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Are there any significant differences in the modus operandi of South-South Cooperation and North-South Cooperation? A case study of the European Union and China's impact on South Africa's mining sector.



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Abstract

With the growth of developing country economies, the idea of South-South Cooperation in development discourse has gained momentum. Through knowledge sharing, technology transfers, trade and investment, developing countries have sought different avenues of conducting development cooperation among themselves. This supposedly creates solidarity and self-reliance, with countries being said to have more control over objectives and ownership of processes than through traditional North-South Cooperation.

This research report seeks to determine whether there is any real difference in operationalisation between South-South Cooperation and North-South Cooperation; or if it is merely old wine in new bottles, having no intrinsic value, but rather, shifting exploitation and power relations to southern hegemons. This will be done by studying what impact Chinese involvement in South Africa's mining industry has had, as compared to partnerships with northern states, specifically, those in the European Union.

Key Words: South-South Cooperation, North-South Cooperation, Mining, South Africa, China, Europe.