

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday 27 February 2019
2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri
Conference Room 4

**Background Document for Agenda Item 5:
Secretariat briefing on South-South Cooperation**

This document serves as the background document for Agenda Item 5: Secretariat briefing on South-South Cooperation. Two Annexes are also attached.

Annex 1: Roadmap for the development of a revised UN Environment Programme South-South Cooperation Strategy

Annex II: List of Activities carried out with the Brazilian Contribution.

Briefing note on South-South and Triangular Cooperation Activities

A. Introduction

Over the last several weeks the South-South Cooperation Unit has focused on:

- preparation for UNEA 4;
- preparation for the Buenos Aires Plan of Action +40 (BAPA+40) conference;
- planning the development of a new UN Environment Programme Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation;
- holding internal consultations on the direction of UN Environment's engagement in the Belt and Road Initiative and – related – our role in the International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road.

B. Fourth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 4)

During the *Science Policy and Business Forum* which will be held (9-10 March), immediately before the United Nations Environment Assembly, the South-South Cooperation Unit will host a panel discussion titled “The Role of South-South Cooperation in ensuring affordable and clean energy for all”. With a focus on experiences from Africa, the panel will explore the regulatory and policy frameworks that undergird the renewable energy sector and the role of innovative partnerships and South-South Cooperation in achieving the goal of affordable and clean energy for all. The Concept Note for the panel discussion is still under development and will be shared once finalised.

C. Buenos Aires Plan of Action +40 conference (BAPA+40)

The South-South Cooperation Unit will participate in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action +40 conference which will take place in Buenos Aires, Argentina (20-22 March). As part of its interagency collaborative work, the South-South Cooperation Unit has collected inputs from across the organisation on the draft outcome document for the conference for submission to the UN Office for South-South Cooperation.

The South-South Cooperation Unit, in collaboration with staff of the Latin America and the Caribbean Office, is organising a side-event to be held during the conference. The focus of the side-event will be the role of South-South Cooperation in enhancing environmental management and attaining the sustainable development goals.

The South-South Cooperation Unit is currently preparing documentation which will showcase success-stories of South-South Cooperation in a section of UN Environment projects over the past few years. The documentation will be used as supporting material for both UNEA 4 and BAPA+40 side-events.

D. UN Environment Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Following the BAPA+40 conference and taking into account the outcome document of the conference as well as the UN-wide strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the South-South Cooperation Unit will continue the preparation of a new UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

A roadmap of the strategy development including the planned consultations with Member States and other stakeholders is attached as Annex I.

As part of the process of reviewing work that has been done to date and ensuring lessons learnt and recommendations are appropriately considered in the development of the new strategy, UN Environment developed and published a report in December 2018 which consolidates the results achieved through a Brazilian Contribution.

Announced on the final day of the Rio+20 Conference (22 June 2012) and delivered in August 2013 to UN Environment's Headquarter, the Brazilian contribution of the equivalent of US\$5.2 million gave priority to South-South Cooperation as a means of achieving the SDGs and enabled 12 activities to be carried out across two Medium-Term Strategies, specifically 2014-2017 and the current one for 2018-2021.

A list of activities funded by the Brazilian Contribution is attached as Annex II.

E. Belt and Road Initiative

The South-South Cooperation Unit is holding internal consultations on its engagement in the Belt and Road Initiative and its role in the International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road. The aim of these consultations, which will be further guided by the direction of the incoming Executive Director, is to clearly define the organisation's approach and engagement with the Initiative and Coalition.

The 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will take place in Beijing (25-27 April), during which thematic side-forums and other events will be held. These include the "Green Silk Road" thematic forum to be held on 25 April, in which UN Environment will be taking part and during which the International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road will be launched.

Environmental ministries of countries' governments, inter-governmental organisations, NGOs, academic institutions and businesses have continued to respond to the invitation previously issued by UN Environment to join the International Coalition for Green Development on the Belt and Road. As of this month, 102 entities including 22 countries have confirmed their joining of the Coalition. The final role and status of UN Environment in the Coalition remains under discussion and to be confirmed.

F. China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Centre

The establishment of the China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Centre will be discussed between China and African countries under the framework of the Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Resources under the China Trust Fund for the Centre will remain in UN Environment and can be used to support the technical assistance as required. The Africa Office will be the focal point for matters related to the Centre within UN Environment.

Annex 1:

Roadmap for the development of a revised UN Environment Programme South-South Cooperation Strategy

Delivery of South-South and Triangular Cooperation efforts at United Nations Environment Programme are guided by the “*Integrating South-South Cooperation in the UN Environment Programme’s Programmes of Work: Policy Guidance*” document which was developed in 2011. The document made recommendations on actions that the organisation should take to strengthen South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the implementation of its Programme of Work. Globally, the world is looking towards the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) +40 meetings to be held in March 2019 and the development of a new UN-wide Strategy for South-South Cooperation.

The South-South Cooperation Unit (Policy and Programme Division) of UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME will be leading the development of a **revised UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME Strategy for South-South Cooperation** that will be aligned to the UN-wide strategy and be informed by lessons learned from the implementation of the guidance document over the past seven years

- The development of the strategy will be done through a consultative process that will engage UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME staff members, Member States, and other UN and non-UN entities through a series of consultations. The **initial consultation** took place during the **South-South Cooperation Workshop** held on **10th and 11th December 2018** in Nairobi, Kenya. Staff members involved in South-South Cooperation activities across UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME Divisions and duty stations were able to share and discuss their experiences over the past few years (best practices, challenges, lessons learned and identifications of gaps to address). Suggestions of initial elements to consider for inclusion in the new strategy were made.

Going forward, the following steps towards the development of the strategy are proposed:

- Development of an outline (key sections) of the strategy by the South-South Cooperation Unit – **by end of January 2019**
- Consultation with Member States for their inputs and suggestions on the content of the proposed outline and content of the strategy – **by end of February 2019**
- Consultations with UN agencies, civil society organisations, private sector organisations etc. – **by end of March 2019**
- Development of a draft strategy by the South-South Cooperation Unit in consultation with members of the South-South Cooperation community of practice – **by end of April 2019**
NB. Following the BAPA+40 in March 2019, careful consideration will be given by the South-South Cooperation Unit to fully align UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME’s Strategy document with the most recent UN-wide Strategy for South-South Cooperation.
- Sharing of a draft strategy with Member States for consideration – **by end of June**
- A finalised version of the UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME Strategy for South-South Cooperation **shared with Member States** – **by end of August**
- **Final document shared with UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME staff** across the organisation via internal communication channels – **by end of September**

Note: Throughout the strategy development process, in addition to the above mentioned, briefings will be held at CPR meetings to ensure regular updates on the progress and opportunities for guidance by Member States are provided.

Annex II:

List of Activities carried out with the Brazilian Contribution.

Medium-Term Strategy Area	Activity
Resource Efficiency	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Support the implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP Trust Fund: SCP Implementation) in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa.2. Promote environmental sustainability in Sustainable Consumption and Production through the Brazilian Leading Women Network for Sustainability.3. Advance the shift towards Sustainable Consumption and Production through sports.
Environment Under Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none">4. Enhance South-South Cooperation (SSC) in Latin America and the Caribbean and capacity building for GEO6 process.5. Support the establishment of one Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Amazonia programme.
Environmental Governance	<ol style="list-style-type: none">6. Support the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and enhance South-South Cooperation strategies.7. Support the strengthening of the UN Environment Brazil Country Office and the United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework implementation.8. Strengthening the Environmental Municipal Councils through Municipal Plans for the Conservation and Recovery of the Atlantic Forest.9. Brazil and China facing global environmental challenges: notes to a Bilateral Agenda.
Healthy and Productive Ecosystems	<ol style="list-style-type: none">10. Strengthen UN Environment and Brazil's collaboration on biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and others.11. Clean Seas Campaign.12. Increased the Brazilian capacity to monitor forest restoration projects.