This is the introduction

**Stylised facts**

**Ideas:**

Total number of SS, NS and NN PTAs

Share of SS, NS and NN PTAs

Total exports by S and N countries

Share of total exports by S and N countries

Total exports of manufactured by S and N countries

Share of total exports of manufactured by S and N countries

Number of products exported by S and N countries

The organization of this article is as follows: Section II provides a brief literature review of the PTAs, South–South trade and the importance of the structure of trade. Section III introduces the methodology and data. Section IV presents the empirical results fol- lowed by a discussion of the robustness tests. Section V concludes.