

Committee of Permanent Representatives  
Briefing by the Secretariat  
Thursday 5 September 2019  
14:00 to 16:00  
United Nations Office at Nairobi, Gigiri  
Conference Room 4

**Background Document for Agenda Item 2:**

**Secretariat briefing on development of a new UN Environment Programme Strategy  
for South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

This note serves as a background document for discussions under Agenda Item 2: Secretariat briefing on the development of a new UN Environment Programme Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation. It provides a short general update on the process to develop the new Strategy as well as a first draft Strategy as an annex.

## **Update on the development of a Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

### **Background**

Following initial consultations with Member States on the development of a new Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, whereby the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives considered a draft outline on the basis of a Secretariat proposal at its meeting on 11 June, the Secretariat has developed a first draft of the Strategy, which is presented as an Annex to this note.

The draft Strategy builds on extensive internal consultations within the Secretariat takes into account all relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations General Assembly, UNEP's governing bodies, and the recent Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (2019). It is also aligned with UNEP's Programme of Work, Medium Term Strategy, and other relevant policy guidelines and strategies, with the overall aim to enable UNEP to better support Member States through South-South and triangular cooperation and to streamline relevant activities within UNEP and other UN Systems. To this end, the draft Strategy builds on established UN guidance as outlined in the "Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation"<sup>1</sup> (2016) and the "Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations conference on South-South Cooperation"<sup>2</sup> (2009).

The draft Strategy aims to ensure that the opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation are systematically considered within UNEP, that related activities in projects are designed in a deliberate and structured manner, and that relevant results and outcomes are visible and measurable.

It is anticipated that enhanced South-South and triangular cooperation will help Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda. To this end, the draft Strategy focuses on three main areas: i) UNEP's Programme of Work, ii) Engagement with the UN system, and iii) Innovative partnerships.

### **Proposed Next Steps**

The draft Strategy will be presented to Member States at a Secretariat Briefing scheduled for 5 September at 14.00 – 16.00, with the opportunity to provide initial comments on the content as well as on the process for further consultation. Member States will also be invited to provide comments in writing on the draft Strategy, by 27 September.

- A revised draft of the Strategy, which takes into account inputs received from Member States as well as additional internal consultations within the Secretariat, will be made available to the Committee by mid-October 2019.
- Member States will consider the revised draft at a subsequent meeting of the Subcommittee of the Committee of Permanent Representatives tentatively scheduled for 31 October 2019.
- A final draft of the Strategy will be made available for consideration by Member States ahead of the regular meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives scheduled for 10 December 2019.

**Annex:** *Draft UNEP Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/826679>

<sup>2</sup> <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/673444>

# ANNEX

## Draft UNEP Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

### BACKGROUND

Cooperation among countries from the Global South has grown significantly over the last four decades and continues to expand. This cooperation is witnessed in almost all sectors but is focused primarily on trade, agriculture, health, education, communication, research and development. Developing countries are increasingly working together to address their respective development challenges.

In the field of environment, South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)<sup>3</sup> will help to strengthen countries' capacities to address urgent priorities such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution management.

Since 1978, when the delegations from 138 states adopted a Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (the Buenos Aires Plan of Action), SSTC has been recognized as important means of development cooperation and technology transfer.

Over the years, cooperation only among developing countries – or South-South Cooperation (SSC) – has been endorsed as a mechanism for capacity development and technology transfer in numerous forums and through several resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and UNEP's governing bodies.<sup>4</sup> (See: [Annex I: List of key resolutions that call for/endorse SSTC.](#))

In 2005, the Bali Strategic Plan (BSP) on Technology Support and Capacity Building (UNEP/GC.23 /6/Add.) recognized SSC as a means of supporting capacity-building efforts in developing countries and countries with economies in transition through systematic partnerships and the exchange of expertise, experiences, best practices and knowledge among experts and institutions of the Global South.

In March 2019, during the Second United Nations High-Level Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), the international community reaffirmed its commitment to SSC and called for greater efforts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 17 which aims to "Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development," places particular emphasis on the critical role of SSTC in achieving this ambitious development agenda.

UNEP has for many years used SSTC in the delivery of its Programme of Work (PoW), and it continues to do so.

### PURPOSE

This strategy provides a framework through which UNEP's support to Member States in conducting SSTC will be enhanced during the coming decade (2019-2029).

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<sup>3</sup> Defined here as collaboration among developing countries and a developed-world partner.

<sup>4</sup> First Governing Council and then the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA).

The strategy is aligned to other corporate policy documents and guidelines such as the partnership policy, the resource mobilization strategy, the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) and the PoW.

This strategy has been developed to respond to the following:

1. Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and UNEP's governing bodies (see footnote 1 below).
2. The Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building.
3. Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40).<sup>5</sup>

It follows the Framework of operational guidelines on UN support to SSTC<sup>6</sup> issued by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation in 2016 that was developed as a guide to UN agencies (and others) in mainstreaming SSTC into their work.

The strategy is developed based on lessons learned and consultations with staff from different offices and divisions as well as external counterparts.

It is anticipated that the implementation of the strategy will result in better design, implementation, coordination, monitoring and reporting of SSTC in UNEP and that Member States will benefit from enhanced, coordinated and coherent SSTC support from the organization towards the attainment of the SDGs and multilateral environmental agreements.

This strategy is meant for project managers, project team members, supervisors, sub-programme coordinators, division directors and all staff involved in the design, implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of projects and/or the programme of work.

*"Innovative forms of knowledge exchange, technology transfer, emergency response and recovery of livelihoods, led by the South, are transforming lives"*

**Secretary-General in November 2018, during the inauguration of the 10th South-South Development Expo at UN Headquarters in New York.**

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## **SECTION I: Definition and Principles of South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

### ***Definition of South-South and Triangular Cooperation***

UNEP adopts the definition of SSC as outlined in the 2016 "Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation" which states that **South-South Cooperation** is: "A process whereby two or more developing countries pursue their individual and/or shared national capacity development objectives through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and

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<sup>5</sup> BAPA+40 called for establishment of focal points in UN System organizations, development of strategies or frameworks for SSTC and for enhanced efforts in provision of support to countries with regard to SSTC among other instructions.

<sup>6</sup> ["Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation"](#) (2016).

technical knowhow, and **through regional and interregional collective actions, including partnerships involving Governments, regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector**, for their [...] mutual benefit within and across regions.” SSC is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation. Triangular cooperation involves Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries supported by a developed country(ies)/or multilateral organization(s) to implement development cooperation programmes and projects.

Within this definition, UNEP works to support and facilitate SSTC among Member States in areas related to its mandate on the environment.

In alignment with the Nairobi outcome document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (2009), UNEP considers that SSC embraces a multi-stakeholder approach, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and other actors that contribute to meeting development challenges and objectives in line with national development strategies and plans.

### ***Principles of South-South and Triangular Cooperation***

UNEP further adopts the following principles of SSC most of which are outlined in the 2009 Nairobi outcome document of the High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

- (a) Normative principles
  - Respect for national sovereignty and ownership
  - Partnership among equals
  - Non-conditionality
  - Non-interference in domestic affairs
  - Mutual benefit
- (b) Operational principles
  - Mutual accountability and transparency
  - Development effectiveness
  - Coordination of evidence - and results-based initiatives
  - Demand driven (Initiated or requested by one or several countries from the South)

SSTC can take various forms including:

- **Sharing knowledge, experiences and good practices:** one or more developing countries with experience and expertise in a certain domain exchange(s) this experience and expertise with one or more other developing countries.
- **Development/strengthening of networks:** several institutions from different developing countries form a network and work together within this network.
- **Capacity-building:** delivered from stakeholders of one or more developing countries to actors in one or more other developing countries, increasing their ability to promote development within a southern country.

- **Partnership development:** developing countries start a partnership and set up a common project to build on development.
- **Peer learning.**
- **Technical cooperation.**
- **Technology transfer and matchmaking between needs and available solutions.**

For any of the above-mentioned forms, to be considered as SSTC, activities should include:

- a. **exchange** (of knowledge, best practice, technology, etc),
- b. **application** (of knowledge, best practice, technology, etc, gained from the exchange),
- c. **transformation** in the country/countries taking part in the exchange.

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## SECTION II: South-South and Triangular Cooperation in UNEP and the UN system

While UNEP uses SSTC in numerous projects, the use of the mechanism has often been ad hoc and unstructured in nature. Where it is applied, it was not always monitored or reported on. This might be because SSTC is a mechanism or tool to achieve impact, not usually a goal in itself. The result of this is that SSTC within UNEP currently does not have the visibility it should. For example, although the environmental governance part of the current programme of work does not refer directly to South-South and triangular cooperation, this type of cooperation is embedded in projects where outcomes have been delivered by providing fora for developing countries to learn from each other’s experiences and expertise and to generate good practices that can address environmental concerns. A number of larger projects incorporate SSTC in their design and use it as a core tool/mechanism for their implementation.

Knowledge-sharing on results and experiences of projects among staff and with Member States remains an untapped opportunity that could help avoid duplication of efforts, leapfrog development through use of appropriate technologies and existing solutions, helping to create new synergies among projects.

Further efforts can be made to optimize the potential for countries to benefit from the numerous successful initiatives that have been undertaken with UNEP support over the years and the learnings that have been extracted from these experiences. A systemic strategy for SSTC will help in building long term structures and to ensure that the opportunities for SSTC are systematically considered, and that SSTC activities are deliberate, well thought out and their resulting outcomes are made visible and measurable.

*“... the multilateral development system must be better positioned to support South-South cooperation and implement the 2030 Agenda. South-South cooperation has evolved significantly over the last decades — but multilateral institutions, including the United Nations, have not kept up.”*

**Remarks by UN Secretary-General António Guterres to the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 20 March 2019.**

The **Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation released by the Secretary-General in May 2016** provided “priority actions and performance indicators for United Nations organizations and agencies, including regional commissions, towards mainstreaming their support for South-South and triangular cooperation at the global, regional

and national levels.”. It is a “tool and reference manual on ways to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation in the development planning and programming of United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions at the global, regional and country levels.” It states that: “for South-South and triangular cooperation to have its intended impact, it is necessary to improve overall system-wide policy frameworks, governance, coordination, structures, mechanisms and dedicated resources. Some specific actions to help to bolster the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation in United Nations policies and programmes are (a) working with a common definition; (b) setting up intra-agency support structures, such as a dedicated South-South and triangular cooperation unit in each agency, and focal points at all levels; (c) systematically applying guidelines and guidance; (d) systematically using reporting mechanisms; (e) ensuring, where appropriate, adequate funding from agency budgets; (f) taking effective action at the regional level; (g) matching resources to the United Nations mandates regarding South-South cooperation; (h) developing a coherent strategy for triangular cooperation; and (i) strengthening coordination at the regional and country levels.”

Many UN programmes and specialized agencies, including UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, FAO, and ILO, have dedicated South-South cooperation strategies and specific programmes promoting South-South exchanges.<sup>7</sup>

In the Nairobi outcome document, the High-level Conference requested the United Nations system to help developing countries to establish or strengthen South-South centres of excellence, within their respective areas of competence, and enhance closer cooperation among such centres of excellence, especially at the regional and interregional levels, with a view to improving South-South knowledge sharing, networking, mutual capacity-building, exchanges of information and best practices, policy analysis and coordinated action among developing countries on major issues of concern. It called on UN agencies to take on the role of **convener/advocate, knowledge broker, partnership builder, analyst and progress monitor of SSTC**.

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### SECTION III: UNEP South-South and Triangular Cooperation Objectives

The aim of this strategy is to enhance UNEP’s work in SSTC in order to better serve Members States in their efforts to achieve the SDGs.

This will be done through enhancing UNEP’s SSTC in three main areas:

1. UNEP’s Programme of Work.
2. Engagement with the UN system.
3. Innovative partnerships and initiatives.

It is anticipated that enhancement of SSTC in these areas will result in more efficient and targeted support to Member States and other stakeholders in their environment management efforts.

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<sup>7</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific – [South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific – A brief overview \(2018\)](#)

### **Objective 1: Enhance South-South and Triangular Cooperation in UNEP's Programme of Work**

Adjustments will be made in the different stages of the project and programme cycle, within UNEP to allow for better delivery of SSTC. Efforts will be made to ensure that SSTC is promoted as a mechanism for project implementation and that it is used in a deliberate and structured manner. The implementation of SSTC activities will be better monitored and reported on, and the learning and best practices that emerge from these activities will be shared among staff, with Member States and partners. To achieve this, the following priority actions will be undertaken.

#### ***i) Awareness and capacity***

- Awareness-raising activities within UNEP and with partners on the potential for SSTC to advance the environment agenda at global, regional and national levels through experience sharing forums and dialogues, and online platform and publications.
- Development of guidance material (guidelines, short videos) for project teams within UNEP on how to better integrate SSTC in their projects (criteria, approaches, examples, knowledge products, capacity building tools).
- Capacity-building of countries to implement SSTC including through supporting departments responsible for coordination of SSTC in countries to ensure that the environment is incorporated in their SSTC strategies, and that environmental impacts and management are assessed when large South-South initiatives are being developed for economic, social or other objectives.

#### ***ii) Project design, assessment, monitoring and evaluation***

##### **At the project level**

- Review of existing criteria for SSTC in the project document template.
- Outlining of SSTC indicators in project documents where possible.
- Provision of means for systematic monitoring and reporting of SSTC activities within projects, even if they are not featured as outcome, outputs or milestones in project documents.
- Featuring of SSTC in Project Performance Reviews.
- Promoting South-South cooperation in Fora of environment ministers.
- Promoting South-South cooperation in UNEP's regional and sub-regional thematic meetings

Note: The UN system-wide South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy that will be released in 2021 will include "guidelines on quantitative and qualitative indicators" (according to the outline). UNEP will ensure alignment these guidelines. Similarly, within the UN system-wide strategy a "monitoring and evaluation process will be established that will regularly report the progress in implementing the strategy against the set targets and results". UNEP's evaluation mechanism for SSTC will be aligned with this.

##### **At the programme level**

- The next POW and MTS will factor in SSTC as an important implementation mechanism.



- Each sub-programme should integrate South-South cooperation into its programme framework.

### ***iii) Knowledge Management, Communication and Outreach Tools***

- Systematically capture lessons learned and best practices. Streamline the means of researching UNEP projects around the world. (South-South Cooperation Unit and Corporate Services).
- Develop tools to showcase and disseminate this information. Developing a catalogue of existing SSC solutions, successfully implemented in the South and ready to be transferred elsewhere, will benefit Member States and SSC activities within UNEP. Benefits will include avoiding duplication work and re-inventing solutions which already exist.
- Development of a digital platform (website) that also links to UN system wide SSTC platform and other external SSTC portals. A public platform will increase countries' awareness of existing solutions they could replicate domestically.
- Dialogues/face to face meetings.
- Revive the UNEP SSTC community of practice.
- Disseminate SSTC materials and information at UNEA and UN system meetings.
- Include criteria on South-South cooperation in the publication approval guidelines.
- Hold continuous thematic dialogues.

### ***iv) Funding of SSTC projects and activities***

- Develop a fund for projects that focus on SSTC.
- Work towards complying with the UN-wide recommendation of committing 0.5% of core funds to SSTC.

## **Objective 2: Enhance UNEP's South-South and Triangular Cooperation engagement with the UN system**

UNEP has a wide range of collaborative work with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), UN Country Teams, the Environment Management Group (EMG), regional UN mechanisms, and project level partnerships with other UN agencies. These can be further harnessed for enhanced SSTC, in line with the guidance from the outcome of BAPA+40 conference. The UN Development System reform guidelines also call for increased collaboration among UN agencies and renewed focus on delivery of support at the country level. In order to step up its collaboration with UN agencies in support of SSTC UNEP will focus on the following actions.

- Identify priority areas in which UNEP has the mandate and comparative advantage and establish collaborative arrangements with relevant UN agencies to enhance SSTC in these areas. UNEP can then lead in areas in which it has the comparative advantage.
- Provide guidance to UNCT teams on how SSTC can be used for environmental management and to address environmental challenges. This includes guidance on how environment and SSTC should be incorporated in the common country analysis process for the development of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs).

- Work closely with Regional UN Sustainable Development Groups and Regional Coordination Mechanisms and Regional Economic Commissions on SSTC and provide them with information on opportunities for SSTC related to environmental management in their respective regions. This should include analysis of opportunities on both the demand (instances where countries lack capacity and need support in certain sectors, environmental issues,) and supply (where there is experience, knowledge, technical capacity, that can be shared with others) sides.
- Collaborate with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and other UN agencies through active engagement in the UN System interagency SSC mechanisms and related activities. Recruit friends and champions in other UN agencies and country teams. Select a few topical themes to focus on e.g. the UN Climate Action Summit.
- Engage with the secretariats of MEAs and capture their best practices and lesson learned.
- Support countries preparing voluntary national reports to the High-Level Political forum (HLPF) using a SSTC approach.
- Engage in thematic UN agency fora such as the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS), to support further SSTC objectives.

### **Objective 3: Fostering and enhancing innovative partnerships**

Another objective is engagement multi-lateral forums to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the field of Environment. This will include:

- Creating new research groups on emerging global and/or regional environmental issues and processes.
- Participating in multi-lateral and regional forums to promote South-South and triangular cooperation in the field of environment to help UNEP leverage its core advantages to help promote and facilitate SSTC. This includes using the organization's convening power to bring together development partners, identifying relevant Southern partners, hosting various platforms and fora for dialogue and cooperation, and helping to mobilize resources for SSTC partnerships.
- Systematically establishing dialogues with SSTC focal points in international organizations, think tanks, thematic centers of excellence, other SSTC organizations, civil society, private sector, financial institutions, NGOs, etc, to identify existing and potential opportunities for UNEP to support SSTC partnerships.
- Developing innovative partnerships.

### **Target groups for collaborative partnerships**

UNEP's role in SSTC is to enable and strengthen partnerships and capacity of developing countries.

Target groups for collaborative partnerships should include national institutions with the institutional capacity for sustaining partnerships and initiatives after the end of UNEP involvement, and that conform to the guiding principles for SSTC, as summarized below. Other key groups to target are:

- **Private sector:** private companies, trade and investment ministries, trade and investment promotion agencies, chambers of commerce, training institutions for trade policy makers etc. The private sector is a major source of innovation, technological solutions, financial resources, job creation and has knowledge and reach beyond those of UNEP, all of which cannot be neglected if

the SDGs are to be achieved. The Agenda 2030, Paris Agreements and Addis Ababa Action Agenda, among other international agreements, recognize and call for a strengthened relationship with the private sector to promote private sector sustainability and transformation.

The private sector is evolving fast, away from corporate social responsibility (CSR) as a mere obligation and towards business models which attempt to incorporate sustainability to their core, providing UNEP with increasing opportunities for engagement. Private sector engagement initiatives already exist within UNEP.

Emerging markets of the Global South are where growth is the most rapid and change the most fast-paced. Through early engagement with the private sector, major drivers of this transformation, and by facilitating SSTC, UNEP can encourage the early adoption of innovation and solutions enabling both long-term profitability and sustainability. The private sector drives the most frequently cited environmental realities, such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and generation of plastic waste and is therefore a crucial group to engage with in order to reverse the trend.

- **Youth:** There are 1.3 billion young people aged 15 to 24, accounting for 16 per cent of the global population<sup>8</sup>. As pointed out in the 2018 “Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” report<sup>9</sup>, young people are of major importance in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Active engagement of youth in sustainable development efforts is central to achieving sustainable, inclusive and stable societies by 2030, and to averting the worst threats and challenges to sustainable development and environmental matters. SSTC can serve a crucial means of involving youth in the developing countries, through innovative partnerships which leave no one behind.
- **Civil society organizations:** Through the provision of valuable research, expertise and advocacy functions, civil society organizations are major allies of UNEP in advancing the international environmental priorities and for the delivery of UNEP’s programme of work. By taking early account of the views of civil society organizations, governments can strengthen the recognition and support for national and intergovernmental decisions on environmental matters, enabling greater impact.

Involving civil society in UNEP’s SSTC partnerships is key to creating mutual benefits where civil society is empowered to voice its perspectives and share experience and expertise, strengthening South-South cooperation networks and the dissemination of international best-practice among developing countries.

### ***Guiding principles for the development of strategic and innovative partnerships***

Any partnerships developed for SSTC will be guided by UNEP’s partnership policy as well as the guiding principles for the development of strategic and innovative SSTC partnerships and initiatives outlined in

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<sup>8</sup> United Nations – [World Population Prospects](#).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations World Youth Report (2018) – [Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#).

the Framework of operational guidelines on UN support to South-South and triangular cooperation, issued by the High-level Committee on South-South cooperation in 2016.

As mentioned in Section I, these principles include respect for national sovereignty and ownership; partnership among equals; non-conditionality; non-interference in domestic affairs; mutual benefit; mutual accountability and transparency; development effectiveness; coordination of evidence- and results-based initiatives; and a multi-stakeholder approach.

In addition to these principles, any partnership established shall:

- Be aligned to UNEP programme objectives and the SDGs.  
The SSTC partnerships should have a clear linkage to the Medium-Term Strategy and contribute to UNEP Programme of Work.
- Have clearly identified benefits/outcomes  
The benefits of engaging the partnership should be clearly defined, such as resource accesses, technology transfer and capacity building
- Be demand driven.  
UNEP's engagement should respond to requests from Member States.
- Based on the availability of funds to support the planned activities.
- Have a multi-stakeholder and inclusive approach.

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#### **SECTION IV: Funding for South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

Dedicated resources for SSTC are required for the effective implementation and coordination of SSTC activities.

Recommendation 9 of The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) report (JIU/REP/2011/3)<sup>10</sup> called for each of the UN agency to allocate not less than 0.5 per cent of core budget resources and a specific portion of extra budgetary resources for SSTC initiatives. Half of the 26 entities covered by the report have reached the target while UNEP is still under resource and budget proposed. UNEP will:

- Allocate funding support to facilitate the implementation of the strategy e.g. support key centers of excellence to attend UNEP meetings and share good examples on SSC;  
Production of knowledge products;
- Establish a flexible fund to support UN Country Teams and regional groups on SSC based on specific demands.
- Intensify resource mobilization efforts and explore new opportunities available.
- Assist implementation partners apply for funding if UNEP is not eligible for application according to fund criteria.

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<sup>10</sup> Joint Inspection Unit (2011) – [South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the United Nations System](#)

## **SECTION V: Governance**

*The South-South Cooperation Unit* of the Policy and Programme Division will be responsible for the overall coordination of SSTC activities within UNEP. Specifically, the South-South Cooperation Unit will be responsible for:

- Developing and disseminating guidance materials;
- Developing and disseminating of knowledge products;
- Digital management of SSTC knowledge through a hosted platform and / or contributions to UN system-wide platform;
- Working with the Project Review Committee secretariat, Corporate Services and other relevant staff within the organization to implement changes to internal documents and resources, as implied by the actions set out in this strategy.
- Overall corporate reporting on SSTC.
- Serving as the focal point for engagement with UN SSC interagency mechanism, UNOSSC, regional fora and UNCTs.

*Project teams* are responsible for project design, implementation, monitoring and reporting of SSTC in projects.

*Sub-programme Coordinators* are responsible for ensuring cohesive SSTC in respective sub-programmes.

Annex I: List of key resolutions that call for/endorse SSTC

**Annex I: List of key resolutions that call for/endorse SSTC**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Resolution Number</b>	<b>Resolution Name</b>	<b>Description Relating to South-South Cooperation</b>
1972	2997 (XXVII) General Assembly	Resolution adopted by the General Assembly 2997 (XXVII)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “to provide, at the request of all parties concerned, advisory services for the promotion of international co-operation in the field of the environment”. This includes providing guidance and advice on how investment and business practices can be made more sustainable.</li> </ul>
2002	A/RES/56/202 General Assembly	Adopted by General Assembly ‘Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries’	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calls upon all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for South-South cooperation, and in this context takes note of decision 2001/2 of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund,<sup>11</sup> in which the Board requested the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to consider reviewing, in the context of the successor programming arrangements, the allocation of additional resources for activities involving technical cooperation among developing countries, taking into account the overall financial situation and the need for appropriate resources for other activities;</li> <li>• Requests the Secretary-General, through coordination of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of the United Nations Development Programme and in consultation with relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in the South, to include in the report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session concrete measures for promoting and facilitating South-South cooperation, taking into account all relevant initiatives and proposals in this regard;</li> <li>• Stressing that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and for ensuring</li> </ul>

			<p>their effective and meaningful participation in the newly emerging global economic system,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizing that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing economic and technical cooperation among themselves, and reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation through the modality of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries</li> </ul>
2005	UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1 Bali Strategic Plan	Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides an effective strategy for strengthening technology support and cooperation by supporting the creation of an enabling environment for innovation and transfer through the enhancement of international cooperation conducive to innovation and the development, transfer and dissemination of technologies, with the protection of intellectual property rights, involving all relevant partners, including the private sector. Emphasis should be given to identifying and disseminating best practices and fostering entrepreneurship and partnerships</li> <li>• The Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum will regularly review and provide policy guidance for the plan, acting pursuant to its mandate to review the global environment and to promote international cooperation.</li> <li>• The plan underscores the importance of South-South cooperation and stresses the need to intensify efforts directed towards institutional capacity-building, including through the exchange of expertise, experiences, information and documentation between the institutions of the South in order to develop human resources and strengthen the institutions of the South, and places emphasis on the important role for economic and social development played by scientific knowledge and technology, which have a major influence on the way in which the earth's resources are used and shared among its inhabitants.</li> </ul>
22 December 2005	A/RES/60/212 General Assembly	60/212 South-South cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urges all relevant United Nations organizations and multilateral institutions to intensify their efforts to effectively mainstream the use of South-South cooperation in the design, formulation and implementation of their regular programmes and to consider increasing allocations of human, technical and financial resources for supporting South-South cooperation initiatives, and in this regard takes note of</li> </ul>

			<p>the initiatives contained in the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the first South Summit,<sup>5</sup> the Marrakesh Framework for the Implementation of South-South Cooperation and the Doha Plan of Action;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recalling further its resolution 59/250 of 22 December 2004, which, inter alia, called on organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to mainstream, in their programmes and through their country-level activities and country offices, modalities to support South-South cooperation,</li> <li>• Invites the United Nations Development Programme to rename the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Promotion of South-South Cooperation, which was established in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/119 of 20 December 1995, as the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, while maintaining its mandate and voluntary nature, and to designate it as the main United Nations trust fund for promoting and supporting South-South and triangular initiatives;</li> <li>• Welcomes the report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its fourteenth session<sup>2</sup> and the decisions taken at that session;<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation</li> <li>• Stresses that South-South cooperation, as an important element of international cooperation for development, offers viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development;</li> <li>• Recognizes that regional integration initiatives between developing countries constitute an important and valuable form of South-South cooperation and that regional integration is a step towards beneficial integration into the world economy</li> </ul>
20 December 2006	A/RES/61/215 General Assembly	61/215 Industrial Development Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes the importance of South-South cooperation in the area of industrial development, and in this regard encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of developing countries, inter alia, through triangular cooperation;</li> <li>• Recognizes the importance of information in the replication of best practices in processing, design and marketing, and also recognizes the importance of and encourages South-South cooperation in this respect;</li> </ul>
19 December	A/RES/62/209 General Assembly	62/209. South-South cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaffirming its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, in which it endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for</li> </ul>



mber 2007			<p>Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highlights the fact that, in spite of progress achieved in this area, further efforts are required to better understand the approaches and potential of South-South cooperation to enhance development effectiveness, including through national capacity development;</li> <li>• Encourages the initiatives and arrangements, including public-private mechanisms, undertaken in the efforts to enhance cooperation between developing countries, including, inter alia, in the areas of the fight against poverty and hunger, access to information and communications technologies, science and technology, environment, culture, health, education and human development;</li> </ul>
2009	Report of the Governing Council Decision 25/9 (United Nation Environment Governing Council)	Decision 25/9: South-South cooperation in achieving sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recalling also decision SS.X/3 on the United Nations Environment Programme medium-term strategy 2010–2013, and welcoming the medium-term strategy, in particular to enhance delivery of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building,</li> <li>• Stressing the particular importance of South-North cooperation and the complementary role of South-South cooperation in the field of sustainable development,</li> <li>• Stressing the need to continue to develop innovative mechanisms to mobilize resources for South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives,</li> <li>• Requests the Executive Director to build on the current work and follow-up activities on South-South cooperation and to broaden external consultations to develop strategic partnerships and alliances in support of capacity-building and technology support activities using South-South cooperation arrangements;</li> <li>• 2. Also requests the Executive Director to develop further and refine the existing strategic and operational guidelines and also to develop a policy guidance for the coherent and coordinated implementation of South-South cooperation approaches across the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme;</li> <li>• 3. Further requests the Executive Director to deepen the cooperation of the United Nations Environment Programme with related United Nations agencies, regions, subregions and existing South-South cooperation initiatives to develop joint activities and synergies of capacity in advancing South-South cooperation in support of capacity-building and</li> </ul>

			<p>technology support in the context of the Bali Strategic Plan and as reflected in the medium-term strategy 2010–2013,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4. Requests the Executive Director to initiate efforts towards establishing formal cooperation arrangements with existing mechanisms and centres of excellence active in South- South cooperation, such as the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for South-South Technical Cooperation, to foster cooperation in the field of the environment;</li> <li>• 5. Urges the Executive Director to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme coordination mechanism and structure for South-South cooperation, including its regional presence, with a view to enhancing its role and function;</li> <li>• 6. Invites Governments and other relevant organizations to provide the necessary adequate resources for the work of the United Nations Environment Programme in South-South cooperation and encourages the Executive Director to develop further and implement high-profile demonstrable projects in South-South cooperation in the field of the environment;</li> <li>• 7. Requests the Executive Director to contribute to the Secretary-General’s report to the forthcoming high-level United Nations conference on South-South cooperation and to participate in that Conference;</li> <li>• 8. Also requests the Executive Director to present a report on the progress in implementing the present decision to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twenty-sixth session.</li> </ul>
6 October 2009	A/RES/64/1 General Assembly	64/1 High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report, consistent with the overarching theme of the Conference, reviewing the trends in South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, reviewing also the progress made by the international community, in particular the United Nations, in supporting and promoting such cooperation and identifying new opportunities, as well as challenges and constraints and measures to overcome them;</li> <li>• Invites United Nations organizations, including the specialized agencies, regional commissions and funds and programmes, to provide input to the preparations for the Conference;</li> <li>• Invites international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and business sector entities to participate</li> </ul>

			<p>in the Conference, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the General Assembly;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invites intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to participate in the Conference;</li> <li>• Taking note of the growing importance of South-South cooperation, and recognizing the increased role undertaken by the United Nations to support economic cooperation activities among developing countries,</li> <li>• Taking note of the growing importance of South-South cooperation, and recognizing the increased role undertaken by the United Nations to support economic cooperation activities among developing countries,</li> <li>• Invites United Nations organizations, including the specialized agencies, regional commissions and funds and programmes, to provide input to the</li> <li>• preparations for the Conference;</li> <li>• Encourages Member States and their partners, including non-governmental organizations, to consider preparing reports on South-South and triangular cooperation for the purpose of the Conference, on a voluntary basis, taking into account the themes of the Conference and the outcomes of regional, subregional or sectoral United Nations meetings prior to the Conference;</li> </ul>
2009	A/64/L.37 General Assembly	Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation	
2016	SSC/19/3	Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation	
2017	A/RES/72/237 General Assembly	Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6. Welcomes the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development, encourages developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and to further improve its development effectiveness, in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the</li> </ul>

		<p>(72/237) South-South Cooperation</p>	<p>High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,<sup>10</sup> and welcomes commitments to strengthen triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8. Acknowledges the progress made and encourages the continued integration of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into the policies and strategic frameworks of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and requests those funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system that have not yet integrated South-South and triangular cooperation into their policies to do so, taking into account the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>11</sup> and the complementary nature of South-South to North-South cooperation;</li> <li>• 21. Requests the United Nations system to enhance its support in the areas where South-South cooperation has proved effective, namely capacity-building, regional integration, interregional linkages, infrastructure interconnectivity and the development of national productive capacities through exchanges of knowledge, technological innovations and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and in several areas of sustainable development such as poverty eradication and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;</li> <li>• 22. Welcomes the support provided by developing countries to South-South and triangular initiatives aimed at improving nutrition and food security, and invites the replication of this approach in other relevant areas, drawing on the technical expertise of various United Nations organizations;</li> <li>• 26. Urges the United Nations system to continue its support to regional and subregional organizations, enabling their member countries to build more partnerships and cross-border frameworks, with a view to promoting and scaling up best practices with the potential to benefit a large number of developing countries;</li> <li>• 27. Welcomes the growing number of forums convened for Governments and other policymakers to discuss, in a participatory and inclusive manner, South-South cooperation initiatives and their contribution towards</li> </ul>
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			<p>the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including addressing challenges, lessons learned and good practices in key areas;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29. Recognizes the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation, and in this context invites all countries in a position to do so to contribute, in support of such cooperation, to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation and to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, in accordance with its resolution 57/263 of 20 December 2002, and to support other initiatives for all developing countries, including technology transfer among developing countries on mutually agreed terms</li> </ul>
2019	UNEA 4/Decision 4/1	Programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020–2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28. Requests the Executive Director to ensure that South-South, South-North and triangular cooperation initiatives are effectively implemented in the spirit of accountability and transparency;</li> </ul>
2019	A/73/L.80 General Assembly	Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation	