica de Costa Rica - 01/06/2011 (Spanish)

Canciller René Castro, alienta desde Holanda la cooperación Sur-Sur

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores - Republica de Costa Rica - 30/05/2011 (Spanish)

South-South cooperation, antidote to Western arrogance

Radio Netherlands Worldwide - 20/6/2011

<http://www.rnw.nl/afrique/article/coop%C3%A9ration-sud-sud-antidote-%C3%A0-larrogance-occidentale> (French)

Ontwikkelingslanden geven elkaar hulp

De Telegraaf (Dutch) 31/5/2011

Ontwikkelingslanden bedanken Nederlanders

OneWorld.nl - 8/6/2011 (Dutch)

Hulp van ontwikkelingslanden aan elkáár blijkt heel effectief

Trouw.nl - 3/6/2011 (Dutch)

Walking the Talk Towards South-South Cooperation

Indepthnews - 2/6/2011

'De optimisten hebben het vliegtuig uitgevonden'

ViceVersa - 1/6/2011 (Dutch)

Shift to south-south cooperation in developmental aid

New Europe - 31/5/2011

COSTA RICA: CANCELLER VALORO EN LA HAYA COOPERACION SUR-SUR

Ansa - 30/5/2011 (Spanish)

Costa Rica toont dankbaarheid aan Nederland

Reformatorisch Dagblad - 30/5/2011 (Dutch)

Costa Rica muestra su agradecimiento a Holanda

Radio Netherlands Worldwide - Latinoamérica - 30/05/2011 (Spanish)

PSSC leaders show Dutch their gratitude

Radio Netherlands Worldwide - 30/5/2011

Van Reisen, M. (2011) The old man and the seas. The future of EU-ACP relations. Special report in The Broker 25, June/July

Radio Hoe?Zo! – Interview with Mirjam van Reisen – 14/6/2011 [http://www.eepa.be/wcm/dmdocuments/Radio\\_HoeZo.pdf](http://www.eepa.be/wcm/dmdocuments/Radio_HoeZo.pdf)

CNN, Documentary/11/7/2011

'Pineapple farmers share expertise'

<http://edition.cnn.com/video/#/video/international/2011/07/11/mpa.purefoy.benin.pineapple.cnn?iref=allsearch>

# Award

In 2010, Partners in South-South Cooperation won the United Nations' South-South Cooperation Award in the categories 'Partnership' and 'Climate Change Solutions'. This award recognises Partners in South-South Cooperation as a successful programme because its activities emphasise mutual needs and interests based on reciprocity, equality between the members and the participation of governments, civil society, universities and businesses.



## PSC: winners of the UN Partnership Award!

2010-12-02



The Third Annual Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) concluded and we are extremely proud that we won the South-South Cooperation Award 2010 for Partnership and a special recognition as one of the most innovative solutions in the forum of climate change and environment.

"The Program for South-South Cooperation on Sustainable Development between Benin, Bhutan and Costa Rica (PSC) emerged as a Strategic Partnership for Cooperation on Sustainable Development by the Government of the Netherlands, which provided funding to promote environmental efforts in each of the countries. The South-South Cooperation Program has focused its efforts on three components of sustainable development: economic development, social development and environmental protection, three pillars that uphold one another. In its wide range of projects, including conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, and development of low-cost renewable technologies, global thinking has been translated into local performance by the people of three countries on three different continents". From the jury Report.

This annual event, founded by the United Nations in 2008, allowed the developing countries and their partners to learn good practices of South - South cooperation for future cooperation. As part of the event, the Program for South - South was the only program that won in the Partnership category, this recognition pays tribute to the solution showing the best spirit of cooperation within the South - South countries.

Also, this award recognized that PSC is a successful program because our activities emphasize mutual needs and interests and are based on real reciprocity, on equality between the members and on the participation not only of governments but also of civil society, universities and businesses. Through our projects, people from the various countries have built a lasting friendship and they remain engaged with each other.

Check the GSSD Expo website for multimedia content.  
(<http://www.southsouthexpo.org/press-releases.asp>)



## Websites of organisations participating in the conference:

**Partners in South-South Cooperation** [www.southsouthcooperation.net](http://www.southsouthcooperation.net)

**SocialWatch** [www.socialwatch.org](http://www.socialwatch.org)

**Cordaid** [www.cordaid.nl](http://www.cordaid.nl)

**Cidse** [www.cidse.org](http://www.cidse.org)

**Hivos** [www.hivos.nl](http://www.hivos.nl)

**EEPA** [www.eepa.be](http://www.eepa.be)

**EU** [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Structured\\_dialogue](https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/aidco/index.php/Structured_dialogue)

**S&D** [www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu](http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu)