



Law Faculty

International Studies

Topic: South-South Cooperation and its role in Ecuador as a resource for Regional Integration: Case Study of Technical Cooperation provided by Cuenca City (2013).

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Abstract

This thesis has stated as its general objective to analyze South-South Cooperation (SSC) and its role in Ecuador as a source of regional integration, also to analyze the results that Cuenca city will obtain through the project “Municipal System of International Technical Cooperation” that has been given during 2013. The methodology used for this investigation consisted in secondary resources such as books and reports on SSC, books on International Cooperation (IC), national and international newspapers, and SSC web sites. Also, two interviews with people who lead SSC projects were performed. As a result, Ecuador through SSC has reached great positioning at national and international level as an active country regarding IC. At the same time, Cuenca through its project and general efforts has been able to reach higher levels of internationalization of the city.

Introduction

International Cooperation (IC) cannot be understood without taking into consideration its historical baggage, as well as all the events that arise nowadays cannot be clearly understood without understanding its past. For this reason, it is necessary to historically understand International Cooperation, together with all its historical baggage and also its diverse stages and contexts through which IC has passed over the years, in order to achieve goals that are handled now. Likewise with the respective applicability of certain rules which are used for a proper applicability of the parameters which define International Cooperation, and this leads to understand one of the most important types of cooperation that is South-South Cooperation (SSC).

Currently, one of the main goals promulgated by International Cooperation is the maintenance of world peace and above all, IC has adopted an especial focus to give aid to developing countries from developed countries. This has been established in order to achieve adequate levels of economic and social development in every country around the world. However, this has generated interdependence of developing countries towards developed countries. This in turn has led to some extent of conformity in countries with economies in recession and it has caused that levels of development do not increase by much help developing countries receive.

The foundation of several organizations such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as part of United Nations, of some International Agreements such as the Paris Declaration, among others; have helped to establish clearly what the basis for a suitable management for International Cooperation are, always keeping in mind the fact that increasing the levels of development of countries will benefit their citizens and will also contribute to achieve a decent quality of life of each person.

Within this context, as a solution to the interdependence generated, developing countries of the world which are characterized by being located in the South Pole of the planet, began to corroborate with assistance efforts that were offered to each other, not financially because their economies would not allow it, but assistance in terms of technical assistance, including health issues, education, estate planning, infrastructure, among others. This led to South-South Cooperation to start taking a significant level in developing countries.

However, many times people have heard about South- South Cooperation and both its benefits and disadvantages, also about how it has been a key to a much desired progress which developing countries seek to reach. However, what is the true meaning of SSC? Is it true that through this type of International Cooperation many developing countries have achieved greater integration in their respective regions, and also greater integration at global levels?

It is important to note that South-South Cooperation has become a tool through which developing countries have had the opportunity to make further progress in terms of both economic and social development, although larger advances have not been considered if they represent a change which creates more stability, and above all if these changes represent support among these countries that for having similar economies seek support among each other in order to create positive changes, without having to rely entirely on the support they receive from International Organizations and developed countries (Countries from the North).

South-South Cooperation has become very important in the world, especially in the Latin American region. This region seeks to establish itself as a strong economic block so the existing asymmetry may decrease social welfare for its citizens. Within this context, Ecuador is gradually offering technical assistance to Latin American countries, to be one of the main actors in achieving all the positive changes the region looks for.

In addition, it is important to mention that not only Ecuador has set targets for achieving a more integrated region which denotes major changes, in order to project itself as a region with greater stability to the world. Also, some cities from Ecuador such as Cuenca have begun to raise new projects of International Cooperation, with major approaches to technical assistance, so cities can also contribute to the achievement of these objectives at national level. Cuenca looks to position itself in an international level, and from that point being able to share positive experiences of technical assistance with other Latin American cities.

Thus, this investigation is composed by three chapters. The first chapter focuses on a brief description of International Cooperation since its inception, as well as some International Organizations and International Agreements which had been a key tool to analyze this issue. Also, in this chapter South-South Cooperation is discussed in general aspects along with brief experiences that have arisen around SSC in Latin America. The second chapter is a net analysis about the role of Ecuador in South-South Cooperation which includes subtopics like the new state policies of IC, the new entities of International Cooperation in the country and their experiences with SSC. Finally, the third chapter deals with the analysis of the project "Municipal System of International Technical Cooperation" which has been run by the Directorate of External Relations of the Municipality of Cuenca in 2013.

CHAPTER 1: SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

1.1. International Cooperation

International Cooperation can be defined as the voluntary help which provides a volunteer donor; it can be a country or organization to recipient countries that are in need. This is accomplished throughout many activities that include helping policies, educational policies, health policies, economical and social policies. All these activities are destined to improve the living conditions of people in need, especially those belonging to third world countries.¹

Over the years, International Cooperation has had as its main objective the maintenance of international peace, as well as promoting economic and social development of people belonging to different countries. It has always been based on non-commercial sharing mechanisms which would benefit people according to the biggest needs that they would have. Starting from this point, International Cooperation involves the effort of two or more States or organizations, national or international, which are intended to benefit its people through the exchange of some resources such as technological, human and scientific resources. In this way, countries are able to approach its goals regarding national capabilities that are demanded in every nation as well as overcoming poverty, unemployment, lack of education, lack of proper health, inequality and marginalization regarding an international context.

This is why in article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations is established that:

“To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law,

¹ Centro de Cooperación al Desarrollo, La Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (Edición 2010)

adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace”²

It is for this reason that the joint actions and many contributions that are made throughout specific tools and various international cooperation mechanisms, end up in results which benefit countries that are part of this system of International Cooperation.

Similarly, all these results that are in favor of the parties involved, reach their goals in a more feasible way. These goals can be reached in the short or long term, depending on the objective that the actors involved have, without making any distinction as it is described in the United Nations Charter. All activities, progress, and other development contributions are for the exclusive benefits of the people who are in serious need, not only in one country but worldwide.

Based on this brief introduction, it is worth noticing that this tool in most cases has been beneficial for many countries regarding the International Community. Many times several stakeholders have been able to cope in a more adequate way the devastation that they have suffered by the help they received from other countries or International Organizations. However, International Cooperation in its beginning was based in only helping third world countries so the economical help that these countries would receive, would be destined to generate an increase in industrial production and economic growth. However, the main role of International Cooperation was to properly channel the savings of industrialized countries and focus them towards developing countries. Also, support and encourage the construction of infrastructure in countries where needed. Moreover, the only actors in International Cooperation were Nation States. The relations between donors and recipient were strictly hierarchical, in other words; donor countries would establish to which areas recipient countries would have to focus aid they were receiving.

² United Nations: CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (Article 1)
<http://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CTC/uncharter.pdf>

However, over time, International Cooperation has shifted its focus significantly. Even though many of its goals remain the same, the methods used are not. Mainly because there is not an authoritarian relationship between developed and developing countries anymore. Also stakeholders not only summarize countries anymore, but also sub-state municipalities, national or international organizations, among many others.

This being so, how was that there were deep changes in International Cooperation regarding its primary objectives?

Since its inception, International Cooperation has appeared as a solid character tool, by which various States and Organizations themselves have been both donors and aid recipients through diverse mechanisms used within this tool.

Following this guideline, it can be noted that International Cooperation occurred as the result of one of the most serious international problems faced by the world. This problem was the Second World War, in which the International Community was plunged into a series of war conflicts that destroyed many countries. Due to this, several organizations were born, with the primary objective of establishing peace and harmony among countries who had been victims of the war, and also to avoid new conflicts that attempt on people's life. With the creation of these new organism structures, it gave way to originate many new objectives that were linked to International Cooperation. Specially objectives that were related to help other countries with economies in recession who needed to provide better quality of life to its citizens and also ensure a prosperous future for its future generations.

It is necessary to know how International Cooperation has developed since its origin. International Cooperation's evolution can stand out from the early 50s until our present. There have been periods in which International Cooperation has had more influence over the International Community so countries could use it as a tool through which they had been able to make greater percentage of investment in highly relevant aspects such as education, health, infrastructure, technology, and scientific fields.

In the 50s there was not a development policy because some countries that were considered as potencies (United States, England, France and the Soviet Union), were focused on the reconstruction of Europe after it was destroyed during war period. Besides this objective, these developed countries were responsible for supporting developing countries in their decolonization process.

However, within this period in which the world experienced for the second time a World War, the International Community sought to establish peace and harmony among all countries of the world. This is the reason why during this period of time, many innovating processes were created regarding political, economical and social positive changes. These new settings generated big changes relating them to an International context. These greater contributions focused on establishing suitable conditions and specific basis to start with the foundation of what would become international cooperation a few years later.

As a result of this, several strengtheners processes emerge to back up the objectives of International Cooperation, such as the Bretton Woods Conference, the creation of the United Nations, the decolonization process of developing countries, the emergence of the Cold War and, finally; the Marshall Plan whose primary goal was the reconstruction of the countries that had been devastated after World War II.

Within this context, the creation of some International Financial Institutions also took place. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) were created. These financial entities were born with the general and main purpose to help rebuild European countries after the devastation in which they were submerged after the Second World War. Although these entities were conceived with the aim described above, over the years its objectives were expanded and gradually acquired new purposes, objectives on which they would be based on. Some of these goals were to make low-interest loans, give financial support to countries with economies in recession, among others.

However, these International Financial Institutions (especially the IMF) have implemented several parameters for better enforcement as well as many bases for International Cooperation. Yet, these Organizations have often imposed development policies for developing nations in which developing countries have only achieved greater inequality benefiting exclusively elite classes.

One of the objectives of International Cooperation is to seek that the help promoted by donor countries matches the needs of recipient countries, so in this way the recipient countries are not required to follow guidelines imposed by donor countries. This is not expressed through certain organisms such as the IMF. For this reason, these Organizations have been targets of criticism because they do not meet the objectives that were setting at the beginning.

Also, following the same context of the early 50s, in 1956 emerged the creation of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which was led by countries that had adopted the recognition of newly independent countries.

This movement stated that its main goal was to settle a block which would not have to rely on developed countries or on any of the impositions that some industrialized countries imposed. The NAM also rejected to be part of the East-West block during the Cold War. This was one of the reason that this movement was formed into the Group of the 77 (G77), which over time would be a precursor of what is now known as South-South Cooperation.

In the 60s, a foreign policy was established. This new policy marked the beginning of International Cooperation. In 1961 the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was created. Its primary objective was the coordination of Official Development Assistance.

In the same way, several State Institutions were established in many industrialized countries in order to promote further International Cooperation. Some of the institutions

that emerged at that time were the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation of Germany, the Department for International Development of Britain, among others.

Therefore, the concepts that were handled at that time regarding International Cooperation were clearly assumptions of economic growth. Industrialized countries maintained a strong stand about developing countries increasing their economic growth to reach development. Nevertheless, no consideration was given to the fact that even if there existed economic growth among developing countries, they would not necessarily achieve the levels of industrialization of countries considered as powers at the time.

This being so, it is precisely what happened, the economical growth of some developing countries did increase, but it increased in a totally unequal way. There were few people who were benefited by this economical growth and they were the already higher social classes.

By the late 60s, it was found that the model used during this period failed, mainly because of the model policies that were applied as a base of International Cooperation. In 1969, the World Bank Director of the time and former ex minister of defense of the United States, Robert McNamara, along with the former ex president of Canada, Lester Pearson; published the "Pearson report". This established that the model of the 60s had failed. As a result of this report came the basic needs strategy. This strategy stated that the satisfaction of these needs leads to proper growth and development not only at the level of developing countries but also internationally.³

In the 70s the concept of basic needs comes up due to failure of policies that were applied in the previous decade. This concept involved several aspects that were relevant to a proper livelihood of every person. These aspects included areas such as food, water,

³ Oetzel, Ralf, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales sede Ecuador: Artículo *Tendencias de la Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo* (Quito, Abril del 2009) p.2

health, clothes, house and infrastructure, as well as non-material needs like absence of violence, implementation of education, cultural identity, work, among others.

In consequence, new Organizations are born within the United Nations. Some of them were as the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development), FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization), the World Health Organization (WHO), The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labor Organization (ILO), among others. These organizations were founded to meet the basic needs that had been raised for countries. This is why these organizations were forged into solid bases that even nowadays continue to meet international goals.

However, this period led to a serious global economic recession following the oil crisis that erupted in the main oil producing countries of the world. This was a trigger that contributed to accentuate the crisis for the next decade.

The 80s is known as the "lost decade", the economic crisis generated in the previous decade, caused that over the decade of the 80s a outright recession had taken place. The consequences of this crisis were stagnant production, sharp decline in world trade and also the increase in oil prices caused destabilization in industrialized countries. This level repeatedly upset not only economic, but also political areas, especially relations between North and South of the world that were seriously affected.

Linked to this, the significant decrease that occurred in the production of raw materials in the North, generated that Southern countries would increase demand in this regard, which is why the production of certain areas such as manufacture increased significantly.

However, the logic of this situation would have been that Southern countries have progressed equally as either global South or as a region (in the case of Latin America). Although this did not happen, the economic growth that occurred was originated in

totally unbalanced terms. It also generated strong financial vulnerability among these countries, and it generated that a few years later Southern countries would go through serious economical crisis.

Moreover, at the end of this decade in which many countries were affected, some theories emerged in order to prevent in future decades similar stagnation, in addition to giving a new twist to accomplishing the goals of poverty reduction and inequality that had already been set. As well as achieving sustainable development of all countries in the international community. One of these theories was the one of Amartya Kumar Sen, who stated that the human potential expansions constitute the main objective of development and to overcome poverty and inequality become priority targets.⁴ Thus, this theory became the basic tool for the Human Development Index of the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). The UNDP established for the 90s a new stage in which it will be given higher value to human capital in terms of education, food and health.

The 90s start with the concept of sustainable development, especially in Latin America with the aim of promoting a more appropriate level among the region. The main objectives of this new decade were focused in improving the living conditions of the people based on the capital that each country had. Thus, greater incentives were generated internally focusing on that the positive results obtained would be self-made, without resorting to recipes from other countries.

Based on this philosophy, International Cooperation has also fostered several projects focused on the creation of new jobs, so this could generate investment in the medium and long term in each country.

⁴ Centro de Cooperación al Desarrollo, *La Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo* (páginas 23-24) (Edición 2010)

1.1.1 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is an International Organizations that is part of the United Nations. This Organism was created in 1961 in order to promote cooperation and sustainable development of economic and social policies. So this will generate greater accessibility so countries can be able of obtaining results that are consolidated into more efficient and effective results regarding economic, political and social aspects of countries, together with the quality of life of its inhabitants.⁵

The OECD has thirty-four members. Countries like Russia, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa aspire to be part of this organization as members even though currently these countries have the title of partner countries.⁶

Since its origin, the organization has become one of the most influential International entities in the world, regarding the improvement of new policies of sustainable development among several countries. This organization has different objectives. Objectives that are always related to the development of countries, some of these targets range from stabilization of employment, environmental and financial regulations, education, commerce, agriculture, energy, science, among many others.

With the OECD, many guidelines have been established so governments of different countries can follow certain rules that will help them with the progress that they want to achieve. This organization has created forums in which governments seek solutions to common problems they have. These countries achieve this by favorable experiences that each State shares through the fulfillment of accomplishment regarding the implementation of economic and development policies. This is done in order to get more opportunities to enable countries to take advantage and to be part of it.

⁵ Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económico (OCDE), Historia de la OCDE <http://www.oecd.org/about/history/>

⁶ OECD, *SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT TO MINISTERS 2013* (page 5)

As the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development states, “better policies for better lives”⁷

Remaining in its primary focus, it is worth noticing that this organization has contributed to establish certain rules, laws and international regulations. These regulations have been stated to fight against specific problems that developing countries have, such as corruption. Also to encourage some aspects like corporate responsibility, greater investments in development aspects and other issues related to the objectives mentioned above.

Despite the influence that this organization holds, it does not have financial resources to provide financial aid. It functions as a forum for intergovernmental aid, in which there are established debates that focus on analysis regarding its priority issues. So both the member and non-members countries can find appropriate solutions to conflicts of interest.

The OECD supports policies that are created to encourage the improvement of the development of countries, so it creates a suitable source of advice in all areas in which these policies arise.⁸

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development seeks greater participation in the formulation and implementation of policies that are carried out. In this way countries may have a clear guideline on what parameters they should base on for a better development of their policies. Thus, adapting more policies that are focus on consistent requirements that are essential, countries would be able to increase productivity as well as better education, better health, create more working places, and others.

⁷ Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económico (OCDE), Misión de la OCDE

⁸ OECD, *SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT TO MINISTERS 2013* p.12

The OECD has been characterized by making many investigations and diverse analysis of policies that include aspects of development, not only of its members but of many other countries that nowadays are about one hundred countries. The reason this organization includes more investigations than just the ones of its members, is because the organization seeks to expand its contacts to new heights. This way, many countries can benefit themselves by the experiences of other countries that are acquired by the OECD. That is, the OECD seeks to establish dialogues with countries (members or non-members) because this way the organizations can have bigger perspectives of what their points of view are, or how the organization could contribute to a better development of these countries. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development regulates several specific issues such as investment, better education, governance policies to apply them correctly, and others. By this, countries can use these investigations as effective tools to contribute to a successful development of their economies and social aspects in general.

It is necessary to take into consideration that issues such as globalization have had great influence on the diversity of policies that countries have implemented to be at the forefront of the requirements posed by globalization. Precisely for this reason, the OECD has continued to contribute to general aspects to establish common policies that can benefit each other.

1.1.2 Millennium Development Goals

In 2000, at the 55th General Assembly of the United Nations, it was presented a report about basic needs and human rights that in general every inhabitant of any country of the international community should have. Thus, an investigation about these terms came up with unsatisfactory results. It was presented that nearly one billion people live in extreme poverty, suffering malnutrition, killer diseases, lack of education, lack of access to safe drinking water, gender inequality, among other problems that really affected several countries. These results led to the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, the same containing the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

From the creation of the MDGs, all UN member countries agreed to incorporate these objectives into their development agendas in order to fulfill them until 2015.

The Millennium Development Goals are:⁹

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Global partnership for development

As a result of the MDGs, the International Community increased its awareness regarding the support that must be provided to achieve the levels of development that the world seeks. Not only in economic terms, but especially in terms of basic needs which is the main goal of International Cooperation. In other words, to be able to achieve development through investment in technology, science and education so people can have better quality of life.

Thus, a new alliance between both donor and recipient countries is established, also between national and international agencies for International Cooperation, as well as public and private institutions that are directly related to this topic.

Precisely for this reason, the Monterrey Consensus (2002) that was a result of the International Conference of Financing for Development of the United Nations, it had the main objective of analyzing and establishing new techniques and strategies for the

⁹ Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo, Los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/es/home/mdgoverview.html>

benefit of countries. It was recognized that countries acknowledge the importance of increasing Official Development Assistance and other resources needed to consolidate the goals and objectives that have been agreed internationally, primarily basis that were stated as source of development to be achieved by different countries. Including the targets set in the Millennium Declaration.¹⁰

Based on the Millennium Development Goals, the Republic of Ecuador has expressed its clear commitment to the Millennium Goals to reach a better quality of life for its inhabitants and future generations. This is why Ecuador has incorporated the MDGs into its development agenda as a priority action. For this reason, Ecuador has proposed to its inhabitants to build both dialogue and debate sources, which provide access to a better informed culture and at the same time, provide greater opportunities to the development that the country seeks to reach.

Similarly, Ecuador by having as a role model the MDGs, has implemented the Plan of Good Living 2009-2013 (Plan Nacional del Buen Vivir 2009-2013). The Department of Planning and Development of Ecuador (SENPLADES) defines the Plan of Good Living as a key instrument of the national government, its main goal is to create public policy related with management and public investment. The plan is composed of twelve National Strategies and twelve National Objectives, and through the compliance of both strategies and objectives Ecuador would be able to reach its development.¹¹

The goals and strategies that arise within the National Plan for Good Living 2009-2013, are involved with the Millennium Development Goals. The National Plan for Good Living 2009-2013 has developed most of its objectives according to the goals that the Millennium Declaration has stated. Therefore, Ecuador has to maintain certain boundaries in order to respect the parameters of the MDGs.

¹⁰ Naciones Unidas, Conferencia Internacional sobre la Financiación para el Desarrollo; Consenso de Monterrey 2002

¹¹ República del Ecuador Plan Nacional de Desarrollo, *Plan Nacional para el Buen Vivir (2009-2013)*

The Ecuadorian Development Plan was created with the conviction of achieving better results in several fields like the political, social and economical field. Throughout this process, Ecuador and its inhabitants would be able to ensure successful development both internally and externally of Ecuador. In conjunction with this Plan, the objectives proposed by it, are more likely to be reached due to the back up that this Plan has, regarding the Millennium Development Goals.

It is appropriate that all aspects of the development agenda, including goals, strategies and priorities that are set out in the National Development Plan, are shown to International Organization organisms. This way, Ecuador may increase financial assistance in certain areas that deserve greater attention for the welfare of the inhabitants of the country. If so, government institutions may obtain greater recognition and greater assistance so these entities can carry out the objectives within the mentioned Plan of Good Living.

1.1.3. Paris Declaration

The Paris Declaration was established as an international agreement. It sets certain parameters on which both donor and recipient countries of international aid should base on. In this way, it becomes easier and more efficient to improve the basis among transparent assistance that is given and received.

This international agreement was consolidated as one of the most favorable basis for successful application of International Cooperation. It was signed by more than one hundred countries, both donors and recipients of aid. It was also signed by 26 multinational organizations. These countries and organizations agreed to create this international agreement in order to engage International Cooperation towards more efficient impacts worldwide.

This is how, that through the Paris Declaration, development aid has been easier to increase. This is due to the objectives that it contains, such as the decrease of extreme poverty, reduction of social inequality, and so on. Consequently, this Declaration strongly aligns with the scope and acceleration of MDGs.

Until the beginning of the century, developing countries were not in charge of its own processes of development. Industrialized countries or international organizations were those who gave guidelines to developing countries for what they believed suitable for their development. This process always had several conflicts for the simple fact that developing countries could not make or implement the policies that they believe appropriate.

Precisely for this reason, the Paris Declaration has adapted certain guidelines in which all development processes are in charge of each country. Whether they are developed countries or developing countries. In other words, developing countries determine and perform their own development policies in order to achieve their economic, social and environmental goals.

The Paris Declaration mandates that all efforts made in order to provide assistance to countries in need, will not rationalize if their goal is to collaborate with development processes. This is why, under this International Agreement, all processes including the increase of financial flows will be in order to assign them to a suitable development, just as it was stated in the Monterrey Consensus, in which the countries of the Organization United Nations took part in 2002.

Together, within the Paris Declaration, all responsibility commitments including greater cooperation, efficiency, and others; are based purely on previous experiences that International Cooperation has had throughout history. So the Paris Declaration encourages greater participation among its organism members and countries that are part of it, with the main purpose of contributing to the development process of developing countries.

However, it has been shown through several experiences that countries cannot have their recipients of aid being measured with the same parameters. Every country has to be evaluated according to proper criteria that define to a unique country or a group of similar countries that have same characteristics.

Taking this into consideration, it has been established that objectives and certain tools that belong to the Paris Declaration, streamline a framework much more efficient in terms of efficiency that is sought for the progress of the development process. This is how, several factors are measured in different countries in order to demonstrate how profitable these factors are by receiving support from other countries or international organizations.

As established in the Paris Declaration itself, one of the main aspects that are measured is the national collective behavior.¹² However, measuring the collective behavior of each country would be somewhat difficult for the simple fact that proving each and every different progress made by a country would become difficult if it is made often and with all countries that receive development aid. However, under the guidance and leadership of partner countries is feasible to conduct periodic assessments of progress at national level. As well as how each country adopts every commitments of this Declaration together with its respective effectiveness inside each country, not only for the benefit of one country but for the benefit of the International Community as a whole.

Following this context, it should be noted that within the already mentioned assessments, each country must show significant signs of progress regarding development.

Considering that developing countries also play an important role in this Declaration, not only by the fact of being who receive more aid regarding development processes but also for being key actors in this whole process of the Paris Declaration. However, it

¹² Declaración de París sobre la eficacia de la ayuda al desarrollo y programa de acción de Accra
<http://www.oecd.org/development/effectiveness/34580968.pdf>

should not be left aside a type of cooperation that has aimed a lot of importance worldwide. This refers to South-South Cooperation (SSC). SSC can be defined as the process by which two or more developing countries obtain individual or collective advantages through aid that they receive from countries of the South globe of the world, regarding technological assistance, skills, knowledge, education, health, and others.¹³

Similarly, this Declaration gives an important recognition to all members regarding the effort they make to create greater scope for development, especially to developing countries due to the role they play not only as recipient countries, but also they adapt very well to the role of donors. This has occurred largely through South-South cooperation because countries belonging to the South Pole of the world are increasingly concerned in having better economies for its inhabitants. Consequently, the Paris Declaration agrees with SSC and also wants to learn from experiences generated through this type of cooperation. Also, The Paris Declaration agrees with Triangular Cooperation, which is understood as the relationship generated between three countries (a donor country, a middle income country and a developing country), this is done with the objective to act on behalf of the third country.¹⁴

Consequently, it is also important to describe briefly the five pillars or principles that have served as basis for a proper development and solidification of the Paris Declaration. These pillars have been established according to the needs of International Cooperation, in order to achieve in a more efficiently way, all the parameters required for the development of the countries.

¹³ Unidad Especial de Cooperación Sur-Sur del Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) (http://www.cooperacionsursur.org/portal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=128&Itemid=118)

¹⁴ Ayllón, Bruno; Gómez, Manuel; Albarrán, Miguel: *Reflexiones Prácticas sobre la Cooperación Triangular*. Páginas 13 y 14

These five indicators are:¹⁵

1. OWNERSHIP, which makes reference to member countries of the International Agreement must be able to exercise effective authority over all development policies that are being carried out, and the strategies and development actions must be played at both internal and external level of each country.
2. ALIGNMENT, which translates into political actions that donor countries consider appropriate regarding the strategies that will be necessary to recipient countries. However, just like donor countries commit to provide net support concerning internal development strategies of partner countries, partner countries and donors also have the commitment to joint development policies actions. This allows them to make evaluations about the relative assessments performance, and also about the level of responsibility which are conducting operations led by countries with the objective of getting its respective evolution of their level of development.

Also, partner countries are committed to provide regular assessments about the evaluations that are being carried out, as well as evaluations about systems and procedures for managing aid which countries are receiving.

Both partner countries and donor countries guarantee to strengthen national supply and capacity development in the medium and long term.

3. HARMONIZATION, this pillar is based on the actions that are being carried out in terms of International Cooperation. These actions must be actions to be guided by the criteria of transparency and efficiency. These aid parameters can avoid being duplicated and simultaneously encourage a joint training for the benefit of partner countries.

¹⁵ Declaración de París sobre la eficacia de la ayuda al desarrollo y programa de acción de Accra
<http://www.oecd.org/development/effectiveness/34580968.pdf>

Within this pillar, it is essential to emphasize the fact that the use of the comparative advantages, that takes place between donor and recipient countries; makes it easier to handle certain levels of aid and management support with greater efficiency and effectiveness. These levels of aid are also destined for countries involved in development processes.

4. RESULTS, its purpose is to guide and manage the resources that are generated as a basis in order to be allocated to countries which are receiving these resources. Within this, it also takes credit for improving decision-making aimed at obtaining the best results possible.

So, partner countries commit to strengthen bounds generated between development strategies at national and annual budget processes. Similarly, countries commit to establish parameters that will allow them to have a better control of the development strategies that are held in each host country. This includes progress made by each country, frames of information, among others.

Similarly, donor countries are committed to associate the schedule that is established among the frame of development processes, together with resources and performance evaluation obtained. All this must be done by taking into consideration the strategies that each recipient country has. Also, considering the development policies of each partner country so in this way, parameters which are being used for different assessments could accomplish the desired results.

5. MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY, it makes reference that both donors and partner countries are committed to achieve the results of the assessments that are done periodically. Throughout this process, countries would develop strategies adopted by each partner country, together with the implementation of the assistance they receive for better development progress. That is, donors and recipients agree to mutual accountability for the effective and efficient achievement later in development aid. Thus, the responsibility does not lie within

a certain group. This is due to the commitment of donor and recipient countries to constitute a unified team to achieve all the advances that occur.

Through the parameters of the Paris Declaration, the main purpose was to promote greater accountability and responsibility in the time to incorporate these goals, especially as part of the various agendas of International Cooperation of the countries. For this reason, this method of accountability, support and reliability which was required to member countries was considered a method to support national policies that each Government implemented on development aid.

The Paris Declaration since its inception has become as basis that serve as tools for development progress of member countries. However, like any International Agreement, this Declaration has also suffered certain shortcomings. Even though, throughout the Paris Declaration several progresses regarding the way in which developing countries and donors usually contribute to the solution of specific problems has been achieved in greater extent, it has not been able to achieved all the objectives that were set out at the beginning of it. That is, in the measures which were set initially. This is because the rate of progress is considered very slow. However, it cannot be rule out that despite the progress being slow many advances have been reached in many countries.

In the case of Ecuador, this country acceded to the Paris Declaration in 2009 and it generated a very important step to strengthen several institutions which by the time had been working in the International Cooperation arena of Ecuador. This accession implied the acceptance of the 5 principles of Aid Effectiveness to Development and through these principles, Ecuador has consolidated them as one of the key points for strengthening international cooperation among the country. In this way, Ecuador being governed by these parameters (regarding International Cooperation) has achieved much more significant growth than in previous years. This is because Ecuador does not only rely among solidarity issues, but also contributing to Ecuador's development through International Cooperation.

The score which Ecuador has obtained regarding the application of the principles of the Paris Declaration is: ¹⁶

Ownership: 70,31/100

Alignment: 50/100

Harmonization: 51,04/100

Results: 31,51/100

Mutual Accountability: 52,08/100

The overall rating of the country was 50.99/100. However, most countries get similar grades or in some cases, countries get lower grades regarding the application of the parameters of the Paris Declaration. So the grade obtained by Ecuador represents the suitable levels of applicability and responsibility that the country has taken regarding the Paris Declaration.

Summarizing this brief analysis and description of both the Millennium Development Goals and the Paris Declaration, it can be established that these two elements have become fundamental aspects and structures that support new policies regarding international cooperation. Both of these elements have been commissioned to set new goals, new parameters, encourage greater loyalty, responsibility and mutual cooperation regarding all countries around the world.

Since these two elements were imposed as focal points of International Cooperation, countries have been able to have a better orientation as to what would be a proper way to apply development policies relating it to an International Cooperation context. Also, countries would be able to keep track among how the development and in general cooperation funds are being used.

¹⁶ Taller de Fortalecimiento Institucional a GADs para gestionar la competencia de Cooperación Internacional. Impartido el día 20 de Noviembre del 2013 en la ciudad de Cuenca-Ecuador

Consequently it is appropriate to demonstrate the redirection that International Cooperation has had over the past several years, has contributed for many donor countries and recipient countries. As well as to International Organizations that are involved with this development process. All of these International Institutions have chosen to implement more efficient processes in their agendas. Clearly they have achieved it with budget support, the one that is handled through national processes and also through specific programs that in some way, enable countries to have better approaches in order to distribute the donations that are receiving in a correctly way.

Also, to achieve the goals and objectives for both the Millennium Development Goals and the Paris Declaration, countries need to take into account that the assistance provided by these two elements, even if it represents an extraordinary help, it does not cover all the mechanisms of the results to be achieved. For this reason, both donor and recipient countries should be based on certain specific elements such as fair democracy and proper economic growth. This will benefit equally to people of a specific country, which it will also turn into social progress and environmental care incentive. These social cohesion factors are those that generate and force economies towards greater development worldwide. Therefore when countries choose to adapt these parameters to its agendas, countries can have more effective and efficient solutions to ensure a good future for their citizens and future generations.

1.1.4.- International Cooperation in Latin America

The Latin American region has approximately 13.5% of the land surface of the planet. It is characterized by being composed of 20 countries and 7 dependencies. Latin America has approximately 500 million people. This region is rich in cultural and biological diversity, it also has the largest water reserves worldwide.¹⁷

¹⁷ UNFPA, América Latina y el Caribe: *Población y Desarrollo*
<http://lac.unfpa.org/public/cache/offonce/pid/2023>

Given all the characteristics that this region has, it would be right that it contained developed countries due to all of its characteristics that would allow countries to have very competitive economies. Although, this does not happen, it is the opposite.

The Latin American region is known for being the most unequal region in the world. Life expectancy reaches about 70 years for most of the countries. Until 2011, 29.4% of Latin Americans lived in poverty, while 11.5% were extremely poor or indigent.¹⁸

Often the reasons why Latin America is the most unequal region in the world, is due to several causes. Including diverse political systems that these countries have, also mismanagement of the implementation of economic policies, the heavy external debts these countries have which generates economical decrease and greater scarcity of capital.

Due to this, International Cooperation has always had a significant focus on Latin America. However, the Official Development Assistance that Latin America used to received, represented much higher rates than they currently represent.

The Official Development Assistance provided by donor countries and multinational organizations, has focused during the past two decades in low income economy countries. From 2000, these countries hold approximately 60% of ODA total flows and the other 40% was allocated to lower-middle income countries. This focus on countries with fragile economies, has led to a bad distribution of ODA funds around the world. The concentration of these flows has occurred in the regions where they are located most of these countries, in other words, Africa and Asia.

Thus, Africa and Asia concentrate most of the funds destined for development processes these countries require, leaving Latin America with very low percentage in terms of the support they receive. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the

¹⁸ Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe: Panorama Social de América Latina 2012; *POBREZA: AVANCES RECIENTES Y CARACTERÍSTICAS PRINCIPALES*(p.13) <http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/xml/5/48455/PanoramaSocial2012DocI-Rev.pdf>

Caribbean, Africa and Asia, receive 34% of total ODA funds, while Latin America receives about 7% of the total.¹⁹

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), it can be shown in the following table the amount of economical data aimed towards different continents.

Illustration 1: Net ODA received by Region in 2011	
Region	Amount received in USD
Africa	51261
Asia	37566
America	11582
Europe	5352
Oceania	2201
Help no Specified by Region	28475
Total ODA received	136437

Made and Interpreted by: Rodriguez Arce, Isabel

Date: Cuenca, August, 27th, 2013

Source: DEVELOPMENT AID AT A GLANCE, STATISTICS BY REGION (2013 Edition)

Taking this into consideration, it would be feasible to note that despite the short resources received in Latin America, these funds are destined to be apply in projects related to the improvement of infrastructure, health, education and in general projects to improve the social situation of these countries. However, policies that are managed around these situations are not the most appropriate.

¹⁹ LA COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL EN EL NUEVO CONTEXTO MUNDIAL: REFLEXIONES DESDE AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE, Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL), sobre la base de indicadores del Banco Mundial (http://www.eclac.org/pses33/noticias/paginas/1/38821/2010-166-SES-33-11_Cooperacion_internacional_en_el_nuevo_contexto_mundial.pdf)

Of the 8.5% of the world's total Official Development Assistance that Latin America receives, approximately 23% of the total is intended to external debt payments.²⁰ This being so, it is not possible to invest and allocate large sums of capital for investment in education, technology, and so on, if the funds are not distributed in the way they should, hurting the people of these countries.

Governments need to find better ways to not destined all the funds that countries receive in paying the external debt. If countries do not focus every economical resource that it is received, they would be able to gradually contribute with larger amounts in aspects like investments which become in long-term positive results. This would benefit low income countries, especially for Latin American who seeks to strengthen with different economies, this way Latin America will not be the world's most unequal region anymore.

Below some numeric data is shown, regarding the main Latin American countries that are recipients of international aid funds, as well as the main donor countries of the region.

²⁰ Oetzel, Ralf, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales sede Ecuador: Artículo *Tendencias de la Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo* (Quito, Abril del 2009) p.9

Illustration 2: Top 10 Countries in Latin America ODA Recipients (Millions of USD) in 2011		
Country	Millions of USD	Percentage
Haiti	1712	15%
Colombia	1130	10%
Mexico	882	8%
Brazil	870	8%
Bolivia	759	7%
Nicaragua	695	6%
Honduras	624	5%
Peru	624	5%
Guatemala	392	3%
El Salvador	281	2%
Other receptor countries	3612	31%
Total	11582	100%

Made and Interpreted by: Rodríguez Arce, Isabel

Date: Cuenca, August, 27th, 2013

Source: DEVELOPMENT AID AT A GLANCE, STATISTICS BY REGION (2013 Edition)

Illustration 3: Top 10 ODA donor countries to Latin America (Millions of USD) in 2011		
Country	Millions of USD	Percentage
United States	2616	23%
Inter-American Development Bank	1504	13%
Germany	1129	10%
European Union Institutions	1001	9%
France	953	8%
Spain	766	7%
Canada	651	6%
Norway	431	4%
Japan	334	3%
International Development Association	291	3%
Other Donors	1906	16%
Total	11582	100%

Made and Interpreted by: Rodríguez Arce, Isabel

Date: Cuenca, August, 27th, 2013

Source: DEVELOPMENT AID AT A GLANCE, STATISTICS BY REGION (2013 Edition)

It is important to mention that several countries in Latin America have to deal with inequality in their countries, especially to fight against poverty which is a serious problem that affects most of the countries that belong to this region. This has generated major consequences regarding that several notions of development assistance should distribute aid providing measuring parameters based on specific needs that each country has. Therefore our region would obtain higher net flow which can be intended to assist development progress.

In the next charter, it will be shown numeric data about the economical aid that Latin America will receive until 2016.

Illustration 4: Economic data to be received for Latin America (International Cooperation)

YEAR	MILLIONS OF USD
2013	\$8,871
2014	\$8,955
2015	\$9,245
2016	\$9,455

Made and Interpreted by: Rodriguez Arce, Isabel

Date: Cuenca, August, 27th, 2013

Source: OECD, 3 de abril del 2013; en Evolución de la Cooperación Internacional en América Latina y el Caribe

According to estimates by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the economic funds that receives the Latin American region regarding Official Development Aid, will remain relatively low in the next three years. This is because countries which have generally been categorized as major donors have focused their efforts in fragile countries (African countries). Another reason is due to the economic crisis that many industrialized countries are going through, as the countries belonging to the European Union and the United States, being this so, these industrialized countries must deal with their economic crises and are obligated to reduce support in terms of development to developing countries.

Despite this, Latin America has not been settle about this, due to International Cooperation (IC) being in this region since its inception and constantly evolving among Latin American. At first Latin American countries were characterized as passive recipients and centralized States due to the fact that these countries always received ODA from other countries and to some extent it, although nowadays, it has taken a position of national sovereignty. This is why, for several years this process has occurred in countries with middle income economies, which has also generated changes for these countries with the main objective of achieving results for the welfare of the region.

Due to this, the cumbers which take place in Latin America are increasing every time, as well as meetings among the various Latin American heads of state. By this, it is encouraged to that more arrangements take place so mutual cooperation and International Cooperation can be set as a key aspect for development and scope of major challenges, especially if these countries are able to do it without relying heavily on other countries outside the region. Also, these spaces are created in order to engage trades such as new ideas and new visions to strengthen these processes that contribute to increase the levels of progress.

In the XXI Iberoamerican Summit which took place in Asuncion, Paraguay, held an agreement that was carried out in order to contribute to International Cooperation as a central development issue in Latin America, this agreement was:

"To promote cooperation between public administrations of Latin American countries to promote regional integration and provide spaces of transfer and exchange of knowledge and also experiences in processes, projects and successful programs, for its social impact and benefit to the public they can be replicated".²¹

In other words, these countries focus their efforts in achieving higher levels of International Cooperation, giving a primary focus to South-South Cooperation as this is

²¹ Informe de Cooperación Sur-Sur en Iberoamérica 2012. (p.12)
<http://segib.org/cooperacion/files/2012/10/Informe-Sur-Sur-2012.pdf>

a type of cooperation that fits with more emphasis in our reality. The Triangular Cooperation cannot be left aside because this type of Cooperation also contributes to higher and higher levels of development towards Latin America.

However, Latin America is a region that has shown great improvement and advances in economic and social aspects. Although, poverty rate remains as a big issue which must take urgent measures. However, in the last twenty years, several countries within this region have increased their range to middle-income countries or middle income high countries as Brazil. Hence, many political experts of International Cooperation agree about countries that belong to the same region can cooperate with each other to achieve results that favor them equally.

Consequently, the Director of the International Cooperation Department of the Peruvian Foreign Ministry, Alejandro Riveros, states that Latin American countries can improve their economies most likely on their own, due to all the advances that have been achieved and some other advantages that are still part of the development purpose of Latin America. This has been able to accomplish due to a region integration. Latinamerica does not need to fully rely on developed countries anymore.²²

Nonetheless, this does not mean Latin America does not need international aid that several countries provide. These countries do need it, just not in the amounts that needed it twenty years ago. This is due in large part to the institutionalization that has had International Cooperation departments in Latin American countries. Nowadays, these countries can define in a more effectively way, the parameters which need to be used regarding a more appropriate way of its distributions among several areas that are the ones who need it the most.

²² Centro de Información sobre la Cooperación Internacional de América Latina y el Caribe: *Entrevista al Director de Cooperación Internacional de la Cancillería Peruana* (<http://www.undp.org/content/peru/es/home/presscenter/articles/2012/11/27/se-analiza-el-nuevo-escenario-de-la-cooperaci-n-internacional-en-am-rica-latina-y-el-caribe/>)

1.1.5. - Ecuador and International Cooperation

The Republic of Ecuador is a country characterized by being part of International Cooperation. Although, historically the role played by Ecuador has been mostly defined as recipient of international aid funds, it has also had several successful experiences providing technical assistance to other countries in the International Community, especially to neighboring countries like Bolivia in areas such as health and Paraguay in aspects regarding state planning infrastructure.²³

Ecuador seeks to not be just a passive recipient country anymore. This country also looks forward to provide technical assistance and international aid to many countries, especially with a primarily focus on Latin American countries. This is so, due to Ecuador seeking to help other countries who have similar economies within the region so they can support each other and at the same time get an integrated region that benefits all Latin American countries.

Since the Ecuadorian president Rafael Correa Delgado took over its mandate in 2006, it has been implemented new regulation systems regarding new methods of International Cooperation. Because of this, since 2009, Ecuador's new policies are closely related to the country's Constitution of 2008. Besides, these policies are also related to the objectives that are set out in the National Plan for Good Living that stands as the development tool of Ecuador.

The fact that the Constitution of 2008 states as primary strategic purpose to promote regional integration, as well as establish International Cooperation as basis for addressing the country to key principles such as solidarity, cooperation and integration cannot be left out. This is the reason why international relations are taken into account in a much more extensive manner than in previous Constitutions. Ecuador has managed these aspects in a much more effective and efficient ways among several issues of

²³ Construyendo Agendas de Cooperación Internacional: Ecuador, Perú y República Dominicana (Historias de Caso 2011)

international aid since there are clearer regulations. Over the next paragraphs, it will be briefly described some of the articles of the Constitution of 2008, which make reference to this investigations, along with the purposes Ecuador pretends to reach among them.

The Ecuadorian Constitution of 2008, in the second paragraph of Article 261, states that Ecuador will have exclusive jurisdiction over its international relations.²⁴ Starting from this point, it is necessary to emphasize that the Constitution of 2008 covers most of the priority aspects of Ecuador which are closely related to International Relations. This section is in Title VIII of the Constitution. Therefore, the Republic of Ecuador through its Constitution emphasizes the maintenance of peace, security and cooperation as the main source of international politics.

Similarly, Ecuador's foreign policy is conducted in terms of people's benefits, just as it is manifested by the Article 416 of the Constitution.²⁵

Also, Ecuador in recent years has tried to maintain an active participation of international relations within the International Community. This way, Ecuador can be positioned as an active participant of an international regime which includes policies such as peace, security, fairness, social justice and especially policies about achieving greater integration of the country in terms of International Cooperation.

In addition, the Ecuadorian Constitution establishes in its Chapter 4, "Regime of Competence" which empowers the units of government (Parish Governments, Municipal Governments, Provincial Governments, Autonomous Regional Governments) to "manage International Cooperation for the accomplish of their duties" (Art. 262, 263, 264, 267)²⁶. Moreover, this encourages greater participation by the different units of government, so it will not be limited to a single entity of International Cooperation, and therefore it will not limit many more options or even ideas that contribute to the welfare of the country.

²⁴ Constitución Política del Ecuador 2008 Artículo 261

²⁵ Constitución Política del Ecuador 2008: Artículo 416

²⁶ Constitución Política del Ecuador 2008: Artículos 262, 263, 264, 267

Within the universal scope, it is not possible to left out some important aspects which contribute to establish viable tools to achieve social, political and economic conditions that afflict not only a country, but several. For this reason, Ecuador has repeatedly expressed its support for the multilateral system of international relations and cooperation, in order to demonstrate it is possible to reach international agreements which are signed to give acquired solutions to challenges of global incidence. Especially with regard issues such as human rights, social security, global trade, and climate change.

The continued participation of Ecuador in the international context has manifested itself as a tool which is used for the welfare and interests caution. So from the beginning of this theory, it manifested that Ecuador had more initiatives and proposals that invoke a change both nationally and internationally regarding of International Cooperation.

An example of this, it is the Yasuni ITT proposal, which became one of the largest international environmental proposals worldwide. It has as its main objective to hold untapped oil reserves within the areas Ishpingo-Tambococha-Tiputini. These reserves were equivalent to 20% of the country's reserves. For Ecuador to do that, the International Community would have to provide \$ 3,600 million or 50% of the financial resources that Ecuador would get in case to exploit these oil reserves. However, this initiative did not achieve its purpose and in August 2013 President Rafael Correa, announced it will be explode a part of Yasuní due to Ecuador was not able to achieve the economic amount it was expected in previous years.

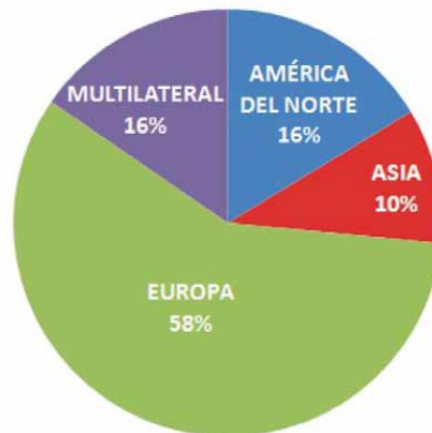
Ecuador through these parameters aims to support emerging global aspects, in order to improve the active inclusion of economic and political blocs. Especially those involving the Latin American region to strengthen integration processes. Latin America is seeking for better economic development of their countries, which moreover it could be easier to get a better social status for its inhabitants.

The fact that Ecuador is governed by new parameters as to how to handle International Cooperation, either if it is as a State recipient or donor state; it represents to redirect these new parameters into the achievement of meeting the objectives of the National Ecuadorian Development.

The numbers Ecuador receives today are channeled better. This is largely because there are various ways to channel the aid that comes from abroad. This aid is used in many aspects like pay debt swap, non-reimbursable cooperation, budget support, corporate social responsibility, humanitarian aid, grants, among others.²⁷

Next, it is shown the percentage of aid which Ecuador receives according it origin:

Illustration 5: Distribution of the source of cooperation 2010 for Ecuador by continent of origin of resources



Fuente: Cooperantes. Fecha: 08/06/2011.
Elaborado por: IM/DESE/SETECI.

Source: Cooperantes

Date of Elaboration: 08/06/2011

Elaborated by: SETECI

Graphic taken from: Rendición de cuentas SETECI 2010-2011 (page 89)

As it can be observed, Europe is the continent which provides a fairly high percentage of International Cooperation to Ecuador, regardless the areas in which the assistance received, it is being used. Multilateral aid and aid from North America have a

²⁷ Rendición de Cuentas SETECI 2010-2011 (p.86)

percentage of 16% each, while the aid that Ecuador receives from Asia it is 10%. According to estimates of SETECI, the aid received by Ecuador from this chart represents 99.8% of International Cooperation, while the receiving aid from Latin America represents 0.22% of the total.

In summary, it can be noted Ecuador regarding International Cooperation, since 2007, it has remained about new standards and better handling among areas involving these trends. By this, Ecuador has managed to consolidate good relations with several international agencies who back up bilateral or multilateral cooperation of Ecuador.

Likewise, several institutions regarding International Cooperation had been institutionalized. This has been done with the purpose of managing in a proper way all the funds Ecuador receive, as well as their funding to other countries. This has yielded fruitful results which have allowed Ecuador to have a better view about what is needed when it comes to international aid donors to the country.

1.2 South-South Cooperation: Technical, philosophical and empirical basis.

South-South Cooperation (SSC) refers to the process by which two or more developing countries receive individual or collective benefits, through help they receive from global South countries in terms of technological training, skills, knowledge, education, health, among other aspects related to the incentive of a country's development.²⁸

In other words, SSC can be understood as a tool that focuses on strengthening horizontal relationships among developing countries. It has to always respect the margins that prevail in each country regarding sovereignties, national objectives and also respecting the principle of minimum intervention into other countries.

²⁸ Unidad Especial de Cooperación Sur-Sur del Programa de Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo (PNUD) (http://www.cooperacionsursur.org/portal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=128&Itemid=118)

South-South cooperation is based on principles of fair action, by which the actions and projects carried out on this type of cooperation can have better ways to proceed. As it is provided in the Inter-American Cooperation Network, these principles are:²⁹

- Horizontality, where SSC should be managed in terms of partners, no other country can establish conditions in return for the help it will offer.
- Consensus, an action that is carried out in terms of South-South cooperation should be implemented with the consent of the countries concerned.
- Equity, South-South cooperation should ensure that recipient countries receive equally the same benefits.

Over the last two decades, SSC has taken great positioning within several regions belonging to the South Pole of the world. Countries do not longer refer to North-South cooperation anymore. Nowadays, the International Community has given major importance to South-South Cooperation due to developing countries becoming major players in terms of providing technical assistance to countries with similar economies and not depending just on developed countries to receive international aid. Latin America has not been left out of this process. It has been the opposite because Latin America has been characterized as the region with the greatest amount of progress, cooperation and great advances regarding SSC, which currently generates increasingly benefits for Latin American countries among progress.

However, how did South-South Cooperation originate?

South-South Cooperation had its origins with the Bandung Conference in 1955. This conference initiated the origin to several parameters that worked out as basis for developing countries could reach better economical, political and social solutions to

²⁹ Red Interamericana de Cooperación: Principios básicos de CSS
(http://www.cooperanet.org/cooperacion-sur-sur/ct_5/es/)

common problems they had. Leaving aside solutions that industrialized countries would impose to them.³⁰

Within this context, the Non-Aligned Movement has already been created. This movement took place under the leadership of countries like India, Indonesia and China, these nations enacted and encouraged a new economic order based on the strengthening of economic of Southern Hemisphere countries with the purpose of achieving an integrated Pole South which would not have to depend on industrialized countries of the world (North countries). As a result of this conference, several countries started to implement technical assistance within their International Cooperation agendas; this aid from developing countries would be destined to support neighboring countries or countries from the Pole South of the world.

Therefore, in 1954, Thailand which was an Asian country characterized by having an emerging economy, took the major initiative to provide technical assistance regarding aspects like education and health to its neighboring countries who had the same economy level than Thailand did, or in some cases lower incomes than Thailand.³¹

This gesture proved to the entire International Community that it was not necessary to just provide financial aid to other countries, but to contribute to its development through technical assistance or sharing of experiences about any type of processes that involve the welfare of the respective countries. Another important aspect that increased over the bounds generated by SSC was integration among developing countries. By SSC, these countries began to achieve greater improvement regarding greater number of International Agreements in many areas such as foreign trade, better educations systems, infrastructure, etc. These led to higher profits, as well as more efficiency concerning the achievement of similar goals, such as higher levels of development to provide better quality of life for its inhabitants.

³⁰ Zuluaga Nieto, Jaime: *Una Tricontinental del conocimiento: un espacio para la cooperación Sur-Sur* (p.3)

³¹ Morales López, Henry: *CONSTRUYENDO LAZOS DE SOLIDARIDAD, DIGNIDAD Y SOBERANIA. COOPERACIÓN SUR-SUR*. (Capítulo 5, Institucionalidad Americana y Cooperación Sur-Sur)

This situation resulted in the creation of many organisms like the Non-Aligned Movement (1961), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Group of 77 (G77) in 1964. This generated an impulse of technical cooperation among countries in order to achieve higher levels of economic, political and social aspects, which would be reflected in long-term results. Without forgetting this approach would be based on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries.³²

Consequently, during the 70s, several events about SSC took place around the world. These events were set out as a source for developing countries to consider what elements should be governed at the time of providing technical assistance to neighboring countries or the South in general.

One of these events was the Plan of Action of Buenos Aires that was celebrated in 1978. This Plan of Action was produced as an initiative of the countries with developing economies, in order to accelerate economic and social development, so they could support each other to achieve national and collective self-reliance by seeking to foster International Cooperation.³³ Subsequently this plan was used as a source of a correct implementation of all policies of South-South Cooperation. Countries began to be guided on how to handle technical assistance to neighboring countries and other countries of the global South. This happened especially under certain parameters like solidarity and the eradication of inequality. Thus, this Plan of Action of Buenos Aires was used as a reference to assess the progress obtained through SSC on developing countries.

Also in 2003, another Conference regarding SSC took place. It was the Marrakesh Agreement, over this Agreement participating countries reaffirmed SSC was being used as a favorable tool for developing countries. The Marrakesh Agreement was held in Morocco and was convened by the Group of 77. Developing countries established that:

³² Morales López, Henry: *CONSTRUYENDO LAZOS DE SOLIDARIDAD, DIGNIDAD Y SOBERANÍA. COOPERACIÓN SUR-SUR*. (Capítulo 4, Institucionalidad Global y Cooperación Sur-Sur)

³³ Plan de acción de Buenos Aires 1978: Plan de Acción de Buenos Aires para promover e implementar Cooperación Técnica en Países en Desarrollo.
<http://ssc.undp.org/content/dam/ssc/documents/Key%20Policy%20Documents/BAPA.pdf>

“We express the belief South-South cooperation is more necessary today than ever. No country, even the most developed of the developing countries, has great potential to achieve growth and development in individual terms, have the possibility of influencing international program results. Collectively, our countries can play a more effective role in achieving development goals and in also shaping International relations”.³⁴

Since then, Technical Assistance has reached very high levels in terms of aid. While it is true that SSC has been through really difficult years and circumstances, where this aid and in general technical assistance has not been able to be noticed due to serious economic crisis that has arisen in several countries of the South, it is also not possible to ignore the effort that many countries in this hemisphere have made within their regions.

Within this context, Latin America, as mentioned above, has been characterized as the region of the southern hemisphere which has had more emphasis regarding SSC. Its results reflect the efforts the region has been undertaken through strong integration, despite some political differences that had exist. By this, many countries have achieved better economic, political and social equality systems.

Consequently, within the Busan Declaration of 2011 that took place in Korea, with the participation of countries which belong to the Southern Hemisphere,³⁵ developing countries reaffirmed their commitment to further expand the existing cooperation (SSC). There is no better way for these countries to support each other through technical assistance and overall results of experiences these countries have had in the past. These experiences can help each other to reach state priorities that in many cases coincide with other countries given the similarity of their economies.

³⁴ Declaración de Marrakech sobre la Cooperación Sur-Sur: Párrafos 3 y 4. Página 3
[http://www.g77.org/doc/docs/Marrakech%20Final%20Docs%20\(S\).pdf](http://www.g77.org/doc/docs/Marrakech%20Final%20Docs%20(S).pdf)

³⁵ Cuarto Foro de Alto Nivel sobre la Eficacia de la Ayuda: ALIANZA DE BUSAN PARA LA COOPERACIÓN EFICAZ AL DESARROLLO 2011. párrafo 7.

Wherefore SSC actually manifests as a solid character that has influenced the behavior of Southern countries to achieve the objectives that have arisen as a national priority goals.

Although through SSC financial contributions do not take place, (reason why it still exists North-South cooperation), it is also important to note that thanks to the contributions on technological, educational, health, knowledge and others, the results have been increasingly prosperous. Also due to the principles on which SSC is based, as solidarity, similarity in national experiences in various fields, and others; there is a much broader sense regarding areas of matters of need. This has contributed to get more options that will adapt to many changes in each country.

In this way, several indicators regarding this topic of SSC will be analyzed within the following aspects of study. This will have a special focus on Latin American given that it is the region where Ecuador belongs.

1.2.1. Technical Basis for South-South Cooperation

With the initiative of South-South Cooperation (SSC), many developing countries have reached levels of success thanks to the technical assistance provided or received depending on the case. Also, several countries have acquired new technologies and knowledge in important areas such as engineering, electronics, energy, communications and more.

For this reason, it is worth noting how projects have been raised in SSC. Within areas of consistency, as well as some indicators of projects that have been carried out in Latin America.

Generally technical assistance projects are composed of four phases of development, in which these projects should be carried out carefully so that they can meet the objectives and results presented.

The first phase is known as implementation period. Projects during this period have around twenty months where an analysis of the situation, correct organization of distribution of resources and a prior assessment of what the results of the project would be, take place. The second phase is known as budget, this period is in charge of analyzing the budget the project will need according to the results of the first phase of the project, besides determine the type of resources needed and the period of time the project will need to achieve its purposes. The third phase is known as expected results, where every objective stated at the first stage is evaluated to see if the results that were obtained, match with these objectives. Finally, the fourth phase is mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, within this phase the results of the project are evaluated. In case of these results being positive, the project keeps track over the objectives so that they are maintained to benefit the recipient country.³⁶

The technical assistance projects give more emphasis to aspects of education, health, among others. Then, these projects focus on areas of infrastructure and finally on aspects related to strengthen of culture, traditions, gender equity, and others.

Below, the number of projects that have taken place in Latin America are presented.

³⁶ Informe de la Cooperación Sur-Sur en Iberoamérica 2010, pág.26

Illustration 6: Project of South-South Cooperation in Latin America

Countries	Projects received	Projects Offered
Bolivia	57	1
Brazil	4	210
Colombia	43	55
Cuba	29	53
Ecuador	37	10
El Salvador	55	1
Guatemala	21	0
Honduras	24	1
Nicaragua	20	0
Paraguay	65	1
Peru	36	3
Dominican Republic	20	0
Argentina	24	120
Chile	11	38
Costa Rica	39	4
Mexico	34	77
Panama	19	0
Uruguay	17	11
Venezuela	31	1
Total	586	586

Made and Interpreted by: Rodriguez Arce, Isabel

Date: Cuenca, September 19th, 2013

Source: Report on South-South Cooperation in Latin America 2012, p.27

By the data presented in the previous chart, the number of projects both offered and received have increased or maintain relatively high standards among countries of Latin America. Although several countries do not offer high level of cooperation projects, there are cases in which countries exchange experiences instead of technical support. Often this lack of supply of projects is because countries do not have enough resources to provide technical assistance regarding projects.

Illustration 7: Actions of South-South Cooperation between Latin American countries

Countries	Number of actions received	Number of actions offered
Bolivia	8	0
Brazil	5	10
Colombia	6	47
Cuba	8	28
Ecuador	12	10
El Salvador	24	1
Guatemala	15	0
Honduras	27	0
Nicaragua	10	0
Paraguay	17	1
Peru	22	13
Dominican Republic	5	1
Argentina	5	31
Chile	3	19
Costa Rica	18	6
Mexico	6	42
Panama	19	4
Uruguay	12	14
Venezuela	7	2
Total	229	229

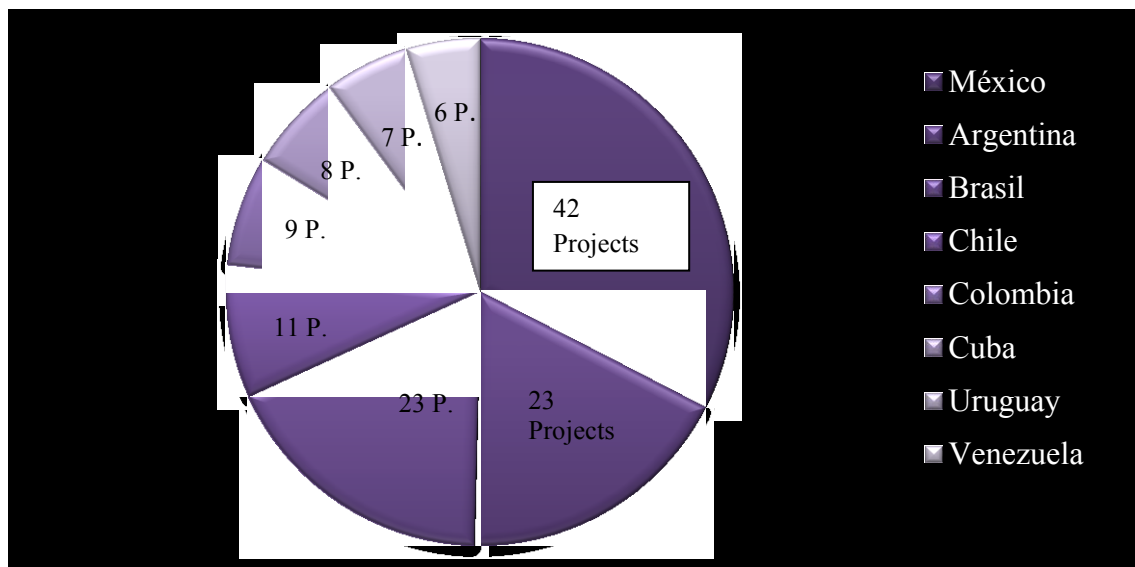
Made and Interpreted by: Rodriguez Arce, Isabel

Date: Cuenca, September 19th, 2013

Source: Report on South-South Cooperation in Latin America 2012, p.28

The charter of Actions of South-South Cooperation between Latin American countries demonstrates the actions carried out in this region, represent a considerable figure. These actions favor countries that are participants of these actions as they contribute regarding investment favoring development that seeks Latin American.

Illustration 8: Number of projects received by Ecuador regarding SSC



Made and Interpreted by: Rodriguez Arce, Isabel

Date: Cuenca, September 19th, 2013

Source: Revista Cooperamos de la Secretaría Técnica de Cooperación Internacional Ecuador. P.16

Ecuador, for being part of the Latin American region, has been part of South-South Cooperation from its beginning. Especially since SSC became a really important aspect of cooperation worldwide. Eventhough Ecuador until 2010 was not cataloged as a country that offered many projects, in the past two years has changed and been constantly trying to position itself as not only a recipient country, but also a donor country. In the previous chart, the technical assistance received by Ecuador regarding the amount of projects of South-South Cooperation mostly came from Mexico, covering 33% of aid received (42 projects). Followed by Argentina and Brazil both with 23 projects. While the other countries that are seen in the graph, provided less than 15 annual projects of technical assistance. Thanks to the projects received, Ecuador has been able to make some progresses in certain areas of social matters and together with the economic development tahta this country wants to obtain.

1.2.2. Philosophical Basis of South-South Cooperation

South-South Cooperation since its inception has been established as an aid mechanism, not just for one region, but for the entire Southern Hemisphere of the world. Through SSC the South Pole has been able to achieve greater progress and better results concerning its objectives about development. The achievement of these results will benefit all countries that are part of this type of cooperation, especially areas about political, economical and social areas.

Furthermore, South-South Cooperation has been expressed as a manifestation of the asymmetries of the international political and economic power.³⁷ It is directed to improve income levels of developing countries simultaneously with the integration that this cooperation represents. In consequence, this integration helps to combat the hegemony of the international economic system that has took place for decades. Developing countries are no longer waiting to get international aid from industrialized countries anymore; these countries have been able to find new ways to help each other in order to demand participation in the international cooperation area regarding a global context.

Historically, developing countries did not acquire great participation regarding decisions of International Cooperation that were generated within an international context. However, these countries have become more important due to SSC, besides these countries contribute between them with any aspect that benefits them directly.

Also, the different systems of Latin American regional integration like the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA), the Pacific Alliance, the Andean Community (CAN), the Caribbean Community (CARICM), CELAC, MERCOSUR, SICA and UNASUR³⁸, have become a real effort of the will that exists by this region to achieve integration processes, in order to solidify as a region of close ties which faces

³⁷ Revista Cooperamos: Viola, Carolina: *Cooperación Sur-Sur; Análisis, Gestión y Reflexión* (p.4)

³⁸ Informe de la Cooperación Sur-Sur en Iberoamérica 2012 (p. 18)
(<http://segib.org/cooperacion/files/2012/10/Informe-Sur-Sur-2012.pdf>)

different development processes together. Within these institutions, SSC issues have many times been discussed, since there is a need for Latin American countries to pool strong relations as basis platforms for dialogue and cooperation in order to stake out new models of International Cooperation and more precisely about SSC, so Latin America can achieve higher levels of development and also better relations with the African and Asian continent.

Thus, Ecuador establishes and recognizes that South-South Cooperation is an essential tool to further contribute to the integration of middle-income countries and lower middle income countries, especially in Latin American; as it helps to reduce asymmetries in the countries of the region. The president of the Committee for the Abolition of Third World Debt, Eric Toussaint establishes: SSC manifests as a "driving force which drives trade solidarity mechanisms ".³⁹ These mechanisms are intended to complement the efforts of the countries of the South to overcome development problems collectively.

The Director of the International Cooperation Department of the Institute of International Relations at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Javier Suraski states that "SSC only makes sense if it can help to change the rules of a board game where a logic of inequality and exclusion perpetuates".

Therefore, the importance that SSC has created worldwide among the positive results of the Southern Hemisphere countries, has been established as a method by which it can take better control over the development that the region needs. Although, always keeping in mind the objectives stated to reach their basic needs and realities.

Developing countries which over the years have been categorized as active countries in terms of SSC, have used this method as a tool in the external environment (aid to other countries), as inside their own countries. This is due to the relationship that exists between SSC objectives and national objectives of different countries, most of the time

³⁹ Revista Cooperamos: Toussaint, Eric en el artículo de Viola, Carolina: *Cooperación Sur-Sur; Análisis, Gestión y Reflexión* (p.4)

these objectives coincide so this type of cooperation has manifested itself as a worthy form based on more optimal ways to achieve national objectives.

SSC manifests as a way to generate new help patterns from aspects which are not influenced by the different ideologies of governments, but it must be taken into account that SSC is proclaimed as a trend in which technical assistance to other countries is the most important because by this, countries with similar economies can achieve higher levels of development.

In summary, it can be stated that the Southern Hemisphere countries are giving more importance to the adherence to SSC, because these countries join forces and resources and are able to meet many of their goals in a more viable and effective manner. Besides, South-South Cooperation has help to increased importance at regional level to a global level. In this way, developing countries acquire greater participation in the International Community as part of a system that generates positive results at the level of several countries, this does not mean they have t help each other just through economic amounts of money, but by the force union and integration it involves.

1.2.3. Empirical Basis for South-South Cooperation

Nowadays, many technical assistance projects have been acquired among the Southern Hemisphere level. The vast majority of these experiences have been extremely successful, achieving the expected results through technical assistance that providing countries have made.

This is the reason why South-South Cooperation continues to focus on achieving positive results through projects of technical assistance. In this sense, Latin America has generated significant impact in relation to the benefits that countries have managed to get as a result of the technical assistance they have given or received.

Although two decades ago, Latin American was not fit enough to provide suitable living conditions for its inhabitants by the asymmetry that existed in the region, this has gradually changed. By this, it does not mean there are no longer differences among the Latin American population, but it is not possible to mention that the region is now better able to provide superior levels of knowledge, technological advances, health, among others.

Historically, Southern countries have cataloged the North as its example to follow, to achieve the same levels of development, education, economic and other systems. That scenario was imposed for the Southern countries; however, it became a theory which underestimated our own traditions and ways of reaching new development goals.

By this, it should not be dismissed the excellent contributions that have been made from the Northern countries to the South, especially since it has helped countless times to reach new realities. So this is not about devaluating the contributions made by the North, but it is about realizing that the Southern Hemisphere may make contributions between them, and by this it will be feasible to create a circle which involves both the North and South on equal terms.

It is worth noting that some of the experiences which South-South Cooperation has had, especially in Latin America, has characterized as the region which has been more accessible to integrate this type of cooperation into every national agenda with the primary aim of greater integration and from there achieving higher levels of development.

One of the projects of South-South Cooperation was funded by the Swedish Business Development Agency (SIDA), which was directly linked to academic institutions in Latin America, Africa and Asia. The purpose was to encourage the creation of

transnational intellectual networks to focus them on important aspects at local, national and regional level respectively.⁴⁰

Another noteworthy experience in the field of SSC was the program of aid to Haiti after the earthquake that struck in 2010. Brazil contributed to Haiti with the program of national poverty reduction called "Bolsa Familia", by which Brazil could transfer the knowledge it had acquired when it was successfully applied to it, with the aim of reducing poverty. These successful experiences that Brazil experienced during the implementation of this Plan, it successfully transferred to Haiti to help during the serious crisis after the year of the earthquake and subsequent years.⁴¹

In the case of Brazil, the assistance provided by this country does not focus just on humanism areas, it goes further. Brazil, like other countries such as Venezuela and Argentina (in the case of Latin America), have focused on promoting increased business aspects because this ends up in better results in terms of consolidation of economic interests for the region in general, what leads to a better stimulation of development cooperation.

Brazil has established itself as a Latin American country that seeks to give way to new markets in the global context. Over the last years, it has achieved it through the dissemination of ethanol technology (since Brazil is the more efficient ethanol), to lower middle income countries, this leads to the creation of more countries who are able to become suppliers of this material and increase the chances of a global market, while creating more jobs for Latin America people.⁴²

In the case of Chile, the experiences this country has gained through technical assistance actions have allowed it to strengthen the technical capacities with countries which have

⁴⁰ Morasso, Carla; Rereyra Doval, Gisela: *Argentina y Brasil: Proyecciones Internacionales, Cooperación Sur-Sur e integración* (p.21)

⁴¹ Morasso, Carla; Rereyra Doval, Gisela: *Argentina y Brasil: Proyecciones Internacionales, Cooperación Sur-Sur e integración* (p.55)

⁴² Morasso, Carla; Rereyra Doval, Gisela: *Argentina y Brasil: Proyecciones Internacionales, Cooperación Sur-Sur e integración* (p.55)

similar economies to the Chilean or lower economies, with the aim of contributing to its development. Chile has not only focused on providing technical assistance in a particular aspect. Its agenda regarding South-South cooperation has diversified greatly. Some of the most notable projects that Chile has provided surround poverty reduction, social protection and social development. According to statistics from the International Cooperation Agency of Chile (AGCI), these three areas cover about 47% of the total amount that is intended to support these types of projects.

Also, another areas of vital importance for the Chilean agenda of SSC has been education (12.82%), the "Productive development, innovation and competitiveness" (8.53%), health (5, 98%), security (1.86%) and environment, even though environment has lower percentages, it does not mean the Chilean government cares less for this aspect because all these aspects have a geographic reach that allows providing several opportunities to host countries.⁴³

One of the technical assistance programs Chile has offered has been the project "Escuelas de Chile", which aims to improve the existing infrastructure of educational schools, including better supply of teachers, recreational spaces for students, etc. So far this program has benefited more than 40 schools in several Latin American countries like Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.⁴⁴

Among the major recipients of technical assistance of Chile are mainly Haiti and Bolivia. Haiti receives priority support in areas such as overcoming poverty, social protection and development.⁴⁵ While in the case of Bolivia, it has provided assistance in terms of modernization of the state and infrastructure.

⁴³ Santander Campos, Guillermo: Estudios de caso CHILE: EXPLORANDO NUEVOS ROLES en Nuevos donantes y cooperación Sur-Sur

⁴⁴ Santander Campos, Guillermo: Estudios de caso CHILE: EXPLORANDO NUEVOS ROLES en Nuevos donantes y cooperación Sur-Sur (p. 52, 53)

⁴⁵ Santander Campos, Guillermo: Estudios de caso CHILE: EXPLORANDO NUEVOS ROLES en Nuevos donantes y cooperación Sur-Sur (p.54)

In the case of Colombia, the most prominent areas of technical assistance since 2009, has been Modernization of the State with 24 projects that have been carried out, which represents 22.6% of the total. While aspects like productive development and environment have concentrated a total of 15 projects given to other Latin American countries, which consolidates 14.15% of the total. Areas as science, technology, and agriculture composed a total of 11 actions. Colombia has feature to position itself as one of the Latin American countries that provide more technical assistance regarding other Latin American countries. The main destinations of aid have been Honduras, Costa Rica and Mexico.⁴⁶

Venezuela has also manifested itself as a high bidder country. Since South-South Cooperation was implemented, Venezuela's purpose has been the achievement of regional integration for Latin America so the region can consolidate power among other regions in the world. Venezuela's main partners are Cuba and Bolivia; these countries have set energy assistance agreements. Venezuela for being one of the main oil producer countries in the world is committed to supply oil to 10 countries of Central America and the Caribbean on preferential terms. While Venezuela provides oil barrels especially to Cuba, Cuba in return is committed to provide technical assistance to Venezuela in areas such as medical care, technical specialists and health. Furthermore, Bolivia together with Venezuela have signed the "*Acuerdo de Cooperación en materia agropecuaria y desarrollo rural*", by this; cooperation and technical assistance are carried out between the parties in an efficiently manner regarding some areas like agriculture. This in turn benefits many production aspects and consequently improves development processes of both countries.⁴⁷

Even though, Ecuador until 2009 was characterized as a country that received more help than it offered, this has slowly been changing and currently Ecuador provides technical assistance to several Latin American countries. It also focuses on several areas such as

⁴⁶ Uribe Villa, Pablo: COLOMBIA: HITOS Y TENDENCIAS COMO NUEVO DONANTE en Nuevos donantes y cooperación Sur-Sur (p. 84)

⁴⁷ Santander Campos, Guillermo: Venezuela, el donante "Bolivariano" en Nuevos Donantes de la Cooperación Sur-Sur (p.94-96)

infrastructure development, technology, and education. Ecuador aims to achieve higher levels of regional integration and it mainly will achieve it through these technical assistance projects. In this way, the benefits will be for Ecuador and also for Latin American countries who receive aid from these projects.

Likewise, Ecuador states other countries should take advantage of SSC parameters, focusing not only on economic aspects as International Cooperation has traditionally been conceived, but focusing on cooperating with other countries that need it the most. For this reason, Ecuador promotes SSC as a tool for regional integration so Latin America can progress simultaneously and thus contribute to the reduction of asymmetries in this region.

Ecuador as an offering country, has implemented certain standards in order to provide technical assistance actions to other countries, these standards are based on specific basis such as having affinities in common, whether these are political, social, cultural, religious or historical aspects. This way, it is more acquirable to perform in a better way projects for each country. From here, the necessities that each country has can be measured, so Ecuador can provide technical assistance according to Latin American countries' needs.

Among the experiences Ecuador has maintained regarding SSC, several experiences can be highlighted. One of them was provided to Cuba this year (2013). The project consists of rehabilitating the Residence Hall of the Faculty of Medical Sciences in the city of Santiago de Cuba. Besides this, there is also another project which focuses on a construction of 560 housing units in the district of "Abel Santamaría", this will be held by the Army Corps of Ecuador. The reconstruction of this faculty is taking place after the Hurricane Sandy destroyed a significant part of this city. The project consists of restoring bathrooms, windows, doors, electrical installations, painting and generally everything that is related to the building of the place.

Besides these projects, another one is being held. It consists on constructing 28 multi-family buildings; each building will have 5 floors and 4 apartments per floor. It will be exclusively for people affected Hurricane Sandy.⁴⁸

Latin American countries have emerged as a strong internationally region, it has developed into a firmly bloc, which presents every time more advantages that are well suited for these countries. Although there are countries which offer more projects and technical assistance activities than other, none of the countries in the Latin American has lagged behind in terms of providing aid. Whether these aid summarizes into sharing experiences or providing technical assistance concerning projects.

Nowadays, Southern countries are better off than twenty years ago. These countries do not have means of self-development anymore. It is the opposite because in the international context Southern countries have create a tight bound between them, which facilitates to advance in development terms together as a Pole and in our case as a region. By this, developing countries can also have a influence regarding decisions regarding systemic rules within an international arena that in many cases these rules decide several development parameters.

Meanwhile, in many occasions Ecuador has proved that through SSC can achieve greater regional challenges, and new goals because many several experiences the country has gone through has shown well. This has been achieved thanks to the new institutional and organizational structure that was staked.

In the next chapter of this research, it will be analyzed in a more detailed way what has been the role played by Ecuador regarding SSC, its new scope and also results achieved through the new structure forged concerning International Cooperation and Development topics.

⁴⁸ Guerrero, Susana: Presidente Correa revisará avance de obras que son parte de la cooperación con Cuba. <http://www.defensa.gob.ec/tag/cooperacion-sur-sur/>

CHAPTER 2: ECUADOR AND SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

2.1. Current Policy for International Cooperation in Ecuador

Many causes have contributed to the increase of Latin America economy, causes like countries' economies in the region have increased existing domestic demand and it has remained constant, also the increased demand for the raw materials sector climbed along with the pace of GDP⁴⁹, which generated a good economic growth along Latin-American. In this way, many countries have been able to accentuate their figures in terms of income and thus also ensure greater economic stability, which allowed to focus more efforts on aspects of South-South cooperation to enhance also in social aspects and not only in the economical part.

However, these changes and all the tools used in the region want to achieve positive results. This is because the world as it goes on in several aspects like social, technological, political, environmental, etc; it requires Latin America is on the edge of these aspects so it can advance in several terms, as the world and globalization also do. Thus, one of the responses from Latin America to this has been the fact of putting more emphasis on aspects of International Cooperation to solidify the region as a whole, whereby this region can have greater influence in the area of the International Community and other international organizations.

In this way, the regional objectives regarding International Cooperation, especially South-South Cooperation; respond to demands for greater equality due to inequity being one of the biggest problems that countries of this region have to face. This is why Latin America not only practice International Cooperation policies with the purpose of being a

⁴⁹ Fondo Monetario Internacional: Estudios Económicos y Financieros; Perspectivas Económicas *Las Américas, tiempo de reforzar las defensas macroeconómica. Mayo 2013* (p.13)

region greater presence and influence in the world, or just with the objective of commercial businesses, but also to adapt to different national and regional capacities.⁵⁰ In the case of Ecuador, this is a country that has been characterized as an active country regarding the economical growth of Latin America. Ecuador has become a middle-income country according to studies by the International Monetary Fund. Also, this country has become a State in which even key aspects that allow greater economic growth and development have advanced significantly. One of these aspects is the significant reduction of its public debt that has reached 45 percentage point decline in gross domestic product⁵¹, which in turn this allows a country's sustainable growth and leads to a better integration of regional and global level.

Similarly, Ecuador's GDP increased significantly compared to previous years, in 2012 the GDP was \$84039.90 million dollars⁵². This leads to the increase of several factors that affect in a positive way to the Ecuadorian economy, and at the same time it is good to internal and external elements of the nature of the country. These external aspects refer to foreign trade with other countries and other International Agreements. However, within the objective of this research, the primary focus will be on the increase of International Cooperation that arises as the countries' welfare also increases, especially the increase in South-South Cooperation, which creates close ties between countries belonging to the South Pole.

However, economical aspects are not the only ones that matter in the International Cooperation area. Every internal policy of each country must be taken into consideration, so every country can proceed to participate regarding International Cooperation policies. In Ecuador's case, the Political Constitution establishes several rules that have to be respected regarding this area, as it was already mentioned in the previous chapter, there are many articles in the Constitution that refer to the monitoring

⁵⁰ Informe de Cooperación Sur-Sur en Iberoamérica 2012. (p.24)
<http://segib.org/cooperacion/files/2012/10/Informe-Sur-Sur-2012.pdf>

⁵¹ Fondo Monetario Internacional: Estudios Económicos y Financieros; *Perspectivas Económicas Las Américas, tiempo de reforzar las defensas macroeconómica*. Mayo 2013 (p.45)

⁵² Banco Central del Ecuador: Valor del PIB (<http://www.bce.fin.ec/indicador.php?tbl=pib>) Ingresado el 04 de octubre de 2013

and enforcement of certain standards, by which it becomes more efficient to achieve the objectives that this legislation raises regarding International Cooperation.

Therefore, Ecuador is based on specific parameters to respect the actions on which the International Cooperation is guided, it must also follow the margin that exists in terms of respect for human rights as Ecuadorian Constitution establishes in its Article 11, human rights are inalienable and equal for all citizens.⁵³ For his reason, all the International Agreements that Ecuador concretes with other countries regarding International Cooperation must be under the scope to include these rights as a basis for any decision. This occurs primarily because everything has to be in favor of Ecuadorians, without mitigating any rights they have. Within this context, Ecuador being guarantor of the citizens rights, also requires that donors who contribute in health, education and others to Ecuador, have to be organizations that are consolidated as official donors and these organizations also have to align fiscal policies of the state and contribute through this method.

Besides the respect for human rights and the Constitution, International Cooperation in Ecuador is based on the National Plan for Good Living. Everything regarding International Cooperation in this country is linked because of the new institutional agencies of International Cooperation matters that must respect these parameters before acting and pursuing policies with other countries. Ecuador through the National Plan for Good Living seeks to consolidate its development objectives, and pose for International Cooperation as a mechanism that helps to consolidate these objectives; at national level, as regional and global level. This leads to a country's strategic insertion into new markets to generate greater profits.

Therefore, as proposed by the Technical Secretariat of International Cooperation (SETECI), the parameters for the development of International Cooperation over the country are:

⁵³ Constitución Política del Ecuador 2008: Artículo 11

Illustration 9: Parameters as base of International Cooperation Policy in Ecuador



Table taken from: Informe Rendición de cuentas SETECI 2011

Elaborated by: CV/UAPCI/SETECI

Source: Policies for International Cooperation in Ecuador/SETECI

These parameters help the country to be managed as a sovereign country that pursues efficient and practical aspects of an international policy in cooperation. With these aspects, Ecuador has been able to position itself as a country that implements several aspects of its domestic jurisdiction regarding International Cooperation and consequently South-South Cooperation to thereby attain higher levels of achievement and progress in several areas of interest of the country as technology, economics, education, infrastructure, among others.

It should be noted that Ecuador considers International Cooperation as a complement to the constant development efforts that the country put into practice, as well as the efficiency that comes from institutional coordination for greater alignment with national

development strategies.⁵⁴ This is directly linked with the Paris Declaration, because this International Agreement seeks to promote among countries the creation of their own strategies to strengthen institutional capacity of the state and thus lead to better allocate the resources that are offered.

Following these guidelines, Ecuador has been able to restore a new International Cooperation policy, the one that has solidified the efforts that have been made since 2009. Taking into account aspects of both the country internally and externally, a country also needs to focus its resources on domestic International Cooperation policies so that resources that are allocated to the country can be handled properly for the welfare of the inhabitants.

Therefore, the Technical Secretariat of International Cooperation Ecuador (SETECI), defines this new policy as one that "seeks to improve coordination between different levels of government and donors, as well as ensure that programs financed from ODA are aligned to the goals of national development."⁵⁵ Thus, this new policy is imposed as a useful tool to quantify in an optimal and clearly way the data which would be collected from the projects offered by Ecuador and also the one who the country receives. This data includes investment amounts, specific sector of application of the project, cooperating institutions, estimated dates on project duration and the results to be obtained, etc.

This new policy of International Cooperation promulgates Ecuador being able to be an active participant in the actions that are performed on this subject worldwide, so one of the challenges of this policy is to contribute to the reconstruction of an International Cooperation procedure that benefits both our country and the countries in the region, so it can be easier to obtain a much more inclusive system among the countries of Latin

⁵⁴ SETECI 2010 en Complementariedad y Cooperación Sur-Sur. *"La nueva doctrina de cooperación internacional de Ecuador"* (2011) (p.2)

⁵⁵ Srouji, S. (2011): *"La nueva doctrina de cooperación internacional de Ecuador"*- Complementariedad y Cooperación Sur-Sur en Medición de la eficacia de la cooperación al desarrollo a nivel local – ECUADOR

America and consequently this will help to decrease drastically the dependence existing between developed and developing countries.

Because of this, several criteria have been generated to carry out an effective international cooperation policy within the country, this is why the Resolution No. 0009-CNC, 2011, states in Article 4 the criteria for the exercise of management jurisdiction of International Cooperation. These criteria have provided great foundation for International Cooperation in Ecuador so it can be guided effectively on a standard monitor. The following criteria are established next.

"1. Complementarily and Stewardship: International Cooperation should contribute to the efforts of the country to make further progress of development. Similarly, International Cooperation should focus on reinforcing institutional capacity and transfer of other resources such as human resources, technical, administrative and other in order to achieve the objectives set by the PNBV.

3. Transparency, Effectiveness and Impact: International Cooperation should have an honest participation in the running of the country, this way it contributes to the development and scope of national planning objectives and development, both locally and nationally.

5. Specialization and Harmonization: International Cooperation through comparative advantages that exist between the various partners and donors in the country should generate greater inclusion between them to lead beneficiary patterns to Ecuador and their partners to engage in a peaceful way strong ties of negotiation."⁵⁶

Throughout these dispositions Ecuador seeks to generate a development policy of International Cooperation that can be at the forefront of the needs of the country and its people and also to be able to generate clarity about policies of Official Development

⁵⁶ República del Ecuador, Consejo Nacional de Competencias: Resolución 0009-CNC-2011 de Septiembre del 2011. (Artículo 4)

Assistance received by the state and at a regional level to position itself as a Latin American integrating axis, focusing increasingly on the development needs of the region.

Ecuador currently seeks to promote human and technological aspects over financial aspects, the reason for this is because by sharing technical, training, human talent, and so on, the results would be long-term investments, and subsequently these items can affect positively on the structural changes in the countries' economy and jointly reaching the social and economic transformations that raises the National Plan for Good Living.

Consequently, the Technical Secretariat of International Cooperation of Ecuador has implemented policies and guidelines of International Cooperation in Ecuador which are based to define clear parameters of the International Cooperation function. Through these policies and guidelines the country has maintained a much clearer system as to how to systematically manage the procedures that focus on International Cooperation.

One of the most significant policies in this context is covered by paragraph c which states:

“c. Coordinate the cooperation demand and position the national offer, boosting platforms and SSC actions that project technical and institutional capacity of the country and strengthen the process of regional integration”⁵⁷

This has led to another aspect regarding the new International Cooperation policy of Ecuador. South-South Cooperation being a type of cooperation that manifests as an element of regional integration among the countries of the South, in this case with special focus on Latin America, has contributed with great strengthening relationships between countries in the region, as well as to strengthening relationships that allows economic aspects go afloat. Since 2009, all the satisfactory experiences that SSC has

⁵⁷ Secretaría Técnica de Cooperación Internacional: Informe de Cooperación No Reembolsable en el Ecuador 2012-2011. (Políticas y Lineamientos de la Cooperación Internacional en Ecuador, página 34-literal “C”)

achieved, have contributed to reach more efficient dynamics that has managed to contribute to the development of Latin American countries through the exchange of their own resources.

The International Cooperation policy of Ecuador is part of the strategy to deal with the crisis of International Cooperation worldwide (especially to Latin America since ODA funds have been reduced in the last years) and institutions from a national perspective.⁵⁸ This has contributed greatly so SSC could have a broader perspective over the years, specially a bigger influence in our region. Through these experiences that every year increase, it has allowed developing countries to be the main actors in the decisions of ODA funds or technical assistance they receive, in other words; to decide in which sector each country should use these funds relating them to national needs and objectives of each Latin American country.

In this context, Ecuador since the establishment of this new International Cooperation policy and overall since the institutionalization of several agencies regarding this area, so in this way, Ecuador has had several experiences regarding SSC, not only as a recipient of aid, but also as a technical assistance offering country. That is why the Secretary of the SETECI, Gabriela Rosero established that "It is important for Ecuador to move towards a new period in which International Cooperation not only is characterized as a receiving country, but also as a donor country which has the experience, ability and strength to share with others."⁵⁹

Finally, we may note that Ecuador keeps International Cooperation as a basic principle of international relations, so that the country through this mechanism can compromise to the region, and in general with the international community to remove barriers of insecurity, poverty and even peace. This is because when policies of each country are not applied as it should, the results are unsatisfactory and fail to meet many of the goals that each country is plotted. For this reason Ecuador makes greater efforts that are

⁵⁸ Viola, Carolina (2012): *Un nuevo Paradigma para la Cooperación Internacional en Ecuador*, Revista Cooperamos. (p.18-20)

⁵⁹ Srouji, S. (2011): "*Cooperación Sur-Sur*" - Complementariedad y Cooperación Sur-Sur (p. 5)

designed to meet its development goals. In terms of South-South Cooperation, reach a net integration of Latin America.

2.2. The Institutionalization of International Cooperation in Ecuador

Institutionalization can be understood as a systematic process which refers to a method of consolidation and unification of various behaviors and ideas, which manifest themselves through many instruments. These processes can also be organizations and standards that have the purpose of reaching a social order for the benefit of society.⁶⁰ This being so, it is proper to note that by institutionalizing entities or organizations, it becomes more feasible to reach joint actions to facilitate the achievement of goals or even prioritize activities according to the needs they have.

The institutionalization of institutions and agencies are generally given with the objective of using the resources that every country has on its own in a more efficient way, so through institutionalization, many entities can use these resources without wasted them and apply them to reach out many state goals. For this reason, many states including Ecuador have created multiple institutions that are responsible for International Cooperation policies and consequently for every activity required among the cooperation area. In other words, institutionalization works to promote an orderly, valid and systemic process which benefits to every country who uses it and also to its inhabitants.

From this brief concept, it is important to analyze the institutionalization of entities in charge of International Cooperation in Ecuador. Ecuador since its inception as a sovereign country was characterized by serious political crises that in most of the cases caused constant changes regarding institutions that handled International Cooperation policies. With each incoming government, the institutions who were in charge of these cooperation areas, would change its objectives according to what the current government

⁶⁰ Féliz, Glenis: La Institucionalidad en el Estado (<http://eldia.com.do/la-institucionalidad-en-el-estado/>) (Ingresado el 10/10/13)

at the time considered the best, these entities would not just change its objectives, but also its way to proceed to any process required, or even destined the funds that each organizations would receive into different and messy ways, as they were below the amount that actually was intended. This caused negative results inside the country and outside it because of lack of coordination and bad policies adjusted in every institution.

The institutional history of International Cooperation in Ecuador has gone through a diverse number of transitions. Although, all of these changes have generated that nowadays the institutionalizations that Ecuador has is currently there is a clear that allows a better institutional framework for better records of how to carry out the work of cooperation in the country and also in an international context.

In 1974 in Ecuador, the National Committee of Technical and Economic Assistance is created. Its objective was to coordinate any type of fund that the country would receive regarding International Cooperation. Within this period, the military government of Guillermo Rodríguez Lara was at the top and within this, the Comprehensive Plan for Transformation and Development is held by this government, its main goal was to contribute to the achievement of better development results of the country. Although in 1976 the government suffered changes in the military leadership so this plan was not carried out. For several years, the agency that was destined to exercise International Cooperation matters in Ecuador, suffered constant changes. Nevertheless in 1979, the National Planning Council (CONADE) was created.⁶¹

However, this new change would not last either. In 1984 the CONADE begins to lose influence and responsibility of its duties regarding International Cooperation. However, early efforts were made to align external policies of International Cooperation with the public interest to ensure citizen welfare. This is why during the government of Sixto Durán Ballén (1992-1996) many efforts were made to establish an institution who would manage grants and technical cooperation. For this reason in 1993 is created the External

⁶¹ Organización de Estados Americanos: *Construyendo Historias de Cooperación Internacional- Ecuador, Perú y República Dominicana, Historias de Caso.*

Cooperation Agency which was consolidated as an institution belonging to the CONADE, this new institution focused on ensuring a proper functioning of the National System of External Cooperation.⁶²

In the same context, with the change of the governments every certain period of time, which was not necessarily the 4 four years established for a presidential mandate; all the policies of International Cooperation also changed; in other words, there was not any type of stability who would guarantee a proper function of these policies. Every policy changed according to the government at the time and according to what each government would impose, regarding its beliefs and convictions to get better results. Nevertheless, the governments and policies were not the only ones who changes, but also changed the Political Constitutions of the country. This is why, the Political Constitution of 1998, replaced the CONADE by a new institution that would be responsible for handling the parameters of International Cooperation. This new institution was the National Planning Office (ODEPLAN).

This new institution prioritized provincial development agendas over the national one, however; this caused instability in Ecuador because the resources that the country would receive would not be canalized properly. Then, Ecuador was immersed in International Cooperation instability issues once again. So in 1998 with the government of Jamil Mahuad, it was created the Ecuadorian Foreign Cooperation Agency (AGECE)⁶³ in order to optimize resources and technical assistance the country would receive financially and also to align the existing cooperation policies.

The AGECE joined the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit in which it worked during its existence. Despite the establishment of AGECE, these institutions did not accomplish its commitment, so in the government of Gustavo Noboa (2000-2003), a new institution was restructured again, which would be in charge of the International Cooperation policies of the country. This new entity was the Ecuadorian Institute for International

⁶² Arcos (2001) en Construyendo Historias de Cooperación Internacional- Ecuador, Perú y República Dominicana, Historias de Caso. (p. 9)

⁶³ Decreto Ejecutivo No. 812 de Abril de 1999

Cooperation (INECI)⁶⁴. This new institution was no longer attached to the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, but to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The INECI was created in conjunction with the International Cooperation Advisory Council which was responsible for structuring the International Cooperation policies of the country.

Although these new institutions were responsible for non-reimbursable cooperation, cooperation responsibilities were clearly reimbursable by the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

Within this period, the INECI started generating positive results, several dialog reunions were established to discuss coordination parameters of International Cooperation. In the same way, many efforts were put into practice to aim for better experiences and results, especially in fields like South-South Cooperation with neighboring countries like Peru. This contributed to serious efforts regarding SSC and also Triangular Cooperation to begin managing new forms of cooperation that were focused to the needs of the country.

During the institutional life of INECI, the National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES) was created in 2004, during the government of Lucio Gutierrez. Although, in the government of Alfredo Palacios, the Millennium Development Goals Secretariat was also created as a result of the policy Status of the Millennium Development Goals.⁶⁵

With so many changes occurring, it was difficult for the institutions responsible of the policies of International Cooperation in Ecuador to stay afloat. Even though, with the establishment of the INECI the country has reached positive results, these results were not enough to reach the development goals that were set. Thus, in 2007 during the government of Rafael Correa new changes were managed so the International Cooperation policies would be aligned with the National Development Plan and later with the National Plan for Good Living.

⁶⁴ Decreto Ejecutivo No. 611 de julio del 2000

⁶⁵ Decreto Ejecutivo No. 294 de julio del 2005

One change that occurred during this period, was that INECI functions became the responsibility of the Ecuadorian Agency for International Cooperation (AGECI) and at the same time, the AGECI became part SENPLADES. Also, the International Cooperation Board (CODCI) was created, it aimed to be in charge of International Cooperation of the country along with the development of new standards policies of governing cooperation. Similarly, the Ecuadorian System of International Cooperation (SECI) was also created to contribute to the achievement of all the actors from International Cooperation of Ecuador and also to ensure that its objectives are met. The policies enacted by the INECI were primarily about how to generate change in technological and human capabilities, in addition; another of its functions were to promote international cooperation policies to generate a positioning of the country as an active actor worldwide and also to promote South-South cooperation at regional level.⁶⁶

The new institutions focused their work and efforts to obtain results that were in line with the National Plan for Good Living. Thus, the AGECI following this guideline had two institutional changes. These changes led to the evidence there was not a figure of Agency so it was changed to the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation (SETECI)⁶⁷. This new organism was joined to the same the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in addition to have the right to establish cooperation agreements and their registration and monitoring of NGOs operating within the country. The CODCI also was reformed and became the International Cooperation Committee (COCI) in 2010.⁶⁸

All these new institutional entities that currently are handling policies of International Cooperation in Ecuador, have proven they have much more organization and coordination to implement these policies and align resources the country receives under the Development goals of PNBV. While it is true that now these entities reflect greater stability in terms of the changes that are generated in this area, this is not a reason to just

⁶⁶ Organización de Estados Americanos: *Construyendo Historias de Cooperación Internacional- Ecuador, Perú y República Dominicana, Historias de Caso.*(p.12)

⁶⁷ Decreto Ejecutivo No. 429 de Julio del 2010 (Artículo 1)

⁶⁸ Decreto Ejecutivo No. 429 de Julio del 2010 (Artículo 1)

stay there with the results that have been accomplished. Ecuador together with its institutions has to improve each day to be at the forefront of the items required by Ecuador and also to accomplish the standards established by the International Community in terms of cooperation.

Subsequently, it will be analyzed in greater depth some of the entities that currently have the responsibility to implement and exercise International Cooperation policies, both in Ecuador and outside the country.

2.2.1. National Secretary of Planning and Development (SENPLADES)

The National Secretary of Planning and Development is a public institution that is in charge of national planning and coordination taking into consideration key strategies that are efficient, responsible, honest and transparent. In this way it can be achieved the objectives of the National Good Living and consequently ensure a better quality of life for Ecuadorians. This is done in order to manage the National Decentralized Participatory Planning, the ones that is used as basis for the development of Ecuador.⁶⁹ The administration of this system is achieved through various processes of information, training, research, monitoring and evaluation. Through which SENPLADES can establish monitoring rules to respond appropriately to what the PNBV establishes. However, it cannot be left out the fact that SENPLADES is an dependent institution of the Presidency of Ecuador, for this reason; Article 255 of the Political Constitution of Ecuador states the Secretariat counts with the participation of autonomous regional governments and social organizations which is determined by law.⁷⁰

However, SENPLADES has not always existed in the country, as this institution is also the product of an evolution of other public institutions responsible of cooperation issues.

⁶⁹ Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo: Planificación Estratégica. (<http://www.planificacion.gob.ec/valores-mision-vision/>)

⁷⁰ Constitución Política de Ecuador (2008): Artículo 255

State planning had its origins with the National Economic Planning and Coordination (JUNAPLA) in 1954. In 1979 JUNAPLA is replaced by the National Development Council (CONADE) and in the same way, in 1998 CONADE is also replaced by the Office of Planning (ODEPLAN)⁷¹. That is, the institutions which were created in order to manage and enhance the continuity of International Cooperation policies internally and externally of the country, were not consolidated as such because of the political instability that existed. This is why these institutions changed every time a new government exercised its mandate.

As mentioned above, these constant changes eventually led to the creation of SENPLADES in 2004, during the government of Lucio Gutierrez. SENPLADES along its evolution as a public entity responsible for exercising planning policies both within and outside the country, led to come together with other entities so that these organisms can jointly achieve the goals established for the welfare of Ecuadorians.

For this reason, in 2007 two other organisms merged to SENPLADES, these institutions were the National Council of State Modernization (CONAM) which was originated in 1993 with the aim of promoting issues such as decentralization, privatization, reform and modernization, and the other one was the National Secretary of the Millennium Development Goals (SODEM) which was created in 2005 in order to meet the eight Millennium Development Goals that had been imposed in 2000⁷². These entities were joined to SENPLADES in order to respond effectively to the needs of the inhabitants.

Thus, since the creation of SENPLADES, its objectives have strengthened year after year in order to get better results. Objectives that currently rely on the strengthening of the institutions affiliated to SENPLADES, the further development of the country on principles of inclusion, participation, decentralization, transparency and efficiency, also to coordinate the various actions of the country's public institutions in order to achieve

⁷¹ Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo: Guía Metodológica de Planificación Institucional (p.17) (<http://www.planificacion.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/06/GUIA-DE-PLANIF.pdf>)

⁷² Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo: Planificación Estratégica-Reseña Histórica (<http://www.planificacion.gob.ec/resena-historica/>)

the goals of National Plan of Good Living, make sure that the information the institution provides is reliable and comes from valid sources that focus on aspects of national reality so they can contribute to the development of new and better policies that Ecuador may employ and also to develop policies in order to foster a more inclusive and active participation.⁷³

SENPLADES has been gradually reaching new results that allow the country to achieve higher levels of development and may effectively help other public institutions that aim to achieve higher levels of progress for the welfare of its inhabitants, so that Ecuador can also be strategically positioned at a regional and global level.

This public institution gives great emphasis to strategies that are related to International Cooperation policies, this is done mostly by other public institutions such as the Technical Secretariat of International Cooperation (SETECI), however; this has not been an impediment for SENPLADES to signed up certain agreements for itself with the aim of promoting International Cooperation, especially South-South cooperation which is the type that Ecuador has more emphasis on because it represents a better option to achieve higher levels of development.

For this reason, SENPLADES has signed agreements with other organizations to promote agreements on SSC, the most recent case which occurred between SENPLADES and the Regional Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) with the objective of implementing the Platform for South-South Cooperation. By that Ecuador may provide and regulate various techniques that benefit the exchange of different experiences that Latin American countries might have in terms of public policy. Using these strategies, countries in the region can benefit each other, and these countries could also channel these policies in a more feasible manner for International Cooperation.

⁷³ Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo: Planificación Estratégica-Objetivos. (<http://www.planificacion.gob.ec/objetivos/>)

Ecuador currently has the capacity to provide and share the experiences it has had. This is why, this case regarding this to estate planning, so that its role as an actor can serve to teach other countries and also to learn from them.

The UNFPA Regional Director Marcela Suazo, stated that Ecuador is a very remarkable example because "it has managed public policy to be together with a comprehensive view of the different sectors, which it does not happen as easily in all countries". Also, Jorge Parra, UNFPA representative in Ecuador, said that "the agreement is signed at an opportune time, considering that the country has presented the National Plan for Good Living 2013-2017 objectives and targets that match international commitments."⁷⁴

In general, it can be noted that SENPLADES thanks to new policies and exercises that has gradually implemented, has been positioned as an actor that promotes and encourages new strategies which are met at the level of the Ecuadorian population and also, at level of the other countries in the region and at the international community. SENPLADES is always being in constant innovation of public policies that meet the goal of ensuring the welfare of its citizens.

2.2.2 Ecuadorian System of International Cooperation (SECI) and Committee of International Cooperation (COCI).

All the resources derived from International Cooperation to Ecuador should be a complement to existing policies and plans in the country, in order to accomplish the development objectives established in the National Plan for Good Living. It is essential that all these resources allocated to the country have a clear record to which area they are being applied. As well as the fields to where these resources would go, so this way the efforts made by the International Community to our country would have to focus on objectives that foster and stimulate development processes, and not only the effort made by the International Community, but especially by Ecuador.

⁷⁴ Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo: SENPLADES y UNFPA impulsan la cooperación Sur- Sur (<http://www.planificacion.gob.ec/senplades-y-unfpa-impulsan-la-cooperacion-sur-sur/>)

In this way, Ecuador looking to achieve better improvements in social development, regional and global integration and also economic growth through its own public policies related to International Cooperation, Ecuador has established the creation of some institutions to be in charge of these policies, in order to reinforce the goals established by the Government to achieve higher levels of state progress.

For this reason, in November 2007 the Government created the Ecuadorian System of International Cooperation (SECI) whose main objective will be to contribute to the achievement of the purposes of the country, by strengthening the implementation that was made regarding all projects that were supported by grants and technical cooperation.⁷⁵ Therefore, this generates projects that use resources from abroad, have to be aligned with the objectives and requirements established by Ecuador. The reason for this alignment is to ensure more coordination in terms of International Cooperation policies of the country and also, to establish a proper channeling and application of resources in order to ensure the welfare and safety of Ecuadorians.

In order to ensure stability and security, Article 5 of Resolution 0009-CNC-2011 states that within the context of Ecuadorian International Cooperation, the implementation of planning policies, development, control and enforcement are held by the Central Government and all entities that have been created to protect the interests of Ecuador and International Cooperation.⁷⁶ Thus, having several entities in charge of implementing policies of IC, it becomes more feasible to have an extensive control over the creation of these policies and its proper application.

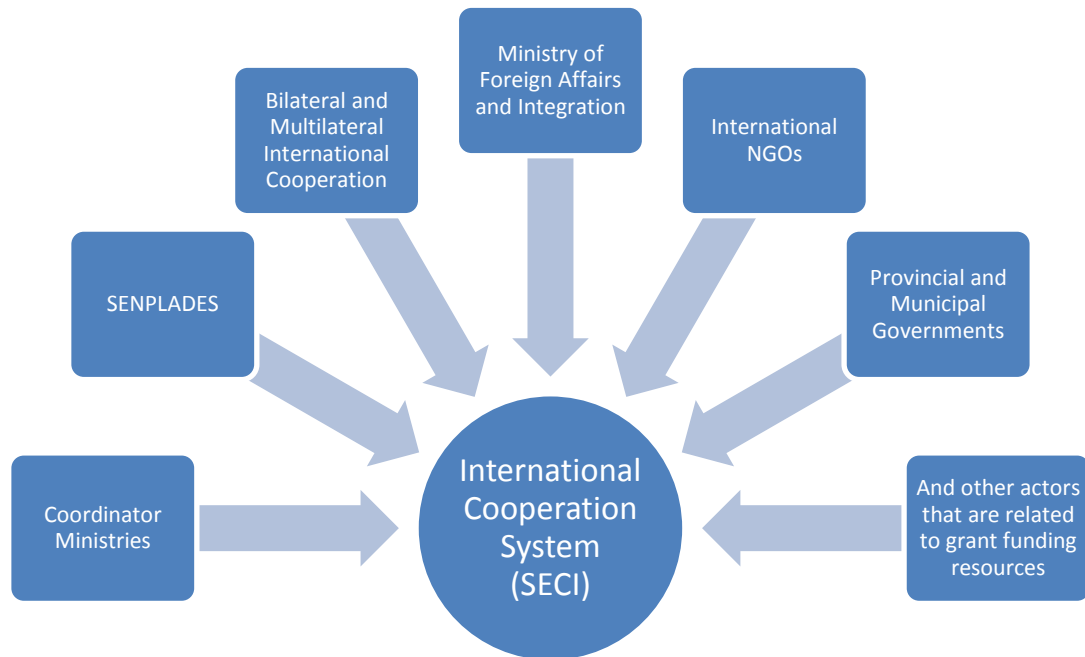
SECI is composed of all the country's institutional entities that manage aspect related to International Cooperation, so SECI can have greater control of International Cooperation resources that are intended to our country. This being so, Article 2 of Presidential Decree 699 of October 2007, states:

⁷⁵ Decreto Presidencial número 699-October 2007: (Artículo 1)

⁷⁶ República del Ecuador, Consejo Nacional de Competencias: Resolución 0009-CNC-2011 de Septiembre del 2011. (Artículo 5)

"SECI would be integrated by all the institutions responsible for stewardship, coordination, financing and execution of the activities related to International Cooperation, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Coordination, SENPLADES, International Cooperation sources from bilateral and multilateral INGOs, national sector institutions, provincial and municipal governments and other actors that relate to external financing non-refundable funds".⁷⁷

Illustration: 10: Institutions of SECI



-Taken from: Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation (SETECI)
 (http://www.seteci.gob.ec/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16&Itemid=163)

-Date: 10/23/2013

However, the entity which provides leadership for SECI is the Central Government of Ecuador, which would be responsible for all the final approval of International

⁷⁷ Decreto Presidencial número 699-October 2007: (Artículo 2)

Cooperation policies of the country.⁷⁸ Although, just as SECI has agencies which are under its charge, this entity also responds to a public institution which is the International Cooperation Committee (COCI), similarly; for the implementation of all concerning International Cooperation strategies of Ecuador, and their respective application process, the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation (SETECI) was created. These institutions have the objective of giving a greater focus and continuity to these policies and conjugated at the same time a consolidation of a more settled Ecuadorian International Cooperation. Both institutions go hand in hand since the SECI objective is to create and consolidate a public institutionalism in the country to allow other entities and the State in general to cover greater challenges through new guidelines. Also, together with the creation of these new parameters, to regulate, manage and implement process and resources from the ones destined to the country and also the ones who Ecuador gives.

SETECI meanwhile is the public institutions which is responsible for negotiating, managing and coordinating nonrefundable policies of Ecuador regarding International Cooperation with other states.⁷⁹ Reason why these two entities work together in achieving more sustainable policies which would position Ecuador as a dynamic country on International Cooperation matters.

After describing the Ecuadorian International Cooperation System (SECI), it is important to analyze the International Cooperation Committee of Ecuador (COCI) which leads SECI.

The International Cooperation Committee (COCI), was born originally as the International Cooperation Board (CODCI), however by Presidential Decree 429 of July 2010, this institution changed its name to COCI.⁸⁰ This new International Cooperation Institution had several objectives and therefore several roles to set as basis so public

⁷⁸ República del Ecuador, Consejo Nacional de Competencias: Resolución 0009-CNC-2011 de Septiembre del 2011. (Artículo 6)

⁷⁹ Secretaría Técnica de Cooperación Internacional: Iniciativas Nacionales de Cooperación Sur-Sur Ecuador (Julio, 2011).

⁸⁰ Decreto Presidencial 429 de julio del año 2010

institutions of the country would have clear guidelines to direct for a correct implementation of these policies.

The International Cooperation Committee being the highest organism to lead International Cooperation policies in the country, together with the guidelines which are applied to other countries, it is composed of the highest dignities of many institutions of the country regarding International Cooperation. This being so, it is a much more efficient way to build together policies that benefit and encourage better functioning of these institutions. So to build and create new operating policies and applicability, these entities contribute with more ideas and better reviews that they have acquired through their respective experiences. In this way, the results which are obtained are of better quality and they set new targets to further development and progress of the country.

Thus, the Presidential Decree 429 of July, 2010 states in its Article 3 the replacement of Article 5 of Presidential Decree 699 of October 2007. At the end of Article 5 of Presidential Decree 699 it is established that:

"The Committee of International Cooperation (COCI) will consist of:

- a) The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Integration, or his/her delegate or permanent delegate, who will chair the casting vote;
- b) The Secretary of the National Secretary of Planning and Development or his/her delegate or permanent representative;
- c) The Minister of Finance or his/her permanent delegate;
- d) The Minister of Coordinating Social Development, or his/her permanent delegate;
- e) The representative of the Association of Ecuadorian Municipalities;
- f) The representative of the Consortium of Provincial Councils of Ecuador; and,
- g) The representative of the National Rural Parish Councils of Ecuador

The International Cooperation Technical Secretary should act as Secretary of the Committee, without the right to vote.

The International Cooperation Committee (COCI) will meet every two months or by justified request of the Technical Secretary International Cooperation.”⁸¹

Thus, the representatives from each institution named above, make up the International Cooperation Committee of Ecuador. This creates new standards of the International Cooperation governing Ecuadorian parameters. Without neglecting its priority functions, the same that are established in Article 4 of Presidential Decree 699 of October 2007, which states that:

"The Committee of International Cooperation (COCI) will perform the following functions:

- a) Exercise the rectory of the Ecuadorian International Cooperation System;
- b) Approve the nonrefundable policy of International Cooperation of Ecuador and other strategies, plans and instruments of matter;
- c) Monitor the implementation of strategies, plans and instruments approved for the efficient management of International Cooperation and of the Technical Secretariat of International Cooperation;
- d) Consider and approving strategies, work plans, budgets and tools for the efficient management of International Cooperation of SETECI;
- e) Ensure harmonization between financial refundable International Cooperation and non refundable. "⁸²

In order to take a proper monitoring to make sure these functions are keeping up with the objectives of COCI, several sessions are required in which it states how the progress

⁸¹ -Decreto Ejecutivo 429 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de julio del 2010: Artículo 3
-Decreto Ejecutivo 699 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de Octubre del 2007: Artículo 5
-Decreto Ejecutivo 812 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de Julio del 2011: Artículo 1

⁸² Decreto Ejecutivo 699 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de Octubre del 2007: Artículo 4

or any issues that may arise is going. For this reason, every two months regular meetings are held to ascertain this, while special sessions are held when it is convened by the Secretary or by two-thirds of the members. These sessions are held in the city of Quito, Ecuador, where the International Cooperation Committee has its operating headquarters.⁸³

It should be noted that thanks to the new institutionalization Ecuador has had regarding issues of International Cooperation, all these new institutions have tightened great value and performance for Ecuador to have the chance to experience new levels of development and greater number of experiences that help the country to position it as a state that seeks to be at the forefront of global standards for International Cooperation. Thanks to these new institutions, Ecuador today can allocate and organize in a better way the resources which come from other countries, so in this way these resources can be allocated to projects, always respecting the needs of people, which in turn as already mentioned, are in line with the objectives of the National Plan for Good Living.

Another important aspect that has been achieved by the creation of these institutions, it is the increased participation and importance which our country focuses on International Cooperation, giving a special focus on South-South Cooperation. This approach is vital because the country is not left out anymore on International Cooperation aspects, Ecuador every time provides greater contributions not only internally but also regionally which is key to generate a sustainable regional integration through effective and generate competitive advantages in the commercial, social, educational , infrastructure and others.

In general, these public entities generate significant changes in the country, starting by simple facts like the organization and efficiency that International Cooperation receives now in Ecuador. It's not about labeling the country as a receiver anymore, but also as a country who provides Cooperation just like other countries do, and by this Ecuador gets plenty of experiences to share and to advise other countries.

⁸³ República del Ecuador: Reglamento Orgánico Funcional del COCI

2.2.3. Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation (SETECI)

The Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation was created 2010, however, this institution replaced the Ecuadorian Agency for International Cooperation (AGECI), a public entity running since January 2008 which it also had replaced the INECI. Yet, within the new state reform process it was determined that it would be more appropriate a Secretariat than an International Cooperation Agency. This is why the Executive Decree 429 of July 2010, in its Article 1 establishes that the name of Ecuadorian Agency for International Cooperation will change to Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation (SETECI)⁸⁴. As a result, SETECI comes into operation as a public entity which had more functions than AGECI did.

Its primary function is to manage more effectively the negotiation parameters of Ecuador with other states in the International Community, so that, the resources that are allocated to our country can be applied in a more orderly and organized way to benefit own country. Also, the resources given by Ecuador should focus on projects that the recipient countries can take its best advantage and by this, can create closer relationships between countries for better integration of Ecuador in a world context.

The SETECI character is a decentralized institution that is under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration⁸⁵, which until now it remains this way. It is noteworthy that despite of the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation being part of a Ministry, this institution does have administrative, technical and financial aspects on its own. As stated in Executive Decree 699, the funds this organism receives will come from the State budget and also these funds will come from resources arising from donations or grant funds of International Cooperation Agencies.⁸⁶ This contributes to SETECI to not depend fully on the Ministry to exercise and establish policies which this institution considers convenient to contribute to the development and planning of the State.

⁸⁴ Decreto Ejecutivo 429 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de julio del 2010: Artículo 1

⁸⁵ Decreto Ejecutivo 812 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de Julio del 2011: Artículo 1

⁸⁶ Decreto Ejecutivo 699 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de Octubre del 2007: Artículo 9

Moreover, the Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the one who selects the Secretary of the SETECI⁸⁷, this is done this way because the highest authority of the Ministry has to be the one who selects the Secretary of SETECI. The Secretary of the SETECI may provide legal representation of this entity and implement administrative and financial policies of the agency, also to ensure a proper performance of the functions that SETECI is responsible for⁸⁸. Since the implementation of this institution in 2010, its general secretary has been Economist Gabriela Rosero.

SETECI since its creation, it has been characterized as an entity that besides focusing on the management and negotiation of international cooperation policies with other countries, today due to the great efforts that are being made, not just with one country but with many; now Ecuador through its new institutions is a country that projects to the world a lot more confidence, stability and above all, a country which has financial resources within state planning, which allows Ecuador to have more field on International Cooperation areas so by this, new challenges can come up and contribute to new levels for development and integration with other countries.

The SETECI being the entity which is established as the coordinator of International Cooperation of the country, which also focus on both the resources the country gets to be allocated to projects that are in line with the priority needs of the country, and also the resources it allocates to other countries of the world, it has revealed a new policy of International Cooperation on which currently the country is based on. This new policy is used to adapt aspects of Ecuador's International Cooperation within other countries, but with the category of partners, so countries can help each other by the society that exists between them.

Within this context, it is important to note organizations responsible for International Cooperation policies have, these have been able to set new strategies and projects,

⁸⁷ Decreto Ejecutivo 812 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de Julio del 2011: Artículo 1

⁸⁸ Decreto Ejecutivo 699 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de Octubre del 2007: Artículo 8

especially SETECI because thanks to these new strategies the country has been able to focus them towards new trends such as promoting foreign trade agreements, production development and economic development processes that drive into economic growth.

After this brief analysis, it is necessary to describe the functions that have regulated the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation, the same who daily contribute to the reach the objectives so these can have positive results. Article 6 of the Executive Decree of Ecuador in October 2007, states that SETECI functions are:

“a) Propose to COCI and implement general strategies, management of general policies of International Cooperation and instruments for the operation of SECI, arranged by the COCI;

b) Organize and coordinate the operation of the Ecuadorian International Cooperation System, facilitating the involvement of actors and its processes;

c) Negotiate and sign on behalf of the Ecuadorian State agreements of nonrefundable International Cooperation. The subscription may be delegated to diplomatic agents, according to the case;

d) To support and assist the processes of formulating, negotiating access , implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs and projects that have external financing purchase;

e) Evaluate and organize the demand for external financing purchase, taking into account the priorities identified;

f) Identify funding sources and opportunities for expansion of International Cooperation;

g) To monitor the disbursement of resources committed, to the achievement of the expected results from the study, and to the performance of the recipient institutions of International Cooperation, and inform this process;

h) Coordinate the supply management of non-reimbursable technical cooperation that Ecuador may provide to other countries;

- i) Organize the collection of knowledge gained from interventions with International Cooperation resources;
- j) To present periodic reports to COCI on the operation of SECI;
- k) Evaluate and suggest improvements to the operation of SECI;
- l) Design and implement the system of accountability for their actions in a timely manner to the control agencies, civil society and other stakeholders, according to the mechanisms established by the Executive;
- m) Propose to COCI an annual non-refundable demand plan on International Cooperation, which has to previously agree with public sector agencies, autonomous regional governments or private legal persons, and;
- n) To participate in the debt swap, exclusively on the part that is used for purposes of International Cooperation.”⁸⁹

Throughout these functions, SETECI aims to be in full accordance with the policy of International Cooperation, in addition to the foreign policy of Ecuador because IC has become a key tool of coherence which articulates its bases with the regulations of Ecuador’s state policy.

However, during the interview with the technician of the Directorate of Strategic Articulation of SETECI, Juan Manuel Guzman, he established that International Cooperation in Ecuador refers to a sovereign management, because as a country, Ecuador has experienced an interference in which other countries used to imposed us projects, financial amounts, forms of production, etc; that has nothing to do with what Ecuador really needed.

This is why Ecuador needs to refer to a sovereign cooperation which must be proactive and it also has to be planned from the national policy State, not only with reference to

⁸⁹ -Decreto Ejecutivo 699 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de Octubre del 2007: Artículo 6
-Decreto Ejecutivo 429 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de Julio del 2010: Artículo 4

the national government but also the Autonomous Decentralized Governments of the country which are responsible for their own management exercise of International Cooperation. It is necessary to practice a sovereign management of IC in each territory, which will not be liable in the subject and which are aligned with every goal that the Autonomous Decentralized Government has, besides of being aligned with the objectives of the National Plan for Good Living.

Furthermore, through SETECI's functions, it is pretended to achieve greater commitments, challenges and stability in terms of what the country wants to accomplish, regarding policies of International Cooperation that will help to create a system worldwide. A system that will not emphasize only in certain countries as actors of International Cooperation, but in all countries of the world, in other words it will have the same circumstances, especially to consolidate it as a system that provides training to all Autonomous Decentralized Governments so they can have greater opportunities to exert positive changes regarding International Cooperation.

So, back to the issue of SETECI functions, it can be said these functions were prepared in accordance with the system of governance of Ecuador, taking into account that throughout this development process, the beneficiaries would be Ecuadorians and Ecuador as a whole, besides the organizations of this area that exist within the country. This being so, it can be noted these parameters are directly linked to the objectives of the National Plan for Good Living.

Just for this reason, all the regulations that SETECI has imposed in addition to its functions and objectives, they have been slowly picking up strength in terms of new laws that determine an appropriate performance of SETECI's regulations, so they can be aligned towards the National Plan of Good Living, the same that seeks to achieve higher levels of development and commit to new production trends which will drive into a better economic growth in several areas like the agricultural sector, community tourism sector, knowledge and so on. In this way, all of these new regulations have constituted

into the basis of International Cooperation in our country, especially since the SETECI took the reins to generate greater internal and external integration.

For this reason, the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation (SETECI) has focused many of its efforts in the process of regularization of several entities which operate in the country regarding International Cooperation aspects, especially referring to foreign NGOs in order to verify its proper operation. This process of regularization has already started in Ecuador, due to the existence of several foreign organizations that do not precisely meet follow the parameters set by the SETECI and by Ecuador in general, in other words; these foreign organizations do not accomplish with its objectives of implementing projects in different areas to encourage better development of the country and its inhabitants. Moreover, in 2010 began the process of regularization and in 2012 it was determined that twenty-six NGOs were not implementing new projects and also their operating agreements and permits were completed in 2012 or were about to end.

This is based on a state reorganization process, its priority is to define a much more organized and sovereign regulations which can be in full agreement with the objectives of the National Plan for Good Living because NGOs cannot decide for themselves the type of project on which they will work on, they must refer to the aspects and objectives set by Ecuador in order to implement a project. This is done this way because the objectives set by Ecuador intend to accomplish better results in order to give a better quality of life to its people, so foreign organizations have to follow these objectives. These operating regulations for NGOs are established in Executive Order 812 which was signed in July 2011, these regulations establish that:

“Article 17.- Foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in activities in Ecuador must submit an application to the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation, pointing out what their goals and the tasks they want to perform in the country. They should attach all the certified documentation proving their legal existence, including its Spanish-language status.

Article 19.- The Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation once it has reviewed the documentation submitted, upon reasoned decision, it will subscribe with the foreign NGOs, a Basic Agreement on Operation and the SETECI will notify the authorization to the foreign NGOs so it can start its operation and activities in the country.

Article 20.- Foreign NGOs that have signed the Basic Agreement of operation, to carry out actions, programs and projects of International Cooperation non-refundable resources, they are required to register these projects with the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation.”⁹⁰

SETECI keeps track of all the NGOs who have agreed to establish the agreement, so SETECI ensures that organizations which are operating within the country respect the parameters that have been established as state regulations. In the same way, the NGOs working in Ecuador, must conduct their projects in accordance with the rules laid down in Article 23 of Executive Decree 812, which established ONG’s cannot implement projects that threaten security and public peace.⁹¹ In case these ONG’s do not follow these rules, SETECI will ask them to finish its work in the country for breach of these policies.

However, not only the foreign NGOs are the ones who have entered into a process of analysis, national NGO's who receive foreign resources are also analyzed and must meet the same requirements and policies which are established in Executive Decree 812. Nowadays, there are about fifty thousand non-governmental organizations in Ecuador, thereof as mentioned these organizations are in process of analysis to ensure that their mission is aligned with the requirements of operation they have to follow. Also, it is forbidden for these organizations to work for profit funds.⁹²

⁹⁰ Decreto Ejecutivo 812 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de Julio del 2011

⁹¹ Decreto Ejecutivo 812 de la Presidencia de Ecuador de Julio del 2011: Artículo 23

⁹² Padilla, Luis (2012): *Gobierno de Ecuador recalca que no existe proceso de expulsión de ONG's sino revisión técnica de sus actividades.* (<http://www.andes.info.ec/es/actualidad/6124.html>)

As a result, SETECI through its operating bases and regulations have increased the stability in the field of International Cooperation in Ecuador. Nowadays, Ecuador is a country which projects greater confidence and stability so that other countries of the world can see Ecuador as an option partner country, regarding negotiations that may arise with respect to International Cooperation, and not categorize Ecuador as a country that should be helped, but a country who can be a great associate to other States. Ecuador has gradually adapted to new changes that the world generates and in turn, it has implemented new operating systems that allow the country to be at the forefront of these changes and developments process at both the state and globally.

For all of this, after the investigation about the history of how the institutionalization of the country has been until now, it is important to analyze the fact that these institutions usually change their structure and objectives every time a new presidential term began to exercise. This gave way to generate instability regarding several aspects like the creation of new policies of International Cooperation, internal instability by not having clear how to handle these issues and some others issues. Therefore, when the investigation got to this part, the question of what would happen to the new institutions in charge of International Cooperation in the country once the term of the President Rafael Correa Delgado ends?, perhaps; will there be a new institutionalization which generates instability once again?

For this reason, in the interview with Juan Manuel Guzman who as mentioned above is in charge of the Directorate of Strategic Articulation of SETECI, he was asked about what would happen with the new institutions, especially with SETECI once this presidential term ends?. To which he replied that what this presidential term wants, is to become an irreversible process, for example when a person starts working at any place, that person can become only a good worker or the employee may become irreplaceable, it is up to the employees the image they want to leave.

So it is the same with SETECI and in general with the new institutionalization of Ecuador because this presidential term what has sought since its inception is to generate a political agenda to demonstrate that these institutions are irreplaceable and necessary. SETECI seeks to demonstrate that this entity is an exception, this is why it continues to demonstrate improvements not only with the application of IC policies, but also internally by providing training in areas of International Cooperation to Autonomous Decentralized Governments and in general to the institutions related to IC.

It is important to consider that International Cooperation is a complement to local development because the resources and knowledge from abroad will not do the work that a country Ecuador has to handle in order to achieve higher levels of development through International Cooperation, Ecuador through its institutions responsible for this are those who must do as a nation state.

From this point, the issue of South-South Cooperation it is being worked as a matter of national strategy and repositioning of Ecuador among the region. Traditionally Ecuador has not been characterized as a offering country but within the last years this has changed and nowadays Ecuador is considered as a offering country, this has changed thanks to new congresses, conferences, new projects that had been implemented as part of SSC. Precisely from November 27th to November 28th of 2013, it was held the International Cooperation week in Montecristi-Ecuador, in order to visualize the good practices of the Autonomous Decentralized Governments to control the strategies which are being implemented regarding IC policies and also to analyze the policies which are implemented by the Autonomous Decentralized Governments and that can be considered as exportable products to the region.

These new initiatives are carried out through these institutions, especially through the SENPLADES and in particular through SETECI which is the highest authority regarding International Cooperation in the country. This has led to new roles that Ecuador has taken regarding South-South Cooperation; this has not only created greater stability, but

also more projects that allow Ecuador to keep collaborating within Latin American integration which is being sought.

2.3. The role of Ecuador in South-South Cooperation

As stated in the previous chapter, South-South Cooperation (SSC) has been positioned as a tool of regional integration for Latin American countries. This has caused that third world countries will not cataloged themselves as suppliers and demanding countries, but as partner countries which cooperate with each other in order to solve common problems that arise by being similar economic income countries. In addition, SSC is classified as an instrument of foreign policy of every Latin-American country, this generates the increase, effectiveness and capacity of multiple areas in the respective countries.

Therefore, it can be stated that exists a relationship of interdependence between SSC and regional integration, since the first one encourages acts of technical assistance between the countries of the region, through which these countries can see themselves largely benefit without relying entirely on the resources from the North, all this leads to a strong Latin American integration and it also generates competitive advantages as a region to the world.

Taking SSC as a priority axis of focus of Latin America, countries seek to provide cutting-edge and innovative proposals to articulate and further consolidate the processes of South-South cooperation in the region and also worldwide. So by this, Latin-America will gradually become a strong region not only in economic terms but also in social and political terms. Therefore, this transforms into a solution to the asymmetry that exists in the region.

Thus, countries like Ecuador, through the creation of institutions in charge of International Cooperation policies, have been implementing gradually several changes in order to adapt these new policies and processes to new systems of International Cooperation. In the case of Ecuador, despite of this being a small country with not high

development and economic levels and which a few years ago did not even offer International Cooperation to other countries, this scenario has change significantly. Nowadays, Ecuador has position itself as a country that employs many of its resources to provide technical assistance in areas of health, education, infrastructure and even state planning to other Latin American countries.

One of the objectives of Ecuador as a country which belongs to the Latin American region is to influence in a better integration of the region, this is not only defined as a policy of the entities who are charge of International Cooperation policies in Latin America, but it is also defined as a Ecuadorian policy which is manifested in the Constitution of 2008. This Constitution establishes in its Title VIII called International Relations, Chapter three “Latin American Integration” within its Article 423 states that "Regional Integration, especially among countries of Latin America and the Caribbean will be a strategic objective of the State"⁹³ in this ways, the Ecuadorian state undertakes to place several processes that facilitate every regional integration systems that exist in Latin America. It is worth noting that clause 1 of Article 423 refers to "boost economic integration, equitable, supportive and complementary; the production unit, financial and monetary, the adoption of a common international economic policy, the promotion of compensation policies to overcome regional disparities, and regional trade, with emphasis on high value-added goods"⁹⁴.

Similarly, the National Plan for Good Living establishes in its objective 5 to guaranteed the "sovereignty and peace, and promote a strategic insertion in the world and also in Latin America"⁹⁵

Therefore, Ecuador agrees to contribute with all the necessary aspects and resources which involve greater regional integration, in order to promote more advanced development progress not only for one country but for the region as a whole. Ecuador has invested much emphasis on regional integration issues and just like it promotes it

⁹³ Constitución Política del Ecuador 2008: Artículo 423 (Ingresado el 21 de octubre de 2013)

⁹⁴ Constitución Política del Ecuador 2008: Artículo 423, Inciso 1 (Ingresado el 21 de octubre de 2013)

⁹⁵ Plan Nacional del Buen Vivir: Objetivo No. 5

though its Political Constitution it also promotes it through its political entities of International Cooperation, just as the Technical Secretariat of International Cooperation does.

Since SETECI has power to decide over the most appropriate policies of International Cooperation for the country, considering that these policies must be consistent with State planning so both can support each other and achieve prior goals set. This has become an effective method to develop and encourage the participation of several parameters that arise into the creation of a foreign policy tool, whose main objective would be the achievement of an appropriate process to further strengthen the region into greater integration processes.

Therefore, Ecuador looks to adapt to a larger number of processes that will result in a unified region that fosters, promotes and encourages SCC processes, in order to exchange appropriate mechanisms among countries with similar economies, and reduce social and economic problems in the region. It is this need which gives origin to new parameters that Ecuador uses in order to slowly advance in several parameters that are established as part of this cooperation, so processes which are established look forward establishing new challenges that the world and globalization bring. Therefore, in paragraph 1 of Article 416 of the State's Political Constitution, it is stated that Ecuador "proclaims independence and legal equality of States, peaceful coexistence and self-determination of people, and also cooperation, integration and solidarity"⁹⁶.

From this article it can be noticed that Ecuador not only seeks to position itself as a country which is moving forward in many ways, but as a country which belongs to a strong regional block, and that also triggers new challenges and new commitments to the International Community, also as a country belonging to a region which is a solid economic block and that gradually makes new progresses in several aspects, like social, political, economic, health, education, estate planning and so on. So that the rest of the

⁹⁶ Constitución Política del Ecuador 2008: Artículo 416-Inciso 1 (Ingresado el 22 de octubre de 2013)

world no longer sees Latin America as a region with developing countries, but as partner countries through which other countries can set trade agreements, and others.

Consequently, Ecuador has developed several guidelines that contribute to these systematic integration processes and hence, development of South-South Cooperation. For this reason, SETECI has adopted various SSC parameters who contribute to a better SSC progress, these parameters are:⁹⁷

1. To promote South-South Cooperation among developing countries and countries who have similar visions levels.
2. To position Ecuador as a technical assistance offering country.
3. To visible South - South Cooperation
4. To advance towards the recognition of South-South Cooperation.
5. To lead South-South Cooperation.
6. To strengthen South-South Cooperation in the areas of regional integration.
7. To contribute through creative and innovative solutions.

Through these guidelines it is intended to consolidate various aspects which involved regional integration, aspects like making available the advances in any area that the country makes to other Latin American countries, also contributions to an equitable, efficient and systematic level of the country and the region. All of this, results in the increase of processes that stimulate a proper functioning of South-South Cooperation, which is not built alone but on the basis of experience and the adaptation of systems that are available to the region, so the conjunction of these experiences and systems can result into a more effective and supportive results in order to reduce the asymmetry in Latin America and also to achieve higher levels of development.

These new sharing mechanisms that occur between countries in the region are mostly based on development policies that will benefit all Latin American countries to generate

⁹⁷ Secretaría Técnica de Cooperación Internacional: Rendición de Cuentas SETECI 2010-2011 (Página 66)

peaceful progresses through experiences in order to consolidate and reinforce the respective capabilities of countries. Hence, from this point SETECI's slogan which states "*Our North is the South*" refers to Ecuador making greater incentives and also, it establishes to set guidelines that provide achievement of these goals and new challenges at the same time. Thus, by these guidelines which have been set by the SETECI, the country has been able to be on equal terms regarding SSC to be an active participant in the region and achieve strategic insertion not only among Latin America which is its biggest priority, but also at a International level.

However, these guidelines that have been established by the SETECI with the aim of achieving better management of South-South Cooperation, they have been forged as operations methods that concern Ecuador regarding SSC, so there are the actors involved in the processes of bargaining and negotiation stages to implement these projects.

The actors involved in the negotiation process of SSC in Ecuador are the SETECI, which is the body responsible for executing the relations between the partner country and Ecuador in order to negotiate and establish guidelines of the offer that Ecuador has, keeping in mind these guidelines have to be carried out within the framework of bilateral and multilateral agreements which are signed by the concerned countries, another key player in this process are the Governmental Institutions of every country which are responsible for all matters relating to the technical and financial aspects, these institutions also have the responsibility of implementing the project approved in the destination country.

The Governmental Institutions include ministries which are related with the project that will be executed, and also the Ministry of Foreign Affairs because it is the entity that establishes every agreements throughout the project. The last actors are the partner countries (countries of destination). These countries request for Ecuador's technical assistance, so within this process the country who requests assistance must do it through their responsible agencies of International Cooperation and from this point, these

countries should manage the formulation of the project with the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation of Ecuador.⁹⁸

In this way, by the roles that each of the institutions has, it has been easier to establish effective ways to achieve negotiations with other countries. For this reason, until now there are several successful experiences that have been carried out with different countries in the region.

Once the partner country is determined, this process goes into a series of phases which help establishing a proper order in which the project will be held to reach the expected results. These stages are:⁹⁹

1. Planning: At this stage, the strengths of the partner country are analyzed, in order to know how to implement the project provided by Ecuador. The reports made by each part are analyzed to continue with the next phase.
2. Negotiation: Within this phase it is carried out certain communication processes in order to implement projects which are more feasible for the benefit of both countries, i.e., of Ecuador and the partner country. Holding the implementation of bilateral agreements on which Ecuador is based for the implementation of such projects.
3. Implementation: At this stage the project or projects that were agreed by the previous phases are implemented.
4. Register: At this stage the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation is responsible for systematizing all the projects that have been executed by Ecuador to Latin American countries.

Thus, the South-South Cooperation projects that Ecuador provides are materialized into systematic processes which demonstrate responsibility and solid commitments regarding

⁹⁸Secretaría Técnica de Cooperación Internacional: Iniciativas Nacionales de Cooperación Sur-Sur Ecuador (Página 8)

⁹⁹Secretaría Técnica de Cooperación Internacional: Iniciativas Nacionales de Cooperación Sur-Sur Ecuador (Página 7)

its partner countries, so by this all the continuous processes that demonstrate consistency and short-term results can be maintained during long periods.

By this, the negotiation processes which are part of the management and implementation of projects, have to be done through joint committees. The SETECI defines such committees as the method through which South-South Cooperation is negotiated with its partner countries, in this case countries in the Latin American region. This mechanism has to be based on the regulations of legal frameworks of International Cooperation agreements that Ecuador has signed regarding to its partner countries.¹⁰⁰

The joint committees focus on the definition of projects undertaken with partner countries, in this process every area that will focus its resources on, it is already defined by the Ecuadorian technical assistance. This will be done according to the priority needs each partner country has. The joint committee is held every two years and the main actors are the SETECI and all Institutional entities responsible for International Cooperation policies of each partner country.¹⁰¹ Through these committees, Ecuador has been able to strengthen relations with other countries which lead to strengthening bilateral agreements that benefit both parties.

Moreover, the benefits do not stay up there, by those committees Ecuador and its recipient countries have been able to strengthen regional integration processes, through the ones they share common characteristics and by this, be able to define projects which will go towards technical assistance, while taking into account the priority areas that each country demand. Within this context, Ecuador in its efforts to advance prosperously on issues of South-South Cooperation, it has implemented a technical catalog, the same that has enabled that Latin American countries can keep abreast of the technical assistance that Ecuador provides.

¹⁰⁰ Secretaría Técnica de Cooperación Internacional: Rendición de cuenta SETECI 2010-2011 (Página 67)

¹⁰¹ Secretaría Técnica de Cooperación Internacional: Rendición de cuenta SETECI 2010-2011 (Página 68)

This catalog was presented in 2010 by the Technical Secretariat of International Cooperation in order to describe Ecuador as a country that promotes initiatives and impulses of Latin American integration, through the provision of technical assistance, which in turn is embodied in the catalog. Thus, Gabriela Rosero, SETECI's Technical Secretariat states that this catalog has been able to strengthen Ecuador's foreign policy in the field of Latin American integration¹⁰², this being so, it is important that the cooperation provided through technical parameters are seen as a key tool for the consolidation of the different Latin American societies, which together lead to the welfare of Latin American countries on issues of national and regional priority.

The catalog of technical assistance was carried out by the effort of 38 units and Government Institutions (Ministries), who provided it with various experiences these institutions have had, so all entities who participated in the creation and training of the technical catalog have a fundamental role in the participation and interference of the regulations that are used to provide technical assistance to other countries.

It is important to notice the production of this catalog was made according to the objectives of the National Plan for Good Living, in other words, the objectives of this Plan were set out as basis to develop this catalog and to ensure that what the catalog offers is properly aligned with the policies that Ecuador remains within its legal framework and also the priorities emphasized in the Plan.

Thanks to the technical assistance catalog, several projects have been already established in different countries. These projects have led to successful stories to Ecuador and its partner countries and also by this, Ecuador has been able in a greater extend to reach the goal of the Latin American countries that is regional integration. Consequently, we can highlight the following experiences.

¹⁰² Secretaría Técnica de Cooperación Internacional: Catálogo de Asistencia Técnica Ecuatoriana (http://www.seteci.gob.ec/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=22:catalogo-de-asistencia-tecnica-ecuatoriana&Itemid=197)

Mexico was one of the first countries that Ecuador could position itself as an offering country of technical assistance. In 2010 in Quito city, a conference of joint committees was held in order to establish the implementation of various projects of economic and social areas which would favor both countries equally, since it was an exchange of technical assistance through which Ecuador and Mexico both offered and received technical assistance. These projects focused on three specific areas that were environmental conservation, the second one included economic, social solidarity, sustainable systems and the last one was democratic reform of the state.¹⁰³ This bilateral agreement was arranged for a period of two years, which covered all 24 projects that were implemented at that time.

Countries such as El Salvador has also been a partner country of Ecuador, regarding to technical assistance provided through the guideline of SSC, which is why El Salvador and Ecuador signed a bilateral agreement for two years (2010-2012), which involved the implementation and execution of 19 projects that focused on areas such as security, state baking, poverty reduction and sustainable development. Also, Brazil has been another country partner for Ecuador, during the period of 2011-2013, several different projects in various areas such as health, agriculture, telecommunications and state modernization were agreed. Both countries agreed that once the period of implementation of these projects ended, a new joint committee would be held for the negotiation of more technical assistance projects that would result in long-term projects.¹⁰⁴

As it can be seen, the experiences of South-South Cooperation that have occurred regarding Ecuador to other countries in the region, it has been among countries with similar economies or even with more advanced economies such as Brazil and Mexico. This constitutes into a valuable contribution to the country because though this it is easier to probe that Ecuador has more capability to help countries with stronger economies than ours and therefore it consolidates as a repositioning of the new strategies that are implemented by Ecuador.

¹⁰³ Secretaría Técnica de Cooperación Internacional: Rendición de cuenta SETECI 2010-2011 (Página 68)

¹⁰⁴ Secretaría Técnica de Cooperación Internacional: Rendición de cuenta SETECI 2010-2011 (Página 68-69)

Some Latin American countries like Ecuador, Peru and Cuba have been key states to influence in the advance of processes to consolidate South-South Cooperation. In the case of Peru there have been several advances especially with emphasis on technological development, this has positive results because once the region has more and better access to a wider field and advanced technology, it would be consolidated into a more prosperous region in terms of trade, economy and social aspects.

Also, during November of 2013, Ecuador and Peru signed several agreements that allow greater integration, especially in its borders due to the conflictive history these two countries have gone through. These agreements aim to improve several areas such as the integration border, better quality of life, infrastructure and security because as the President Rafael Correa established "both countries belong to the most unequal region in the world, so all our public policies must be crossed to achieve an equal region, more equity".¹⁰⁵ For this reason, through these agreements it is sought to obtain closer ties between these countries to enhance bilateral trade relations, in addition of obtaining a more united front to achieve integration policies in Latin America.

In the same way, there is the experience of South-South Cooperation between Ecuador and Cuba, which was mentioned in the previous chapter, in this case it was establish that due to the positive experiences in terms of bilateral relations with Cuba, these countries established several technical assistance agreements to further solidify their relations and to make way for future agreements which would become into fruitful results not only for both countries but also for the region.

It is worth noting that in addition to these experiences, the practice of South-South Cooperation does not end there, because through SETECI new projects are being explored to apply them in Latin America, in order to know the impact that the country-level has had over the region regarding the implementation of these projects. Ecuador seeks to position itself in a high level among aspects such as state planning, just like in

¹⁰⁵ Revista vistazo: *Presidentes de Perú y Ecuador refuerzan integración con firma de acuerdos* (<http://www.vistazo.com/webpages/pais/?id=26857>) (Ingresado el 18/Noviembre/2013)

Chile's case that it has managed to position itself within SSC in Latin America regarding themes of social responsibility projects.

Ecuador aims to empower aspects that are exportable products like the Manuela Espejo Mission that has been characterized for representing a key model of comprehensive care to a vulnerable group in society, which is the sector of people with disabilities. This mission has given way not only to people with disabilities to have greater benefits, care and to receive necessary assistance, but it has also generated that this mission can outstand as a new model for South-South Cooperation.

For this reason, Ecuador in its aim to offer more projects of SSC that promote Latin American integration, it has begun to offer the Manuela Espejo project to Central America, especially toward Honduras.

This is why the Manuela Espejo Mission has already been implemented in Mexico, which has launched a campaign called "Guadalajara without Barriers" which has been under the entire counseling of Ecuadorian technicians who were in charge of the Manuela Espejo program in Ecuador. The Manuela Espejo project aims to increase the positive impacts that had been generated internally and applied them externally, with special focus on Southern countries to improve the quality of life of people of these countries who had been left out in many aspects just for suffering some type of disability.

Another project among SSC that Ecuador is considering is the National Plan for Good Living, so it can be applied to different countries in the region, always following the schemes of each country and their respective legal regulations. However, this project will not take place for at least another two years, because its application and some other aspects have still to be investigated. Also, public policy issues, administrative schemes, among others also will be held, also in consolidation of export products to other countries in the region to contribute with South-South Cooperation.

However, projects are increasingly being implemented through good experiences the country has had regarding the implementation of such projects, the positive results of this has denoted that Latin American countries request assistance to Ecuador, so the projects which were born as a state initiative can be applied in other countries.

Recounting a general view of the previous information, it can be notice that Ecuador through various tools that have been implemented by the established guidelines, it has increasingly been inserted in the process of South-South Cooperation and these guidelines have been built to attempt to cover major challenges that benefit the country and that will also position it as a key axis in the dynamics of international relations in the world. Consequently, Ecuador through these new working methods of International Cooperation that has prime focus on SSC, it seeks to adapt and manage a new corporate image, the same that can be presented to the world as a set of guidelines that can be outstanding and increasingly used to collect experiences that encourage a more united region.

However, despite the efforts and progress generated by SSC, there are still certain aspects in which Ecuador still needs to invest more time, more training of the staff who undertakes the execution of projects, better explanations of International Cooperation policies that are carried out in the country, also to increase resource capacity to implement all proposed projects, etc. Even though the results have been fruitful, there is still a long way to go, so it is vital that these processes continue to improve along with certain shortcomings that have been presented. Not because of these obstacles, it means SSC has not been good for our country, it is the opposite. One of the reasons for these drawbacks is the fact that Ecuador walks next to countries considered as power countries both regionally and globally, as is the case of Brazil, which causes Ecuador to have disadvantage in providing technical assistance and general measures for South-South Cooperation.

According to the interview with Juan Manuel Guzman, he considers one of the biggest disadvantages of this, it is the fact that the countries of the international community do

not displayed International Cooperation as a self help tool, but as a political tool, that even though it has technical components and social benefits, it does not cease to be a political tool to achieve greater influence at regional and global levels through which countries can get commercial partners.

Nevertheless, for these obstacles SSC stops being an acquired tool system, it is the opposite; as it has been demonstrate it is a systematization process that has had great success within the South Pole of the world, especially within Latin American countries, but for being a relatively new process of cooperation, there are aspects that still need to be worked in and make them function in a better way for the welfare of Ecuador, Latin America and countries in the southern hemisphere in general.

It is a process that requires continuous and progressive care, in order to reach levels of development which have been stated by the countries of the region, especially so Ecuador through the projects that have been implemented and executed, in addition to the projects which would be implemented in a near future, it can maintain high standards and levels of South-South Cooperation to strengthen the Latin American region as a strong and sustainable economic block.

CHAPTER 3: CASE STUDY OF THE PROJECT “MUNICIPAL SYSTEM OF TECHNICAL INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION” PROVIDED BY CUENCA CITY (2013).

Throughout this investigation, the evolution of International Cooperation among its different approaches that have taken throughout history to consolidate as we know IC nowadays has been witnessed. In other words, it has been witnessed the assistance and aid given through different mechanisms by a donor (country or organization) to a receiving partner (country or organization), in order to increase the levels of development of the recipient countries so people who depend on them can enjoy a better quality of life. In addition to maintaining international peace and harmony.

However, with the emergence of South-South Cooperation, developing countries took a new approach to International Cooperation, that is, to no longer rely on the traditional cooperation which was aid from North to South, but countries belonging to the South could take the reins of this and help each other through SSC so it would greatly benefit countries with economies in recession for being mutual aid between States which had the same economic level, including issues of training, technology, infrastructure, and other.

In this context, Ecuador within the Latin American region has positioned itself as a key country in terms of issues of South-South Cooperation, with the clear objective of becoming a central point for regional integration, in order to obtain a more unified region in both economic issues as political and social issues. As explained in the previous chapter, Ecuador thanks to the new institutionalization of International Cooperation which has had, the country has already established itself not only as a passive recipient country, but as an offering country and even as a business partner to the eyes of countries like Germany.

Due to projects, trainings and others, which Ecuador has granted to other countries in the region, as well as those received, now Ecuador has the ability to implement projects which had successfully formed internally, with the aim of implement such projects outside the country. An example of this is the Manuela Espejo Mission which had great success in Ecuador so now is being studied so it can be implemented in Central America (other than Mexico, where it already has been implemented with the support of Ecuadorian technicians).

However, this investigation has involved SSC regarding a country level, although; how are projects of SSC being handled at city levels in Ecuador?

This chapter will take Cuenca City as a case of study, in conjunction with one of its most recent projects called "Municipal System of Technical International Cooperation" to explain how such projects are managed locally, considering that each Autonomous Decentralized Government is governed by new regulations that are established in the Political Constitution of Ecuador, 2008; to proceed with the implementation of International Cooperation projects, whether these projects are implemented internationally or locally with the objective of improving the results to apply them effectively to other countries or cities, as is the case of the project "Municipal System of Technical International Cooperation".

It is necessary to emphasize the importance of knowing about projects of SSC that are provided by the country, and in some cases by cities. However, it is always talked about the projects once they are implemented in host countries, however, it is important to know how these projects originate, since in many cases these projects are born in order to being execute and implement locally and through the results obtained, the project can be implemented at national and international level.

Projects must start from zero so in a near they can be applied internationally. This is the case of the project "Municipal System of Technical International Cooperation", as this project provided by the Municipality of Cuenca has begun its applicability at local level

through trainings, conventions and others, which have been provided by the Municipality to parishes in the area.

While in previous chapters of this research it was studied South-South cooperation and its projects at country level, it is important to know how these projects are given in a more defined aspect, in this case in the city of Cuenca. This is essential because by the applicability of these projects in a limited area, the results obtained can clarify many doubts about its implementation and deployment, and the results obtained can be helpful to improve if necessary once the project has the goal of being implemented in other cities or countries

Considering this, the development of this chapter can start, beginning with basic information about Cuenca and its development as a city, which has been projected internationally over the past years.

Azuay province is one of the twenty-four provinces of Ecuador. Azuay is located in the south central region of the country, and it is composed of 15 cantons. One of those cantons is Cuenca whose capital is the city of Cuenca.

The altitude of Cuenca is between 2350 and 2550 meters above sea level¹⁰⁶ and its population is 505,585 inhabitants¹⁰⁷. It is also the third largest city in Ecuador.

Traditionally, Cuenca has been considered as the Athens of Ecuador for its vast culture and artists of different aspects that have managed to leave the name of the city high. However, Cuenca has not only highlighted nationally for its cultural aspects, but also as a city which in economic terms has positioned as one of the cities with the highest income in the country, largely due to remittance income by relatives living abroad. In

¹⁰⁶ Alcaldía de Cuenca: Situación (http://www.cuenca.gov.ec/?q=page_situacion) (Ingresado el 06/Noviembre/2013)

¹⁰⁷ Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas y Censos: Población Cantón Cuenca (<http://www.ecuadorencifras.gob.ec/censo-de-poblacion-y-vivienda/>)(Ingresado el 06/Noviembre/2013)

addition, Cuenca for several years has shown positive changes in terms of social, cultural, economic, and also political aspects.

For several years, both the Government of Azuay and Cuenca's Municipality have spared no efforts in order to substantially increase the welfare conditions of its inhabitants. This has resulted in very positive terms because with the purpose of this political period, many companies of the city have managed to position as companies that manage solid economic agreements not only at local and national level, but also internationally through the adaptation of their objectives to the internationalization of enterprises to achieve higher levels of development favoring its inhabitants.

This is why the new levels that year after year are achieved, will allow a greater number of works that are intended for use, welfare and convenience of Cuenca and in general Ecuadorians, this in turn means that there is no great economic dependence on the central government, but it seeks to promote greater self-management¹⁰⁸ for the city to reach new levels of development and consolidation in several aspects.

Thus, the municipal executive body is responsible for ensuring these interests, and this institution is the Municipality of Cuenca. This institution is headed by the Cantonal Council, within which there are sixteen members, fifteen councilors and the mayor who is the highest authority of the Council. The Municipality is responsible for several tasks such as cantonal development planning, public works, cultural programs, health, social inclusion, preserve and maintenance of the architectural heritage, among other functions.

Within the Municipality different departments have been created, these departments allow the achievement of various objectives. One of these departments and the most important according to the present investigation is the Department of Foreign Affairs (DRE, for its initials in Spanish) integrated by a Director and an administrative technical

¹⁰⁸ Revista Perspectiva (2005): Vistazo a la economía y a las empresas de Azuay y Cuenca. (<http://investiga.ide.edu.ec/index.php/revista-noviembre-2005/810-vistazo-a-la-economia-y-las-empresas-del-azuay-y-cuenca>) (Ingresado el 06/Noviembre/2013)

team of seven people. The DRE maintains a direct relationship with the Municipality, and it also depends on the Ministry of Government and Administration.

It can be lost of sight how important it is for every city of any country to not just depend on the projects implemented by the Central Government, as in the case of Ecuador as provided in Article 1 of Resolution No. 0009-CNC-2011, "it must be transferred or implemented the management for competence of International Cooperation in order to obtain grants and also technical assistance to fulfill their responsibilities and Decentralized Autonomous Governments ..." ¹⁰⁹ by this the decentralized autonomous governments can position themselves as autonomous governments which encourage their respective cities to new cutting-edge challenges, and can also include greater responsibilities within the framework of SSC, as providing technical assistance to other Latin American cities that request for it within the range of what the offering city can provide.

Similarly, exercise practiced by Decentralized Autonomous Governments on issues of International Cooperation, must be aligned to the objectives of the National Plan for Good Living, as well as the State foreign policy and also, it must be articulated to policies and needs that defined territorially the Development Plans and Regional Organization of every Decentralized Autonomous Governments.

That is why in the case of the Municipality of Cuenca, it has focused great emphasis on International Relations, since what the city looks for is to generate advances that contribute to the different progress of development that the country seeks to consolidate. Based on this objective, the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Municipality has stated the achievement of some projects regarding South-South Cooperation, which leads to solid advantages for Cuenca so it can have greater opportunities creating close relations among other cities and in turn, so Cuenca will generate positive results in areas such as economic, social, and even political aspects.

¹⁰⁹ República del Ecuador Consejo Nacional de Competencias: Resolución 0009-CNC-2011 (Artículo 1)

For this reason, the Department of Foreign Affairs has focused on maintaining positive and close relations within the different departments of the Autonomous Decentralized Municipal Government (GADM) of Cuenca, this allows to make way for a solid foundation and strengthen technical assistance parameters, that on several occasions other departments of the Municipality and other institutions of International Cooperation will provide this Department, so through them, this technical assistance will consolidate more adequately and it will reflect the sectors towards which this aid will go to.

In addition to technical assistance, the Department of Foreign Affairs benefits from exchanging experiences with other entities of International Cooperation and other Municipalities, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SETECI, or even of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since through the experiences or activities of every institution relating to this, these are conducted through the contribution of each entity and it results in planning of projects that contribute to the development proposed by the city, province and country respectively.

Therefore, the Autonomous Decentralized Municipal Government of Cuenca has held a high level regarding the implementation and execution of such projects for International Cooperation, which have allowed the city to deal with a much broader environment, not only in terms of national but also international issues. For this reason, Cuenca has been cataloged as a city that works towards the consolidation of strong and lasting relations with other cities in different countries.

One of these projects is the "Municipal System of Technical International Cooperation", which became one of the projects of technical assistance that has implemented the Department of Foreign Affairs, the same that will be explained below.

3.1. Description of the Project and its objectives to be achieved.

Due to the constant requirements manifested by certain entities of the Autonomous Decentralized Municipal Government of Cuenca, and from certain International Cooperation institutions to the Department of Foreign Affairs, it has originated that this Department has taken respective measures for the implementation of a several projects that contribute and support the development of International Cooperation projects, so that Cuenca can be related in an international context and not to just limit itself to a local or national context.

Therefore, International Cooperation projects in which this Department has active participation, it focuses equally on IC projects related to technical assistance. Thus, over this year (2013), the Department of Foreign Affairs has been involved in the execution of twelve projects regarding technical and financial assistance, as well as aid (covering issues of inputs, technology and equipment), these projects have covered aspects of health, infrastructure, mobility, local planning, education, among others.; within cities like Medellin, Tempe, or institutions like the United Nations program for Development and others.¹¹⁰ Through these projects, the Department of Foreign Affairs has sought to contribute with the many development activities undertaken by entities of the Municipality and to establish closer ties with cities with which projects are kept running so Cuenca can be seen as an offering city.

Therefore, the DRE in its achievement to further strengthen friendly ties with both Latin American cities as different cities outside the region, it continues with the establishment of projects that promote these ties and generates a key position of the city in an international level, in order increasingly accomplish the objectives that the Municipality of Cuenca has stated.

For these reasons, the project Municipal System of Technical International Cooperation was originated. This project took effect in January 2013 and it would have applicability

¹¹⁰ Alcaldía de Cuenca: Diagnóstico de la Dirección de Relaciones Externas. (Ingresado el 10/Noviembre/2013)

until December of the same year. This project was born as a response to the constant requests for projects of cooperation by the Municipal Corporation to the DRE, this is why this Department creates this project which had as main objective to build a system to channel the information this unit receives and use it as tools that allow the DRE to manage it effectively, together with entities interested in using and implementing International Cooperation projects.

Also, one of the primary objectives of this project is that rural parishes can be part of this systematization processes so they can be active participants of issues related to International Cooperation, and through these processes these parishes can also be part of IC policies. Thus, the Municipality of Cuenca can have a direct contact regarding the uptake of what these parishes need. This project is under the responsibility of PSC. Ind. Cristina Cardoso Montero.

The following objectives are the ones which had been implemented as the basis for the execution of this project.¹¹¹

- General Objective:

To establish an International Technical Cooperation Municipal comprehensive system that will strengthen and empower efficiency in Local Public and Cantonal management.

- Specific Objective:

To structure and to evaluate a system that facilitates the demand and supply of technical cooperation between the Municipality of Cuenca along with its parishes and international entities.

What the project "Municipal System of Technical International Cooperation" looks forward is to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of policies of International

¹¹¹ Alcaldía de Cuenca: Dirección de Relaciones Externas, Proyecto Sistema Municipal de Cooperación Técnica Internacional (año 2013)

Cooperation so that these policies may reflect a more viable way to both public and local management, this occurs largely due to the high demand that exists to the DRE to keep an adequate level the requirements given to potentiate the International Cooperation projects that are handled by this entity.

Even so, it is necessary and highly relevant that not only the Municipality of Cuenca can step toward among new policies of IC, through the ones it can implement projects that will benefit the city, regarding ties with other cities abroad or with other entities of International Cooperation, but it is also important to work together with parishes so in a near future, these entities together can generate solid power projects that generate competitive advantage nationally and internationally.

3.2. Project Content¹¹²

This project has become a project which covers several aspects, that is the reason why its scope is very wide. However, which covers major portion of this project is to train public officials belonging to other Autonomous Decentralized Government, so they can also be part of inclusive policies of International Cooperation for their own welfare, and by that being able to build solid development basis of new integration prospects with other Latin American cities, and in general with Latin American countries, for this; it is needs to be used technical assistance projects, which focus on South-South Cooperation, just as Cuenca has done through its Municipality.

Similarly, this project has different phases, within each one provides different raining courses as mentioned above. Following this, one of the agreements that this project has is the Agreement on specific Decentralized Cooperation among Autonomous Decentralized Municipal Government of Cuenca, the Technical Secretariat of International Cooperation (SETECI) and the United Nations Program for Development, this agreement backs up the project of "Strengthening the Management and

¹¹² La información del contenido del Proyecto "Sistema Municipal de Cooperación Técnica Internacional" de la DRE, Alcaldía de Cuenca, fue obtenida de los informes proporcionados por la misma DRE.

Coordination of the Cooperation and Internationalization of Cuenca", where the Municipality of Cuenca presented a proposal of training courses to the UNDP, in order to develop and run workshops for people in charge of these entities and also for citizens who are interested in these issues, so it may be a way for them to have greater knowledge on International Cooperation and consequently ease in these fields for the benefit of the interest parts.

The three stages that involve this Project with their respective activities are the following:

Stage 1: Diagnosis of parishes and municipal agencies.

Stage 2: Formulation of the Municipal System of Technical International Cooperation with entailment to the rural parishes of Cuenca which were selected in the first stage.

Step 3: Evaluation and permanent monitoring of the system of Technical International Cooperation and of the Parishes who were selected.

Step 4: Preparation of the final proposal of the System of Technical International Technical

Within the first stage of the project, the scheduled activity for the month of August and September consisted in developing the first management system proposal of Technical International Cooperation, as well as permanent monitoring of all the activities implemented under the project. In this regard, during the development of this project, it has been identified the need to perform a training course about IC for municipal officials and representatives of rural parish councils, in order to inform them about the management and implementation of competition for International Cooperation projects, relating to the management of International Cooperation.

Through this stage, 21 rural parishes of the Canton Cuenca were called, the same ones who were invited under the coordination of the Directorate of Decentralization. At the end of October, 20 local officials attended this trainings, parishes that included the

representative of Llacao, El Valle, GAD Santa Ana, GAD Molleturo, Turi, Sigsig and Pucara.

Once the first stage concluded, it led to start in the second one with the training seminars to the Autonomous Decentralized Governments of the Parishes. The first workshop on Project Management was attended by 20 people in each seminar, which was divided into 12 municipal representatives and 8 representatives of different Parishes.

This seminar had the objective that technicians and representatives of Autonomous Decentralized Governments know the methodologies used for design, development and management of different types of projects, and by that they can be able to develop the capacity to assess the feasibility of this type of projects.

These conferences were held between October 28th and November 20th of 2013. The topics covered were:

1. Projects: Definition, characteristics and types.
2. Project Cycle: Analysis of stages and phases of pre-investment and investment
3. Logistical System Framework: Analytical Tools
4. Construction and analysis of the logical framework

The second seminar was the Strengthening Seminar to Autonomous Decentralized Governments for managing International Cooperation, one of its objectives was to seek positioning of the Municipality of Cuenca as a territorial entity with reference in management for International Cooperation.

Within this context, conversations with representatives of the Consejo Nacional de Competencias (CNC) started with the objective of strengthening the training provided to the Autonomous Decentralized Governments of the area 6 of the country, with special focus on Azuay and consequently in the Canton of Cuenca, this caused the inclusion of the Municipality of Cuenca under the figure of coordination among this seminar, which took place on November 20th of 2013.

This conference was held in the auditorium of SENPLADES in Cuenca city, it had the participation and involvement of several institutions in charge of International Cooperation policies as SETECI, SENPLADES, CNC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility. It also had the participation of some Parishes whom participated as entities receiving training to learn to develop management of sovereign International Cooperation, which is aligned with the objectives of the National Plan for Good Living of Ecuador, and also to learn some positive experiences the Municipality of Cuenca has had regarding International Cooperation, including technical cooperation.

In addition to these seminars, the project to achieve its goals has raised a number of activities with different national and international institutions to continue with the technical assistance that proposes the project. For this reason, the project is bound to entities like CEDEI, AIESEC, SENESCYT, Health Directorate, FARMASOL, the company MATOUSEK CZ and STROJÍRNA PALAVA, EMURPLAG, the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry, the organization to Save the Children, among others.

These organizations, companies and other entities that are part of this project, have been a key action line for developing the activities proposed by the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Municipality of Cuenca regarding the implementation of the project, they have helped to the trainings, conferences and seminars to be carried out as it was stated in the beginning and that these conferences are still being implemented to continue this work and to provide leads to advise the entities involved in technical assistance and mutual benefit.

Here are the parallel activities of cooperation with International entities which were presented as part of the project:

- a. Management and monitoring of the fulfillment of the Agreement between AIESEC with the Municipality of Cuenca
- b. Monitoring cooperators of AIESEC through monthly reports.

- c. Sending documents to the Finance Department for the corresponding payment according to budget 7.1.11.3.06.05.06, given to the Municipality for the project of International Cooperation.
- d. Monitoring the Prometeos who were assigned to the Municipality of Cuenca.
- e. PROMEOS integration.
- f. Support and Assessment to the Prometeos in transition processes of "Project Prometeos Old Wise" to "Prometeos Scholarships"
- g. There are included three interns of CEDEI School, internships which last 46 hours, from September 9 to October 18th.
- h. CONTAINER PROJECT CURE: Monitoring and coordination with the Department of Health, CINTERANDES Foundation, and other agencies, regarding the documents to be prepared to mobilize the container of medical supplies and equipment to be donated by PROJECT CURE.
- i. Information gathering and delivering notes to the formation of the "Catalogue of Successful Practices" of the Municipality of Cuenca and also of the "Life Project" of Farmasol.
- j. Coordination of video conference between the manager of the Company CZ MATOUSEK, STROJÍRNA PALAVA and EMURPLAG, to monitor a deal of cooperation and co-financing of the New Plant Animal Benefit in Cuenca.
- k. Rising Mission report on "Human Sexuality and Family Violence" held in Belgium and Paris during September 20th to September 28th of 2013.
- l. Coordinating the information between the Municipality of Cuenca and the Executive Secretary of the District Council of Childhood and Adolescence of Cuenca, in order to approve to achieve the Agenda in Panama during September 11 and 13 of 2013, invitation asked from the Organization SAVE THE CHILDREN.
- m. Report on the third seminar of "Cities, Migrations and Decentralized Cooperation: The Role of Local Governments", held in Barcelona - Spain, on September 12 and 13 of 2013.

All registered activities have been fulfilled by 90% during the months of August and September which included the first stage, the remaining 10% was not carried out due to logistical issues that prevented all conferences to be achieved in the agreed dates. Regarding the second stage that last during October to mid-November, the activities were accomplished in a 95%, for the same reason of the first stage.

The third stage consists of the activities of validation and adjustment of the results obtained through the activities previously carried among the Municipality of Cuenca, and the fourth stage covers the final development and delivery of the project outcomes. It should be noted that because of the agreement carried out with UNDP and SETECI, this project will have more time of applicability, and the Department of Foreign Affairs does not estimate how long it will take the implementation of the agreement.

The budget allocated for this project was U.S. \$ 98.000, this budget was financed in a 100% with municipal funds. With this money, the seminars mentioned above were able to being carried out, besides the manufacture of mentioned workshops, plus expenses of other activities mentioned above.

3.3. Benefits to be achieved through the project

Among the benefits this project brings is the fact that rural Parishes of Cuenca by not handling the management of International Cooperation, the Municipality of Cuenca through the project which is being case of study, has been able to get closer to the parishes regarding the creation of much closer ties to enable them to engage to these seminars and trainings of International Cooperation so they can also be aware of this issues. This is exactly what this project has been stated and it has been doing it in order to explain to parishes about articulating International Cooperation with the objectives of the National Plan for Good Living, plus articulate its objectives as parishes with IC.

Another benefit of this project is the fact that by the seminars provided, the Decentralized Autonomous Governments of the Parishes of Cuenca can join efforts

between them, leading to undertake new projects using knowledge acquired in the International Cooperation seminars, by this through the projects which take effect from the parishes can originate an initiative to share the different experiences, so in a near future this experiences and even projects can be applied locally, nationally and internationally.

Over August an agreement between the Municipality of Cuenca, the United Nations Program for Development (UNDP) and the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation (SETECI) was signed. It had the objective of carrying out the project “Strengthening Management, Coordination of the Cooperation and Internationalization of Cuenca”, to carry out joint strengthening and governance of policies regarding International Cooperation and Decentralized Cooperation. The budget for this project is \$61,929.65. However, the project itself had one year period of implementation, although; by the agreement signed in August, the project remains open until the execution of the new agreement completes, the same that so far the Department of Foreign Affairs does not have a date of culmination.

Thanks to this agreement more benefits would be carried out, at the same time these benefits would be related to the seminars of technical subjects and subjects recruited so Autonomous Decentralized Governments can have a wider field of management through the proper implementation of International Cooperation policies. This project, in addition of the benefits it has, it also has advantages and disadvantages that have enabled the project to succeed in the case of benefits, and it has also presented certain shortcomings, the same the Department of Foreign Affairs have used as experience to correct them and be better in future projects, or even on the same project in case it is apply abroad.

3.4. Advantages and disadvantages to obtain through the project "Municipal System of Technical International Cooperation.

Although this project is not implementing anything about another city, it is important to consider that through it, Cuenca can gradually introduce different work plans together with other institutions like CEDEI, with which currently is being done. That is, even though it does not apply directly to other cities, the technical assistance which is being implemented through this project is displayed and reflected by the institutions with which the Department of Foreign Affairs is working and signing agreements. In other words, it is a type of technical assistance which is being forged through these institutions that are project partners. Another achievement the project will bring is the fact of providing training to assist rural parishes, so they may also have better opportunities when making any kind of negotiation in terms of International Cooperation, especially when dealing with South-South Cooperation, taking into account other Latin American cities to pursue integration policies that benefit these cities and consequently the countries to which they belong to.

One of the advantages is that this project reflects the fact that it manifests as technical assistance covering a form of training regarding the Municipality of Cuenca, parishes in the area and also mutual training among institutions which are involve in this project. An example of this is that people who come through CEDEI to be interns or to work public institutes, can learn from local people and also local people can learn from them.

This assistance provided through training, consolidates heavily on technical assistance, this is why it is not only attended by Cuenca but also by other institutions belonging to other cities. Although the project itself has not focused on technical assistance regarding SSC, it cannot be dismissed that the technical assistance being provided, is being done locally by assisting rural parishes so these parishes can have IC negotiations that will also contain SSC, and by this they can contribute to Latin American integration which not only Ecuador looks forward as a country, but also through its cities and every project these cities can implement.

The Autonomous Decentralized Government of Cuenca in its quest to internationalize the city with tools that become keystones in importance for its application to other cities and countries, focuses much of its efforts on horizontal relations and reciprocity, as it considers Cuenca these efforts especially those done through the results of the projects implemented are critical to regional and thus global growth, and to develop skills and knowledge that can be deployed in terms of technical assistance to better contribute to the South-South Cooperation.

The Autonomous Decentralized Government of Cuenca in its quest to internationalize the city through tools which are considered keystones for its application to other cities and countries, it has focused much of its efforts on horizontal relations and reciprocity, as Cuenca considers these efforts, especially those done through the results of the projects which are implemented, represent a fundamental step into the regional and global growth, also to develop skills and knowledge that can be deployed in terms of technical assistance to better contribute to South-South Cooperation

Through the results of this project, it can also be achieved a model of social politics which can be hold to the existing ones, this is because technical assistance by relying on the help which is provided to other cities on educational issues, poverty reduction, estate planning and others, it is necessary that through technical a better development can be achieved, a development which protects equally people's rights. This is because not only economic progress should be taken care of in a city, Cuenca in this case; but also focus on the progress of social aspects that basically constitute the basis of development.

This in turn leads the project through its seminars can achieve results that generate the articulation of all those positive experiences generated during the execution of the same, by this, it can also be improved the different SSC policies which are apply in Latin American cities throughout the results of experiences achieved by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Also, it cannot be left out all the actions, seminars, trainings and other that have been carried out, these can be taken as a base model to other Autonomous Decentralized Governments for a future development of new projects that can be able to position the these Governments as entities of key policies for better development of cities and also of the country as a whole. In this way the country can exercise new systems of technical assistance among Latin American countries to promote economical growth and provide greater stability to South-South Cooperation in the region.

This project can constitute as a project of technical assistance which ultimately favors the relation among the Municipality of Cuenca with the Autonomous Decentralized Governments of Azuay, as well as the relation with other cities and countries in order to improve associations between Latin American countries and by that consolidate bonds of South-South Cooperation even more. It may be noted that through this project, it can be achieved potentiality to focus it as a fundamental integration tool which links our city and country with other developing countries.

Another advantage that can be emphasized in this project is that in a near future new proposals can come up, proposals related to technical assistance, and not only apply them locally regarding GADs from the canton Cuenca, but being able to develop or contribute with better proposals for the development of new projects related to technical assistance through SSC, the city could obtain greater advantages in the internationalization which is being seek, together with other Autonomous Decentralized Governments and its contribution to the country within the range of use of these tools as channels to SSC and its respective progress.

While there are many benefits that can be rescued regarding the implementation of this project, there are also some disadvantages that can be threats to the achievement of the objectives the project has stated, this can lead to disadvantages for the Department of Foreign Affairs and also for the Municipality of Cuenca.

One of the disadvantages of the project is the lack of commitment that exists, due to people who agree to receive training and attend all the seminars and they do not attend many of the meetings. That is, there is little opening and little interest to the seminars provided. This lack of commitment causes the public functionaries cannot have a proper training and it leads to drastically reduced the opportunities for creating international projects focused on technical assistance among other GADs and the Municipality of Cuenca.

This lack of commitment can negatively influence the management of International Cooperation undertaken by GADs because of their lack of knowledge regarding the management of International Cooperation. From this point, this is considered something very critical since the Constitution of Ecuador (2008) gives the GADs of Ecuador complete attribution to handle management of International Cooperation policies for Development.

In addition, this lack of commitment regarding trainings on topics of handling IC policies and achieving new projects that can help the city and country to get higher levels of development and better relations with other cities outside the country, leads into a clear lack of knowledge on how to use international resources to achieve better development policies among this issue.

During the last seminar which was Institutional Strengthening to GADs to manage the competence of International Cooperation, five parishes out of 21 attended, so this lack of interest causes a poor management of GADs in International Cooperation and by this, GADs cannot have a proper knowledge regarding how to apply various principles of International Agreements that Ecuador is part of, as the Paris Declaration which was explained in the first chapter of this investigation. This occurs because the public officials who are in charge of International Cooperation topics, are not aware of how to apply these principles so this becomes a difficulty when the time of contributing with the strengthening of the country's foreign policy comes.

It is important to note that International Cooperation represents a great investment for Autonomous Decentralized Governments, the budgets which are assigned by the Central Government are not enough to cover the expenses required by the GADs in order to achieve more projects of IC, this occurs especially in parishes. Precisely for this reason, the project Municipal System of International Technical Cooperation has tried to engage new forms of counseling so GADs may obtain more resources and funding in order to create more projects; however, by the lack of attendance of the public officials, it becomes more difficult advisor them regarding topics of International Cooperation.

Another disadvantage has been the lack of knowledge regarding the management of customs documents, the container provided by Project Cure with medical supplies has not been cleared through Ecuador customs despite of being here for over a month. This lack of knowledge as to how to handle foreign trade logistics procedures causes that activities are not carried out in a proper way, which in turn causes a delay in other activities because the project cannot move forward until the previous activities are completed.

However, despite these disadvantages, it is important to note that the project "Municipal System of Technical International Cooperation" is making great efforts to make these trainings, seminars and activities which continue to help and develop the management of International Cooperation of GADs. However, it must be emphasized that this training is not the only thing covered by the project, but also the agreements that have been made with Institutions such as AIESEC, CEDEI and others, allow closer ties to build stronger bonds between countries and cities.

Over all, the fact that the Department of Foreign Affairs as part of the Municipality of Cuenca continues with the implementation of these projects which bring great progress towards achieving International Cooperation policies. According to Cristina Cardoso, head of this project, due to the proximity which the Mayor of Cuenca has with other Mayors of Latin American cities, these types of projects will continue. Also by the objective of achieving the internationalization of Cuenca, which is a great contribution

to the city to position it as a city that is consistent in not only local issues but also seeks new horizons in terms of International Cooperation focused on technical assistance .

As explained at the beginning of this chapter, there are projects of technical assistance or cooperation born with a local approach, such as the project which has been studied.

Even though, these projects are of local applicability, they still deserve great recognition by international policy institutions because despite of not being projected internationally, these projects continue to be a great contribution to the country due to the role generated for subsequent implementation at national or international level, in case of being asked by the Central Government. Besides, this would have great influence if applied to other cities under the direction and guidance from technical source project.

It is important to keep in mind that nowadays the actions regarding South-South Cooperation have great success among developing countries, this is because projects which are offered and also received, derived from results and positive experiences that certain projects had internally, and from that point it can be applied in other countries. Precisely for this reason, the project "Municipal System of Technical International Cooperation" took a local approach, with the aim of establishing a solid project that could sit durable and reliable bases in Cuenca at first, so it could be implemented internationally in a near future and by that promote relations of SSC which Ecuador is based until now.

Conclusions

Throughout this research, analysis topics of International Cooperation had been developed from its beginning until what is now known as International Cooperation, together with its objectives which are characterized by the preservation of world peace and also, through it being able to achieve and generate higher levels of development especially for developing countries, this has been done with the support of several organizations which were originated to hold up, solidify and enforce these parameters at the level of the entire International Community. As it was mentioned in the first chapter, world regions which include developing countries such as the Latin American region which has historically depended on resources from developed countries, in its attempt to alleviating regional asymmetry. However, when these resources decreased, the situation in Latin America changed.

Due to the lack of resources provided by developed countries, and also due to the great effort to improve the economic and social situation of developing countries, many different Agreements have come up over the last decades, with the objective of setting basis for a better implementation of South-South Cooperation. This type of Cooperation has been strategic for the progress of developing countries, within this context with especial focus on the Latin American region. South-South Cooperation is not a type of International Cooperation without fuss, it is quite the opposite; as it was studied over the first chapter, SSC has been essential to harmonize to some extent the economic imbalance of the regional. This has gone through due to the commitment of generating better quality of life for Latin American citizens, not only in a short term but ensuring better economical and social situations for now and also for future generations.

Also, the experiences which have occurred in the region as the cases of Chile, Mexico, Peru, Colombia, Argentina, among others; have been ideal to encourage appropriate basis, so through these SSC projects that include health, education, infrastructure and even state planning topics, countries can have closer relations among the region. This is

related to the fact of respecting every country's sovereignty, and by this I mean to state policies that each country has regarding technical assistance that countries receive, this is that the aid received must be aligned with national goals of each State.

South-South Cooperation has represented a breakthrough in social, commercial, economic terms and even political integration among Latin America, this is because Latin American countries use SSC as a tool to move forward and to no longer depend on financial support they receive from developed countries or even from International Organizations like the International Monetary Fund when it comes to loans.

In other words, South-South Cooperation has become a tool which raises economic independence regarding developing countries, by this I do not mean these countries' economies will improve overnight, since it takes a long and stable process to make it happen. Also, by this statement I do not mean that because of SSC, which every time takes increasingly importance, the traditional Cooperation that historically has occurred between countries from the North to the South is not longer essential because it still is, just not as it was 20 years ago.

Moreover, this has caused that Ecuador, through these policies along with the strengthening of policies that have brought the creation of International Agreements such as the Paris Declaration, is now able to forge basis for the development and realization of these policies. As it was studied over the first chapter, the Paris Declaration has been able to properly handle all the objectives it has established, in order to obtain better policies which contribute to the progress of developing countries, it has managed to increase the development assistance which is offered.

That is why Ecuador, through International Agreements and Organizations which deal with these issues, has maintained high standards among the implementation of International Cooperation policies. So it has included these IC policies in important key points such as the Political Constitution of 2008, the National Plan for Good Living, and the new institutionalization of the country.

Ecuador has become part of the hard development process, which does not only benefit one country, but the entire Latin American region. That is why through new institutions like SETECI, Ecuador over the past six years has been able to manifest itself as a key actor in terms of International Cooperation, an actor which is characterized by a new identity in International Cooperation policies and especially in South-South Cooperation. Through this, the country has been able to position itself as a bidder State in terms of technical assistance, in the course of the implementation and execution of several projects which have been carried out in countries such as Cuba.

Ecuador establishes SSC as an ethical exchange which must be kept equally, in other words; Ecuador is no longer characterized by being a passive recipient country, but now thanks to the new institutionalization, to new bases that have forged development parameters, among others; Ecuador is now considered as a trading partner worldwide. This did not happen a few years ago. This in turn creates immeasurable benefits for the country, as these benefits represent new close relations to a wide number of countries, also represents an increase in terms of trade agreements which promote better economical terms for the country.

Thus, it can be said this process of new International Cooperation policies of Ecuador, which has provided a special treatment to South-South Cooperation in Latin America, has been characterized for being a slow development process, but it has provided very positive results for the country as to maintain and strengthen relations with Latin American countries, and also to forge a region characterized by being a solid economic, commercial and social block.

I cannot avoid mentioning how important has been the fact that not only the Central Government is characterized for implementing both national and international technical assistance projects for regional integration, but also cities from Ecuador have expressed themselves through their own implementation of these kind of projects. As it was studied in Chapter 3, the “Municipal System of Technical International Cooperation” project has managed properly every objective that have been stated as a main goal, this

has been achieved through all the seminars given to GADs in the Canton of Cuenca, and also through the Agreements it had with some organizations. This project has shown its application, and it has not only been successful when applying it to Cuenca, but it also has great potential to apply it in a near future to other cities of the country and even better, to other cities in Latin America, so not only Ecuador can have closer relations with Latin American countries, but also Cuenca as an international city.

However, it is necessary to consider that for a continuous development of such projects, whether they are in Cuenca city or in its parishes, it is necessary for the Central Government to allocate a specific budget to these parishes. Even though there exist regulations about every GAD managing its own budget, it is important to keep in mind that parishes do not have many opportunities to apply technical assistance project due to lack of financial resources. The Central Government should take this into consideration for further improvement of this issue, which in turn would bring positive results for both parishes and the country as a whole.

Finally, it is worth noting that despite the advantages and disadvantages that exist in terms of South-South Cooperation and in general its applicability by Ecuador regarding all projects implemented, whether these projects are implemented by Ecuador or any of its cities, SSC has generated a new projection regarding the way of visualizing IC from the country. Since Ecuador has not been satisfied being a passive actor in this regard, it has sought ways to find a suitable position within a global context, despite the adversities that come up. In general, if there are no setbacks, a country would not have challenges which help it to grow in economical, social and political areas.

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