



UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION: RESULTS REPORT 2018-2019

RESULTS ACHIEVED WITH OUR PARTNERS



DECADE OF >>> ACTION

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About this report

This report is produced as part of the commitment by UNOSSC to continuously enhance the transparency, efficiency and accountability of funds that it manages. It contributes to efforts of the United Nations system to strengthen the quality of system-wide reporting on funding and performance and enhances programming for results.

The report presents the accomplishments of the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) through its projects, initiatives and dedicated facilities in 2018 and 2019 and summarizes the way forward of the Fund. It serves as the progress report on the Fund, ensuring transparent and accountable reporting on resources contributed and results achieved with UNFSSC financial support.

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ADEL
ABDELLATIF

Director a.i., United Nations Office for
South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

THE ambitions outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) guide the work of the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC).

The BAPA+40 outcome document recognizes the significant contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to the achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly the overarching goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions. It also conveys clear policy recommendations to enable the international community and the United Nations system to better coordinate South-South and triangular cooperation efforts, build bridges, strengthen partnerships and establish sustainable strategies for scaling up impact together.

The coronavirus disease is attacking societies at their core, the Secretary General of United Nations said in his report “Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19”. This pandemic is more than a health crisis and it poses more risks to the people of the Global South. The most vulnerable will require further international support, including through more coordinated South-South and triangular cooperation, to effectively respond, recover and build back better.

In 2018 and 2019, UNOSSC further strengthened and utilized UNFSSC to better respond to the demands of Member States and partners. It used the Fund as a key framework to mobilize resources in achieving the planned results of the Office. For example, through voluntary contributions to UNFSSC, meaningful participation of the representatives from the least developed countries was ensured during BAPA+40.

Further, UNOSSC, along with its partners, has established and operationalized a digital interactive platform, the South-South Galaxy, to respond more systematically and effectively in supporting the demand of developing countries to connect, learn and collaborate with potential partners in implementing the SDGs. The South-South Galaxy facilitated South-South knowledge exchange and brokering of partnerships, bringing together over 180 organizations and more than 300 development solutions in a three-month period after its formal launch in September 2019.

Moreover, contributions to UNFSSC remained instrumental in organizing the tenth annual Global South-South Development Expo in 2018 in New York. The largest to date, the Expo brought together over 120 representatives of Member States and more than 1,000 participants from United Nations agencies, the private sector, civil society and academia. The Expo showcased over 250 successful South-South and triangular cooperation development solutions.

UNFSSC was instrumental in helping UNOSSC to better collaborate with the Member States, United Nations agencies and partners in advancing the green-economy agenda, connecting cities to advance SDG implementation, expanding global networks of centres of excellence for South-South and triangular cooperation, strengthening collaboration with Southern think tanks, and promoting the application of science and technology for poverty reduction, among others, through South-South and triangular cooperation.

Building on the achievements made to date and lessons learned, UNOSSC will continue its efforts to further strengthen and utilize UNFSSC together with Member States and United Nations agencies to engage partners and pool resources to better contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and BAPA+40 recommendations while responding to the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Through this UNFSSC report, we are pleased to share some of the key achievements of the projects and initiatives delivered. We would also like to convey our gratitude to the Members States and organizations that supported and advanced them. UNOSSC is committed to further expanding the activities of UNFSSC on a demand-driven basis.



ACHIM STEINER

Administrator, United Nations
Development Programme (UNDP)

The devastating socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 reminds us of how interconnected the world is – and the importance of global partnerships in tackling *global* challenges, be they pandemics, rising poverty, climate change, or biodiversity loss. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how South-South and triangular cooperation are more important than ever to quickly mobilize the critical solutions needed by countries. Such cooperation has enabled everything from the rapid deployment of vital medical supplies in the Gambia, Lebanon, and Sierra Leone – to the roll-out of South-South exchange webinars on how to best tackle the virus, which have reached 1 million people in over 140 countries. The United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) has been instrumental in translating urgent demand into action.

In all of these respects, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is proud to host the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) – it continues to make critical networks, knowledge, and innovation available to developing countries around the world. In the aftermath of the worst crisis since the Second World War, the sharing of such assets is critical as countries now start to build forward better from the pandemic – and it will help to ensure that the achievement of the SDGs is put firmly back on track.



H.E. MR. ADONIA AYEBARE

Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Uganda to the United
Nations and President of the High-
level Committee on South-South
Cooperation

The outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) recognizes the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation toward the achievement of the SDGs. The United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) has demonstrated very important results in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation. We would like to express our congratulations on the results achieved through UNFSSC so far and encourage utilization of the Fund in facilitating the implementation of BAPA+40 recommendations in collaboration with the Member States, UN agencies and other partners.

107 good-practice case studies published and disseminated, engaging Member States, United Nations agencies and other development partners to more effectively contribute to accelerating the implementation of the SDGs.

A programme strategy formulated to **support Southern solidarity for peace and development** together with Member States, United Nations agencies and other intergovernmental organizations.

Through Youth4South, **young professionals and technical officers from Southern countries enhanced their skills in implementing the SDGs** in their countries and sectors by harnessing South-South and triangular cooperation.

Small grant support provided to **30 Southern countries in a demand-driven approach helped to improve lives of people**, covering thematic areas including agriculture, forestry, energy, cultural exchanges and technology transfer.

South-South Global Thinkers Initiative pooled **250+ think tanks to contribute to the growing body of evidence and knowledge on issues pertinent to South-South cooperation** through the development of frontier research.

With Cities Project, scope of support through South-South and triangular cooperation expanded to **connecting cities in the Global South to advance implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UNFSSC RESULTS



More representatives from the least developed countries (LDCs) able to participate and contribute to the BAPA+40 outcome document.

A digital system, South-South Galaxy, powered by artificial intelligence (AI), facilitated South-South knowledge exchange and brokering of partnerships, bringing together over **180 organizations** and **300+ development solutions**.

Directors General Forums facilitated preparations for BAPA+40 and subsequently helped in developing the roadmap for implementing the **BAPA+40 recommendations**.

2018 Global South-South Development Expo largest to date, **engaging over 120 Member States** and institutional partners and showcasing over **250 South-South** and triangular cooperation solutions that contributed to BAPA+40.

Green-economy agenda better positioned in the development of the Global South, engaging over 91 Member States on green economy.

14 Southern countries received capacity-building support on electron beam applications in agriculture and industrial sectors.

2018-2019



ABOUT UNFSSC

UNFSSC is a voluntary trust fund established in 1996 by the Member States to support South-South cooperation partnerships for the benefit of developing countries around the world. It constitutes a core element of the United Nations system support to Member States in their strategy to engage partners and mobilize resources for the joint implementation of innovative and transformative South-South cooperation activities. Since its inception, Member States and partners have contributed to UNFSSC through pooled funding, in-kind contributions and dedicated facilities to support United Nations platforms for South-South cooperation or for initiatives of particular relevance to the South. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) serves as Fund Manager for UNFSSC.

During the reporting period, UNFSSC continued serving as a pooled funding mechanism with multiple contributing partners. It also served as an umbrella fund that hosts sub-funds such as the India-UN Development Partnership Fund. The contributions were received in cash and in kind. The contributions received under UNFSSC are allocated and utilized through projects, initiatives or dedicated facilities to better implement the priorities of the UNOSSC strategic framework, 2018–2021.

WHY: RATIONALE FOR FURTHER ADVANCING UNFSSC



Better contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through South-South cooperation.



Better promote, support and facilitate South-South cooperation and implement the UNOSSC strategic framework in an innovative manner.



Better support Member States in enabling Southern countries to leverage their collective strength to increase South-South cooperation.



Better leverage the potential strength of Southern countries to respond to and recover from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and equip them to address similar types of crisis in the future.



Better utilize the Fund as a legal, operational and governance framework for engaging partners, pooling resources and jointly implementing South-South cooperation.

UNFSSC GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

The Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the Nairobi outcome document and the BAPA+40 outcome document provide an international framework of agreed principles of South-South cooperation. UNFSSC strives to promote key principles for cooperation among developing countries set forth in these foundational documents across its programming and implementation approaches, including those listed below:



South-South cooperation is, above all, based on the principle of solidarity.



Developing countries engage in South-South cooperation on a voluntary basis for mutual benefits.



South-South cooperation is guided by horizontal partnerships among equals where countries cooperate as peers.



South-South cooperation is demand-driven and empowers countries of the South as they lead and shape their own development pathways.



South-South cooperation does not attach conditions to support provided by developing countries to other developing countries.



South-South cooperation benefits all partners engaged.



South-South cooperation does not substitute for, but rather complements, North-South cooperation.



South-South cooperation strives to be cost-effective, context-appropriate and driven by practical results.

RESULTS OF UNFSSC PROJECTS, 2018–2019



High level Opening Ceremony
of BAPA+40, March 2019,
Buenos Aires, Argentine
Republic

CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF BAPA+40

The year 2019 was an important year for South-South and triangular cooperation with the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 2019 and resulted in the BAPA+40 outcome document.

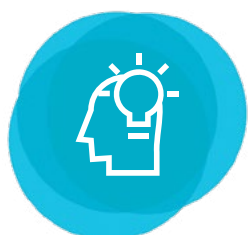
The BAPA+40 outcome document recognizes the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving the overarching goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions. This forward-looking policy document also provides clear policy recommendations to enable the international community and the United Nations system to coordinate South-South efforts, build bridges, cement partnerships and establish sustainable strategies for scaling up impact together. It also recognizes the part played by triangular cooperation, reflecting its increasingly relevant role in the implementation of the SDGs, and sets forth recommendations for a wide range of stakeholders including Member States, United Nations agencies, multilateral institutions, civil society and the private sector on how to promote South-South and triangular cooperation for the achievement of the SDGs.

Contributions and resources were mobilized from various sources for BAPA+40. Among them, UNFSSC remained one of the key mechanisms for the mobilization of the resources from the Government of Argentina as host of the Conference and from the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec), which helped to organize the Conference and ensure the meaningful participation of the representatives from LDCs.



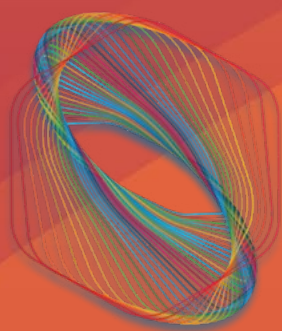
LESSONS LEARNED

- The active participation of all South-South and triangular cooperation stakeholders in the preparatory process as well as in BAPA+40 itself is a clear indication of the increasing role of these modalities of cooperation in the achievement of the SDGs in the Global South.
- An increased number of Member States and development stakeholders are embracing South-South and triangular cooperation as an important means of leveraging their partnership-building approach to sustainable development.



WAY FORWARD

- UNFSSC will be further used as an important United Nations instrument for the implementation of the policy recommendations of BAPA+40, with the aim of further consolidating all South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships for sustainable development.
- The engagement of South-South and triangular cooperation actors will be further expanded to better contribute to the effective use of support and resources consistent with the BAPA+40 recommendations and the SDGs.



**SOUTH-SOUTH
GALAXY**

**SOUTH-SOUTH GALAXY:
A DIGITAL GLOBAL SYSTEM
FOR SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND
BROKERING PARTNERSHIPS**



Technical discussion with United Nations partners on the functions and features of South-South Galaxy, September 2019, New York

Launch of South-South Galaxy on United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, witnessed by the United Nations Secretary-General, September 2019, New York



UNOSSC, along with its development partners, has established a digital interactive platform, the South-South Galaxy, to respond more systematically and effectively in supporting developing countries' demand to connect, learn and collaborate with potential partners to support the implementation of the SDGs through South-South cooperation. Powered by artificial intelligence, this system was established in response to Member States expectations and recommendations. The platform complements, rather than substitutes for or duplicates, existing national and regional institutional arrangements. Its development was based on consultations with over 15 United Nations entities.

The South-South Galaxy represents the recognition by UNOSSC of the exceptional potential of new digital technologies. It offers transformational cooperation opportunities for enhanced knowledge-sharing and collaboration across borders as well as a chance for businesses and social entrepreneurs to access overseas markets and engage in global e-value chains.

ONE-STOP SHOP TO COMMUNICATE AND SHARE SOLUTIONS

The South-South Galaxy is increasingly serving as a one-stop shop for all partners to communicate and share solutions to address common challenges and as a matchmaker by connecting solution providers and seekers. Southern countries and other interested development partners are able to locate concrete cases, share their knowledge and initiatives, collaborate with potential

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS



180 +

Organizations institutionally registered including:

35

Governments

38

United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies

107

Development partners/non-governmental organizations



3,000 +

Average monthly visitors to the platform



300 +

Development solutions contributed by partners

partners digitally and explore funding opportunities. By the end of 2019, over 300 solutions had been shared to the platform by partners since its launch in September 2019, with an average of 3,000+ monthly visitors accessing the online platform. Beyond the user-generated solutions, the South-South Galaxy offers the most direct search to access all relevant digital repositories of good practices and innovative solutions in South-South and triangular cooperation for the achievement of the SDGs.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIGITAL PLATFORM

More multi-stakeholder organizations are participating in the South-South Galaxy. As of December 2019, over 180 organizations had institutionally registered on the Galaxy; they comprised governments, United Nations entities, the private sector, think tanks, academia, international financial institutions, development banks, civil society organizations (CSOs) and foundations that are actively contributing to the



LESSONS LEARNED

- Establishing a dynamic and demand-driven knowledge-sharing system for different stakeholders is necessary to improve South-South cooperation. However, it is challenging to have a one-size-fits-all approach to knowledge-sharing, especially within regional, interregional and subregional organizations.
- Partnership-building is one of the most valuable means of sharing information. The sharing of institutional knowledge by two or more organizations can spur innovation and create greater impact through complementing one another's efforts rather than competing.

platform, enabling them to connect with one another directly, making it easier to build partnerships digitally. Given the interactive nature of the platform, the organizations are connecting and collaborating with one another through peer learning, replication of good practices, joint research and learning from experiences.

MAKING THE EXCHANGE OF SOUTH-SOUTH SOLUTIONS MORE HORIZONTAL

By providing a direct link to connect to solution owners and recipients, the platform is contributing to the democratization of access to information and making the exchange of South-South solutions more horizontal. The platform has started enabling tangible interactions between Southern partners and providing customized support to their needs. Through South-South Global Thinkers, the associated platform, it is connecting governments, experts and think tanks, ensuring that Southern perspectives and insights are included in mainstream policy dialogue and research.



WAY FORWARD

- The South-South Galaxy has been embedded in the forthcoming United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South cooperation, which seeks to galvanize and operationalize South-South and triangular cooperation in a coordinated, coherent manner throughout the United Nations development system.
- The South-South Galaxy will continue to enhance the currently used engagement modalities and search for even more ways to collaborate with existing and new partners.
- Expanding partnerships and the user base within the United Nations system and beyond, engaging governments, international financial institutions, businesses and other social entrepreneurs, the South-South Galaxy will facilitate access to markets and participate in the global e-value chain.

KEY FEATURES OF THE SOUTH-SOUTH GALAXY



One-stop shop for development actors to **communicate and share solutions** to address common challenges



Integration of **artificial intelligence (AI)** in order to respond to user/partner needs in a more customized manner



Connects and links existing South-South knowledge-sharing platforms



Serves as **needs broker and matchmaker**, connecting solution providers and seekers



Facilitates access to available **financing mechanisms, capacity development initiatives and research**



Facilitates collaboration to enable access to markets and engagement in the **global e-value chain**

HARNESSING THE POWER AND POTENTIAL OF THE SOUTH FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Launched in 2008, the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo is one of the flagship global events organized by UNOSSC in collaboration with Member States, United Nations agencies, private-sector enterprises, CSOs and academic institutions. It is the only worldwide platform offered by the United Nations development system for the systematic showcasing of development solutions at the national, regional and global levels as a direct response to the expressed interest and needs of stakeholders from the Global South.

The GSSD Expo has enabled development actors and stakeholders to showcase and scale up Southern development solutions, celebrate South-South and triangular cooperation successes, share knowledge and lessons learned, and explore new avenues for collaboration while contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

OVER 250 SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION SOLUTIONS SHOWCASED AT THE TENTH GSSD EXPO

The tenth edition of the GSSD Expo took place at United Nations Headquarters in November 2018 in New York. It featured a variety of documented best practices from the stakeholders participating in the event. The 2018 Expo was the largest Expo to date, bringing together representatives of over 120 Member States and more than 1,000 participants from United Nations agencies, the private sector, civil society and academia and showcasing over 250 South-South and triangular cooperation solutions. South-South cooperation in over 13 thematic areas connected with SDGs were highlighted during the Expo.

“The GSSD Expo is about harnessing the power and potential of the South for the common good. It is about sharing homegrown Southern solutions for sustainable development”, said António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, at the Opening Remarks segment of the GSSD Expo 2018.



High-level Opening Ceremony of the GSSD Expo 2018, New York

A PLATFORM FOR THE PREPARATIONS FOR BAPA+40

In addition to showcasing development solutions, the GSSD Expo 2018 provided a platform for discussions by Member States and stakeholders on critical issues in the context of the upcoming second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) to advance stronger South-South cooperation across 17 SDGs.



Delegates at the GSSD Expo 2018, New York

LESSONS LEARNED

- Ensuring inclusive participation in the GSSD Expo by representatives of local government agencies, the private sector, national experts and civil society together with Member States and multilateral institutions can make the thematic discussions and knowledge exchanges more substantive. This arrangement would also lead to more meaningful South-South and triangular cooperation and partnership-building.
- Effective engagement and participation of young experts and young entrepreneurs from the developing countries in the GSSD Expo to share their initiatives and best practices can provide them with innovative, concrete opportunities for access to potential knowledge, solutions and financing.

WAY FORWARD

- The next GSSD Expo will focus on the implementation of, and follow-up on, the BAPA+40 outcome document commitments and recommendations as well as the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in the achievement of the SDGs, including consideration of the impact of the spread of COVID19.
- The organization of future GSSD Expos will include the application of greener and more digital approaches to support the expansion of global and regional networks of development stakeholders and the systematic sharing of the most relevant and high-quality knowledge and development solutions.

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS



Only worldwide platform offered by the United Nations development system for systematic showcasing of development solutions from the Global South



120 +



Member States represented



1,000 +



Participants, including from United Nations agencies, the private sector, civil society and academia



250 +



South-South and triangular cooperation solutions showcased

DIRECTORS GENERAL FORUM: A PLATFORM FOR MAINSTREAMING SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

The High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum) is one of the annual flagship events of UNOSSC that it implements together with its partners to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation. The DG Forum seeks to bring together heads of cooperation agencies of national governments to provide an opportunity for them to exchange views on South-South and triangular cooperation approaches and methodologies as well as to serve as a matchmaking platform for further strengthening partnerships.

The Forum is a platform for South-South cooperation that offers an opportunity to make proposals for further mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation into national policies of cooperation and development. It also provides an opportunity for South-South and triangular cooperation practitioners and other stakeholders to discuss and initiate partnerships.

ROLE OF THE TENTH DG FORUM IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR BAPA+40

The tenth annual DG Forum was held on the margins of the GSSD Expo 2018 in New York. The overarching theme of that Forum was “Towards the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40): The role of practitioners in scaling up the impact of South-South and triangular cooperation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The topic of reinforcing the global institutional arrangements for South-South and triangular cooperation received considerable attention from relevant policymakers and practi-

tioners, given the increasing demand for coordination and partnership at the global, regional and national levels.

The DG Forum was also held within the framework of the preparatory process for BAPA+40 to provide an opportunity for the practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation to engage with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, which were in charge of the negotiations of the outcome document of the Conference, on aspects related to their needs as practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation and how to reflect them in the outcome document.

ELEVENTH DG FORUM FACILITATED TO IMPLEMENT BAPA+40 RECOMMENDATIONS

The eleventh edition of the annual DG Forum was held in Istanbul in December 2019. The overall theme of the Forum was “Charting the post-BAPA+40 roadmap for South-South and triangular cooperation: Towards effective institutionalization of South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development”. It provided an opportunity for practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation to reflect and exchange views on ways and approaches to implement the recommendations of the BAPA+40 outcome document. The Forum participants committed to further strengthening the institutionalization of South-South and triangular cooperation, assessing the results, and promoting an inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach to implement the BAPA+40 recommendations. The Forum resulted in concrete recommendations for the post-BAPA+40 roadmap.



Panel discussion at the High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation 2019, Istanbul, Turkey



Delegates at the DG Forum, Istanbul, Turkey



LESSON LEARNED

- High-level events such as the DG Forum can serve as important platforms for peer learning and capacity development among the practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation as well as for partnership mobilization. The involvement of partners such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) as co-organizers opened the way for a partnership aiming to improve the ecosystem and institutional capacities for South-South and triangular cooperation in developing countries in different regions of the South.



WAY FORWARD

- More partners will be engaged for the organization of the DG Forum to broaden its scope. More regional DG Forums focusing on the Global South will be organized, establishing institutional links with the global DG Forum, to support global and regional partnership efforts for the achievement of the SDGs.

SUSTAINABLE GREEN ECONOMY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

The World Green Economy Organization (WGEO), launched in 2017, focuses on the promotion of the widespread acceptance and increased importance of green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. WGEO serves as a platform for international cooperation and knowledge-sharing to drive sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and job creation. UNOSSC supports WGEO in partnership mobilization and global outreach efforts, helping to mobilize actions around WGEO priority areas.

ENHANCED REGIONAL COMMITMENTS ON GREEN ECONOMY

UNOSSC, in partnership with WGEO and key regional and national stakeholders, facilitated policy dialogues leading to specific policy recommendations by that wide range of stakeholders, which shared them through the joint statements adopted at the five Regional Ministerial Conferences on Green Economy that involved over 535 officials from 91 countries worldwide. Joint statements of the five Regional Ministerial Conferences drafted and finalized in line with the comments and contributions from the participants of the high-level events reflect key outcomes and the calls for action in the field of advancing a green economy. The Regional Ministerial Conferences also served as a platform to showcase Southern solutions for the advancement of a green economy, thus supporting South-South exchanges.

SUSTAINABLE GREEN-ECONOMY APPROACHES ADVANCED

Sustainable green-economy approaches and policy recommendations resulting from the regional events were promoted globally at the Global Ministerial Conference on Green Economy, held as part of the 2019 World Green Economy Summit and attended by 130 ministerial-level participants and high-level representatives from United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

CAPACITY OF SOUTHERN COUNTRIES ENHANCED REGARDING GREEN ECONOMY

A WGEO course entitled Executive Training on Green Economy was developed and delivered in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the International Solar Alliance (ISA). A total of 330 executives and practitioners were trained in green-economy issues, with the training targeting representatives of governments, international organizations, the private sector and CSOs from around the world. The course helped to equip the participants with a sound understanding of the key principles, dimensions and trends in the process of transition to a green economy at the national, regional and global levels. It also provided the tools and methods for proactive green action in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

BETTER POSITIONING IN CLIMATE FINANCE

UNOSSC contributed to the organization of the joint United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and WGEO “High-level Forum on Climate Finance Strategies for NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) Implementation” at the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25) of UNFCCC in Madrid in 2019. It also helped to highlight regional and national strategies to mobilize and access climate finance to meet the priorities of developing countries as well as to bring clarity on how to deliver the NDCs and long-term strategies of developing countries. The ministerial- and CEO-level speakers emphasized the needs of their countries and regions; shared examples of the sources of climate finance, available instruments and activities in their regions (e.g., Africa, Arab States, Melanesia, Southeast Asia); and informed the broader efforts being undertaken in mobilizing climate finance.

SOLUTION EXCHANGES FACILITATED

UNOSSC, with WGEO, continued supporting countries to share good practices in green economy



Panel discussion, 2019 Africa Regional Ministerial Conference on Green Economy, Cairo, Egypt

through documenting and publishing successful cases that can be replicated in other countries of the Global South as well as showcasing them on various platforms. The green-economy solutions are available via the [online portal](#) along with other good practices. Over 30 successful green solutions from various regions were showcased at the Solutions Expo during the 2019 Regional Ministerial Conferences on Green Economy.

LESSON LEARNED

- Creating an enabling environment for promoting a green, circular and decarbonized economy requires strong political will, collaborative efforts and engagement of all key actors, including governments, national and international communities, United Nations agencies, the private sector, academia and CSOs.

WAY FORWARD

- UNOSSC and WGEO, in collaboration with United Nations agencies, academia and CSOs, will further support countries in strengthening national and local institutions, their mandates and capacities (including financial and human ones) to formulate, implement and monitor vertical (i.e., global to local) and horizontal (i.e., sectoral and spatial) integration for a green-economy transition, advocating for an integrated, systematic and holistic approach to transitioning to an inclusive and green economy in alignment with SDGs and the Paris Agreement.
- Technical research and knowledge exchange on green innovation and capacity-sharing will be further promoted through public-private partnerships and South-South cooperation.

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS



Green-economy agenda better positioned in the development of the Global South



5

Joint statements of the Regional Ministerial Conferences reflecting calls for action in advancing a green economy



535

Officials from 91 countries worldwide engaged in advancing the green economy agenda



330

Executives and practitioners trained in green-economy issues

APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

Since 2016, the Republic of Korea and UNOSSC have implemented a demand-driven initiative responding to partner countries through the Republic of Korea-UNOSSC Facility/ Programme for Capacity Development for Poverty Reduction through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Science and Technology (Phase 2).

The Republic of Korea-UNOSSC Facility (Phase 2) consists of three components: the Knowledge Platform, the Consortium and the Scaled-up Project. The Platform provides development solutions and policy guidance for specific sectoral areas requested by partner countries. The Consortium is focused on implementing an integrated pilot project focused on information and communications technology (ICT) for business and social development of women, entrepreneurship, agriculture, school health, water management and energy/environment. The Platform and Consortium projects are implemented in Cambodia. The Scaled-up Project aims to strengthen capacities for electron beam application and establishment of electron beam facilities for food irradiation and removal of industrial effluents in the environment in 14 countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

The year 2019 saw greater project synergy and ownership created through multi-stakeholder collaboration, particularly by national and local governments, civil society and institutions of the Republic of Korea, and delivery of concrete and meaningful outputs. All three components of the Facility supported capacity-building of civil servants, academia, community leaders, women entrepreneurs and youth towards achieving the use of practical technical solutions and mindset transformation.



Training in safe vegetable planting in Cambodia

ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL AND HUMAN CAPACITIES

In Cambodia, a technology-based business incubator centre was established within the Ministry of Planning to support new ventures and existing entrepreneurs in harnessing science, technology and innovation in their businesses.

In Indonesia, the Knowledge Platform institutions collaborated and advised the Ministry of Villages, Development of Disadvantaged Regions, and Transmigration to harmonize its indicators on village development. The monitoring process is now managed by Statistics Indonesia. Furthermore, the indicators are used as village development targets for the country's National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) 2020–2024.



Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute experts' mission to Viet Nam to help in managing wastewater treatment plants

In parallel, the Scaled-up Project entitled Electron Beam Applications for Value Addition to Food and Industrial Products and Degradation of Environmental Pollutants in the Asia-Pacific Region expanded its capacity-building initiatives in agriculture and industrial applications through training and technical workshops at the local and regional levels. Seven new electron beam facilities were established in Thailand and Viet Nam, and 103 new technical jobs in electron beam applications have been created in participating countries since 2017.

GREATER ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Farmers are better trained to grow crops (chili and moringa) and rear animals (goats, sheep and chickens) in an integrated “smart farming” approach. The project helped to install solar panels and biogas facilities in the pilot villages. The animals provide biogas for energy and manure for fertilizer. To increase access to safe drinking water, gravity-driven membrane filtration systems for clean water resources were installed in selected schools. The toilet and handwashing facilities were installed to improve the health and sanitation of the villagers. In Indonesia, the women entrepreneurs received the Food Production Certificate (Home Industry) from the local government, thereby legalizing them to manufacture home-made food in accordance with the national safety and nutrition standards. The certification increased the visibility and credibility of the women's products. With the achievement of those accepted standards, those home-produced foods are now bought and sold by local supermarkets.

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS



Countries from the Asia-Pacific region received capacity-building support on electron beam applications in agriculture and industrial sectors



Creation of 103 technical jobs in electron beam applications



Exchange of agricultural practices from Indonesia to Mongolia for experimentation, resulting in:

100
%

increase of
sweet pepper
yield

263
%

increase of
tomato yield

Encouraged by the outcomes of the integrated work, the Government of Indonesia has committed to setting up a South-South Centre of Excellence for Village Innovation in Sukabumi, West Java, to share its policy, strategy, know-how and practical experiences regarding sustainable, resilient and inclusive development with other countries of the Global South.

SCALED-UP TECHNICAL COOPERATION ON ELECTRON BEAM APPLICATIONS

The participating countries strengthened South-South and triangular cooperation through joint research and technical exchanges. Technical missions were undertaken to support the strengthening of domestic technical and management capacities pertaining to electron beam applications. For example, the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute experts' mission to Viet Nam facilitated the Research and Development Centre for Radia-

tion Technology of Viet Nam in managing wastewater treatment plants and wire production plants in the country. Another collaboration took place between Indonesia and Mongolia. Indonesia provided Mongolia with irradiated oligo chitosan and biofertilizer to be used for an experiment in the growth of sweet pepper and tomato plants. The experiment showed that the sweet pepper yield increased 100 per cent while tomato plants achieved a 263 per cent increase in yield.



Students using solar energy-based devices, and farmers practicing greenhouse management in Cambodia

LESSONS LEARNED

- A systematic capacity-building framework is required to offer technical skill sets and know-how for maintenance of installed facilities and assets acquired under the Facility.
- Communication and language constraints were identified as a problem in expanding effective partnerships at local levels. Once those issues were addressed, the partners were able to develop joint initiatives. Therefore, facilitation of good communication is a requirement for success in such a multi-stakeholder project.

WAY FORWARD

- The Facility played a vital role in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation and piloting new approaches in fostering science, technology and innovation partnerships for poverty reduction. It will continue documenting sound practices and supporting the replication of those practices in other countries of the Global South



COLLABORATION AMONG CITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Nepalese delegates visiting farmers market in Yuxi, China

In response to the increasing demands from the cities and potential partners, UNOSSC and the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE) expanded the scope of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities for Sustainable Development Project (Cities Project) in early 2019 to focus on the advancement of SDGs through leveraging the opportunities and resources offered by the Belt and Road Initiative. In 2019, the Cities Project continued advocacy and partnership-building efforts and substantially increased its visibility to development partners from over 60 new cities. It received requests for South-South cooperation support from 11 cities across the Global South. The Project has further defined and demonstrated its value proposition, expanded focus areas and gained stronger momentum.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT KNOWLEDGE DEEPENED THROUGH DEMAND-DRIVEN NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Three demand-driven needs assessments were conducted in Khajura (Nepal), Chust (Uzbekistan) and New-Koidu (Sierra Leone) in close coordi-

nation with UNDP, the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), focusing on the needs of the cities for agriculture supply-chain development, waste management and infrastructure development. The Cities Project also supported advocacy and outreach efforts towards the concept of sectoral and thematic cooperation among cities in developing countries.

CITY-TO-CITY SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ENHANCED

South-South exchanges between cities in Nepal (Khajura) and China (Yuxi) regarding the development of sustainable agriculture were completed, which helped to increase the knowledge of the participants. Both Nepalese delegates and Chinese counterparts said that they were inspired and looked forward to advancing the collaboration. The Yuxi Government and representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture in China agreed to provide the necessary technical advisory support to the Nepalese city.

Participants engaged in discussions during demand-driven needs assessment



Together with local stakeholders, the Cities Project team, UN Habitat and WFP are conducting needs assessment in Koidu City, Sierra Leone

SKILLS IN E-COMMERCE INCREASED

The project supported increasing skills in cross border e-commerce. A total of 82 people (56 per cent women) representing 15 developing countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America increased their skills in that area. In addition, 95 per cent of the participants passed the post-training online test and reported that the training had helped to increase their knowledge of South-South cooperation in e-commerce.

LESSONS LEARNED

- More interest in, and requests for, collaboration were received from various cities and partners in an ad hoc manner. To better address the requests and encourage new cities to collaborate, a systematic procedure and guidance are essential to be established for effective expansion of partnerships with the cities.
- The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic resulted in uncertainties in project implementation and planning. Significant impacts of COVID-19 on the global community in the economic, social and environmental spheres are anticipated. Financial resources to support the joint implementation of the pilot projects likely to be further challenged given the foreseen negative impact of COVID-19 on the global economy. A flexible project management modality and contingency planning would help to better address the risks and challenges faced during the uncertainties.

WAY FORWARD

- The Cities Project will focus on fully establishing and institutionalizing the clusters of cities conceptualized on the basis of multiple themes, such as agriculture cities, port cities, tourism cities and civil-aviation-hub cities, through South-South cooperation. It will also focus on establishing and institutionalizing the new sectoral clusters, including those on e-commerce, public health and waste management, and engage existing thematic and regional networks of cities.
- The Project will emphasize the development of standard tools and processes for establishing and operationalizing the clusters of cities and will expand its support to the partner cities' needs and priorities related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS



60

Over 60 cities engaged in advancing South-South cooperation in a number of thematic areas: agriculture, transportation, waste management, e-commerce, etc.



8 / 22

8 UN Agencies and 22 other organizations partnered in facilitating city to city South-South cooperation.



82

Representatives from:
15 developing countries
increased e-commerce skills

56%

women



11

11 cities' good practices in climate change and South-South investment were documented and shared

ADVANCING THOUGHT LEADERSHIP ON SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

U NOSSC and UNDP continued their joint facilitation of the initiative South-South Global Thinkers: The Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for South-South Cooperation. Established in 2017 in partnership with various Southern-led think-tank networks and private-sector entities, the objective of the initiative is to contribute to the growing body of evidence and knowledge on issues pertinent to South-South cooperation.

This joint effort draws on the high-quality expertise of existing think tanks and experts from the South (as well as some from the North) for peer-to-peer learning, exchanges of knowledge and experiences, networking, policy dialogues, coordination and technical assistance. It provides an enabling environment to fill the knowledge gap by strengthening the scaling up of South-South and triangular cooperation and its impact and providing a bridge to link with SDGs and their implementation. This is done by strengthening the global knowledge base, undertaking research, deepening global dialogue and supporting intergovernmental forums.

UNOSSC and UNDP to date have formalized six partnerships with Southern think-tank networks from various regions that pool over 250 think tanks.

JOINT RESEARCH IMPLEMENTED

Eight research studies were produced and disseminated in the South-South Ideas series to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation to support accelerating progress towards the SDGs. Topics ranged from impact assessment of South-South cooperation and the role of CSOs in South-South cooperation to trade and investment. The studies were launched during BAPA+40, and several of the papers in that new series have been included on university reading lists and in learning resources on international development cooperation subjects. As of the end of 2019, the papers had been viewed over 1,000 times. In 2019, nine additional research studies were commissioned from the think-tank networks; the studies will address some of the important aspects mentioned in the BAPA+40 outcome document.



Policy dialogue entitled “South-South global think tanks reflect on the BAPA+40 outcome”, 2019, New York

POLICY DIALOGUES EXPANDED

The initiative convened a number of South-South policy dialogues and consultative processes that served as sources of ideas on how best to eradicate poverty and address other transnational challenges facing many countries of the South. Over 16 policy dialogues and workshops were convened with members of the Global Coalition. Through those policy dialogues and workshops with think tanks, which also engaged Members States and other development partners, they were provided with a platform to share their reflections on priority topics concerning South-South and triangular cooperation and propose research ideas and knowledge initiatives that would be important for Southern countries and development partners.

COLLABORATION ENHANCED TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE SOUTHERN IDEAS

Southern think tanks and research institutions were frequently consulted to ensure that Southern voices, perspectives and inputs were shared, reflected and communicated in research documents. One notable example is consultations with the UNDP Human Development Report Office. Since 2019, the South-South Global Thinkers network has been consulted for inputs for the *Human Development Reports*. The consultation brought together over 30 Southern-based think tanks to share their knowledge and perspectives

through e-discussion on the topic of inequality via the South-South Global Thinkers online platform. The inputs provided were reflected in the *Human Development Report 2019*.

FUNCTIONAL DIGITAL PLATFORM

A South-South Global Thinkers online platform, developed and launched in late 2017, was used for number of e-discussions, which received hundreds of contributions. Contributions to those on-line discussions fed into the *Human Development Report* and other background papers. The platform has pooled over 140 publications and research pieces on South-South and triangular cooperation developed by members of the Global Coalition, which are being used as a source for research on South-South and triangular cooperation.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Think tanks from the Global South play a vital role in the political and policy arenas at the local, national and global levels and assist Governments in understanding and making informed choices about issues of domestic and international concern. Thus, they can strategically champion the thought leadership on South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Through the exchanges of knowledge and insights among think-tank networks on South-South cooperation, the diversified perspectives of South-South cooperation have become a strength that can be fully appreciated and leveraged to enrich the understanding of, and inform better decision-making in, South-South cooperation.

WAY FORWARD

- In response to the BAPA+40 outcome document, which includes recognition of the contribution of think tanks and research institutions to the improvement of South-South and triangular cooperation practices, UNOSSC, in collaboration with UNDP, will continue strengthening the sharing of knowledge and research on South-South cooperation in partnership with the think-tank communities and academia. The aim is to advance thought leadership and produce evidence-based research to inform policy dialogues and decision-making on South-South cooperation in the context of sustainable development.
- UNOSSC will continue its efforts to better incorporate the voices of the Global South into the *Human Development Reports* and other United Nations flagship publications through closely working with the South-South Global Thinkers networks in capturing required inputs and perspectives from think tanks in the developing countries.

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS



Provided an enabling environment to fill the knowledge gap by strengthening the scaling up of South-South and triangular cooperation



250 +



Think tanks from across the Global South working together



8



Research reports and studies developed and disseminated to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation to support the acceleration of progress towards the SDGs

EXPANDING GLOBAL NETWORKS OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

The China South-South Development Centre (SSDC) Project was established in 2008 through the partnership between the China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE) under the Ministry of Commerce and UNOSSC. It aims to build partnerships at different levels, involving both domestic and foreign partners including private sectors in South-South cooperation. The SSDC Project brought together resources from multiple fields and multiple industries in China, demonstrating practical training to the counterparts in partner countries of the Global South through the implementation of small grant projects, with innovation and replicability remaining at the nucleus of the interventions.

The new phase of the Global South-South Development Centre (GSSDC) Project (2019–2023) builds on the 10-year achievements of the China SSDC Project and capitalizes on the strong expertise and resources offered by a 24-year-old, strong, nationwide China South-South Cooperation Network.

RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A total of 19 small grant projects were supported under the SSDC Project, covering a variety of thematic areas including agriculture, forestry, energy, cultural exchanges and informatization and benefiting more than 30 developing countries. The small grant projects met the needs of countries of the Global South and facilitated their access to practical technology, knowledge and skills in areas where China's comparative advantage had been well demonstrated. The small grant projects showed multiple effects, such as on poverty alleviation, women's participation in development and environmental protection while improving the capacity for international cooperation of participating institutions in China and abroad. The small grant projects also extended the scale of funds, representing a success in the intention to explore the pub-

Global South-South Development Centre Project signing ceremony between UNOSSC and Ministry of Commerce of China, witnessed by H.E. Mr. Hu Chunhua, Vice Premier, People's Republic of China, and Mr. Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator



lic-private-partnership cooperation model, thus ensuring the sustainability of the project.

SERVING AS A CATALYTIC AGENT

The SSDC Project also contributed as a catalytic agent in building a solid foundation towards cohesive public-private sector collaboration, a shared vision for increased capacity in the recipient countries through South-South cooperation, and common accountability in eventual, broad effective results. For instance, after completion of a small grant project entitled Improving Fishery Production Performance and Technical Demonstration in Sri Lanka, the partners from China and Sri Lanka signed a cooperation agreement for longer-term partnership.

LEARNING EXCHANGES TO EXPLORE NEW MARKETS

The SSDC supported a series of exchange visits among 20 countries to facilitate partnership-building between China and other developing countries. Those exchange visits helped in exploring opportunities for new markets and trade cooperation between China and other countries.



Farmers and entrepreneurs in Vanuatu receiving training to promote the value-added bamboo industry

LESSONS LEARNED

- A network of organizations established in a country to promote South-South cooperation can expand its membership to the organizations from other countries to better promote two-way exchange of ideas, knowledge, technology and business opportunities would truly serve the spirit and principles of South-South cooperation. An external evaluation of the SSDC Project concluded that the SSDC Network could be also extended beyond the Chinese institutions to include organizations outside China from which China could also gain knowledge and benefit from technology in areas where gaps existed.
- The small grant projects can serve as an effective delivery mechanism to deliver services to the target population as well to establish a good level of collaboration with United Nations agencies in expanding South-South cooperation.

WAY FORWARD

- The new GSSDC project will emphasize re-positioning the achievements of the earlier phase of the project to be part of a global network of centres of excellence for South-South cooperation in advancing SDGs.
- The GSSDC Project will continue to emphasize the promotion of South-South cooperation principles and a demand-driven approach to help to address national and regional development priorities.

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS of China South-South Development Center Project



19

Small grants benefiting over:

30

developing
countries



South-South Development
Centre institutionalized
through the strengthening
of South-South cooperation



20

Learning exchanges provided
opportunities to explore new markets
and trade cooperation between China
and other developing countries

CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROMOTION OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNOSSC continued to support the promotion of the peace and development efforts of Members States and partner organizations through enhancing South-South cooperation.

STRATEGY TO SUPPORT SOUTHERN SOLIDARITY FOR PEACE

Responding to the demand received from various countries and regional groups to engage more proactively in the promotion of South-South cooperation for peace and development, UNOSSC expanded its work to promote the cross-fertilization of ideas and create the space for Southern solidarity for peace and development. Together with Member States, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies, UNOSSC developed a long-term strategy to support Southern solidarity for peace, including a programme and partnership strategy.

CONTRIBUTION TO PEACEBUILDING IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The Central African Republic has been experiencing a civil war for over a decade. Progress on relative peace in the country has given hope for economic recovery. UNOSSC, together with partners agencies including the International Organization of la Francophonie (OIF), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the African Development Bank, extended support to the Central African Republic in building confidence and capacity development efforts as well as mobilizing investors and rebuilding the country's ravaged economy. The Bangui Economic Conference in 2019 was an example of such a joint effort of the Government of the Central African Republic, together with UNOSSC, the African Development Bank, OIF and UNIDO. Its aim was to help to rebuild the country's human capital and create confidence among potential investors. As part of the Conference, a preliminary event was held to engage young people and women of the Central African Republic on the stakes and challenges of employment for the youth in the context of economic recovery. As a result of the Confer-

ence, young people and women increased their knowledge of employability and digital entrepreneurship and were provided with support tools.

The Round Table of the Conference, focused on the diversification of the cotton textile and clothing industries in francophone spaces, helped to identify areas of industrial cooperation including the improvement of cotton production in the Central African Republic, the training of Central African experts on the cotton value chain, and the creation of a model farm and a joint enterprise for the creation and processing of cotton in the country.

To strengthen unity and economic recovery in the Central African Republic, an investment fund was proposed that would be fully owned by the people of the country through a monthly contribution of about 10,000 CFA francs by 10,000 Central Africans, for a total of 1,200,000,000 CFA francs (about \$2.1 million) annually.

TRAINING MODULE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR PEACE

UNOSSC, together with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the United Nations, supported the United Nations System Staff College in the development of a training module entitled South-South Cooperation for Sustaining Peace and Development as part of the online tutored course Introduction to Sustaining Peace. The support provided to the training modules included inputs, knowledge products and online materials to form the structure of the course.

CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GROUP OF SEVEN PLUS

UNOSSC established a partnership with the Group of Seven Plus (g7+) to promote and strengthen g7+ fragile-to-fragile cooperation as a modality for South-South cooperation on peace and development. UNOSSC continued its close dialogue with the g7+ Secretariat and member countries, with a view to implementing a strong fragile-to-fragile learning strategy across continents.



UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE



UNOSSC



UNOSSC supported the United Nations System Staff College in the development of a training module entitled "South-South cooperation for sustaining peace" as part of the online-tutored course "Introduction to sustaining peace"

Panel discussion at the Bangui Economic Conference 2019, Bangui, Central African Republic



WAY FORWARD

- UNOSSC will continue to collaborate with the Government of the Central African Republic and partners to organize the second Bangui Economic Conference, where the issues of economic recovery and youth and women's empowerment will be further explored as will milestones since the first Conference. The second Conference will use more digital platforms to increase its reach and visibility. The model of the Bangui Conference – how to support economies recovering from conflict in LDCs – will be extended to two other LDCs and will contribute to the preparation of the African LDCs for the forthcoming LDCs Conference in 2021.
- UNOSSC will continue to work with the Member States, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies in promoting the cross-fertilization of ideas and creating the space for Southern solidarity for peace and development through South-South cooperation.

UNFSSC INITIATIVES, NEW PROJECTS AND DEDICATED FACILITIES, 2018–2019



Delegates at the International
Youth Innovation Conference
in Shenzhen, China

UNOSSC AND APC-COLOMBIA PARTNERSHIP

Partnership between UNOSSC and the Colombian Presidential Agency for Cooperation (APC-Colombia) started in 2015. The first joint initiative focused on promoting peace-building through South-South and triangular cooperation; however, the scope of the partnership has expanded beyond peacebuilding in recent years.

UNOSSC, APC-Colombia and the United Nations Global Compact co-organized a joint side event during the 2018 high-level political forum entitled “Scaling up South-South and triangular cooperation through public-private alliances and knowledge management tools for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The objective of the joint side event was to discuss how South-South and triangular cooperation could contribute to the 2030 Agenda, particularly through knowledge management and public-private multi-stakeholder alliances. The side event provided a good opportunity to showcase how alliances and knowledge exchanges are valuable tools to achieve SDGs at the global, national and local levels. In 2018, the partnership also produced and launched a report entitled *Colombia Has Changed: Innovations for Development* and contributed to the GSSD Expo 2018 and the 2018 DG Forum.

The major collaboration between UNOSSC and APC-Colombia in 2019 included co-organizing a high-level political forum side event in July 2019 and organizing a two-day event to celebrate the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation in September in Bogota, Colombia. The event in Bogota provided a good networking opportunity for participants from the Global South. The partnership also contributed to the co-organization of a side event at BAPA+40.

YOUTH4SOUTH PROGRAMME

The Youth4South: Advanced Young Leadership Programme was launched by UNOSSC together with its partners in November 2017. Designed as an umbrella facility, the Youth4South Programme aims to facilitate capacity development for youth from developing countries to learn and adapt South-South and triangular cooperation knowledge and tools for scaling up Southern development solutions to promote sustainable development to their home country and local communities. Youth4South has engaged with various partners through three service pillars. This includes UN entities such as UNDP, Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, UNFPA, WFP and IFAD, as well as institutional partners including the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation (FC-SSC), China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (CISSCA), NOREC-Norway, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and many others.

In 2018, over 60 young government officials and professionals from close to 40 developing countries from Africa, Asia, Arab States, Europe and CIS regions joined three thematic capacity development training cohorts on South-South and triangular cooperation in agriculture development, reproductive health and the implementation of Agenda 2030 for SDGs. Those training sessions enabled participants to learn, exchange views and apply South-South and triangular cooperation tools and methods in scaling up sustainable development solutions in their home countries and communities. Young professional and technical officers from agricultural ministries, foreign ministries, development cooperation agencies, technical agencies and international organizations met for practical exchanges of knowledge and theoretical training to find solutions and address their countries’ development needs.

In 2019, the Youth4South Programme expanded its initiatives into three areas: capacity development training; academic fellowship and scholarship; and entrepreneurship. In the area of capacity development, 30 young professionals and officials from the Governments of 11 developing countries from the Asia and the Pacific region participated in the training of youth leadership in agriculture for the Belt and Road Initiative. In terms of academic fellowships and scholarships, a pilot of the Youth4South Fellowship was initiated with the Government of the People’s Republic of China by providing scholarships to a number of established young professionals for post-graduate degree programmes at five top-tier universities in China. UNOSSC, together with partners, launched the Youth

Entrepreneurship for the South (YES) Programme at the Youth Climate Summit in 2019 to promote youth entrepreneurship and organized a capacity-building workshop.

Furthermore, the Youth4South Programme jointly with UNDP, UNFPA, SG Youth Envoy Office, African Union Commission, and Shenzhen Youth Federation, created a platform for youth entrepreneurs to innovate and scale up their initiatives and good practices. It supported the International Youth Innovation Conference in Shenzhen, China, which brought 28 young entrepreneurs from 19 developing countries to the Conference and provided opportunities for them to pitch their initiatives and network with entrepreneurs, potential investors and partners. The eight initiatives selected were entered in the “Matchmaking and Scaling Up of Youth-led Good Practices Competition” where participants presented their ideas to a panel of investors and experts from United Nations agencies and universities, as well as over 1000 local and international youth participants. Winners of the competition received prizes ranging from \$10,000 in seed funding from the Shenzhen Youth Federation to mentorship opportunities and future trainings.

SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION RESEARCH INITIATIVES

UNOSSC is increasingly serving as a knowledge hub for South-South cooperation through the publication and dissemination of various research products together with Member States, United Nations agencies and partner organizations. The publications such as those in the series *South-South in Action* and *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development* are the major initiatives.

In 2018, UNOSSC produced the second volume of *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*, which showcases how South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation can accelerate progress towards the implementation and achievement of the SDGs. The volume features 107 good practices presented by Member States, United Nations agencies and other development partners. Launched during the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation in 2018, the publication has been translated into six additional languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish) to reach a wider audience. It also has been downloaded via the UNOSSC website more than 1,750 times to date. The third volume is currently being produced; 200 good practices have been received for publication.

Since 2018, UNOSSC has been supporting Member States, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, development partners and United Nations entities in the development of volumes of the *South-South in Action* series. The series provides partners with a platform to showcase their successful policies, initiatives and activities that have led to the achievement of some of their development goals through South-South and triangular cooperation. Over 20 *South-South in Action* volumes have been produced and disseminated to date. The *South-South in Action* series also offers development partners a window on opportunities for collaboration that exist in the South. The production of those reports is fully led by the partners, with technical support from UNOSSC.

Additionally, in 2019, UNOSSC produced the first independent report on South-South and triangular cooperation entitled *Cooperation beyond Convention* in collaboration with Southern experts and researchers. The report, officially launched at the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation event, reviews the history and transformation of South-South and triangular cooperation and provides innovative analysis of local, regional and global Southern cooperative initiatives to scale up the understanding of, and support for, models of cooperation. UNOSSC also produced a report entitled *South-South Cooperation in a Digital World*, which analyses digital opportunities and challenges in the context of South-South cooperation.

As a result of such efforts to produce research studies and reports, the BAPA+40 outcome document has highlighted the importance of such research and includes the request that the United Nations development system “continue its support to the strengthening of relevant public research institutions, academic institutions, think tanks, knowledge networks and relevant regional or thematic centres of excellence as institutional spaces for knowledge development and sharing on South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives” (A/RES/73/291, para. 27 (b)).

CLIMATE CHANGE

UNOSSC leads and coordinates the implementation of the South-South Cooperation Action Plan of the Secretary-General's Climate Change Engagement Strategy (2018–2021). In that context, UNOSSC established the South-South Climate Cooperation Inter-Agency Group of the United Nations to facilitate South-South cooperation on climate change.

In 2018, UNOSSC collaborated with the UNFCCC Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the UNFCCC Secretariat in strengthening knowledge, awareness and understanding of South-South cooperation on climate change adaptation and mitigation through technology development and transfer in the areas of agriculture, coastal zones, early warning, transport, energy and waste.

At the 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 24), the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China and UNOSSC co-hosted the High-level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change on the theme "Promoting pragmatic climate partnerships: Harnessing the co-benefits of climate actions in Southern countries". Also, at COP 24, UNOSSC and TEC launched the publication entitled Potential of South-South and triangular cooperation on climate technologies for advancing implementation of nationally determined contributions and national adaptation plans.

At the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September 2019, UNOSSC participated as lead partner at the Belt and Road Initiative International Green Development Coalition (BRIGC) Roundtable Meeting organized by the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China.

At the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 25) in December 2019 in Madrid, Spain, the Government of the People's Republic of China and UNOSSC co-organized the annual High-level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change and a side event to launch the UNOSSC-Center for Strategic Studies and Management report with case studies entitled "South-South and triangular cooperation on the bioeconomy in light of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

UNOSSC PARTNERSHIP AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

The BAPA+40 outcome document encouraged UNOSSC to support South-South cooperation efforts by undertaking resource mobilization initiatives to facilitate the effective and efficient use of financial and in-kind resources for UNFSSC while avoiding the fragmentation of financing arrangements. In the spirit of that recommendation, UNOSSC developed a comprehensive partnership and resource mobilization strategy to better implement its strategic framework, 2018–2021. The strategy assesses existing partnerships and resource mobilization efforts, identifies challenges and opportunities, and provides a forward-looking plan for UNOSSC to better implement its mandates on promoting South-South and triangular cooperation activities for sustainable development. It also aims at setting up approaches, including building a diverse funding base, for resource mobilization to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation and its variations, including triangular cooperation, towards achieving the SDGs.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUMAN RESOURCES THROUGH SECONDMENT

UNOSSC is increasingly receiving in-kind human-resource contributions through secondments from Member States and partners. Following a decision adopted by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its eighteenth session, UNOSSC piloted an initiative in its Regional Office in Bangkok to receive human-resource secondments from Member States and partners. Fiji, Indonesia, Thailand and the Pacific Islands Development Forum have contributed human resources to UNOSSC using that mechanism.

Through those secondments, UNOSSC has increased its capacity and gained a great deal of experience from highly qualified staff from Member States and partners who bring their own networks, thus increasing the effectiveness of the UNOSSC operations.

INDIA-UN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund (India-UN Fund), established in 2017, seeks to innovatively put into practice South-South cooperation. The Fund and its Commonwealth Window advance all 17 SDGs, contributing resources and expanding partnerships for development cooperation at the multilateral level. Emphasis is placed on partnering with small island developing States, LDCs, landlocked developing countries and countries affected by disaster. As of December 2019, the Government of the Republic of India had pledged \$150 million to the Fund to support the projects over a 10-year period.

The Fund is sponsored by the Government of the Republic of India and implemented in collaboration with the United Nations system, with UNOSSC as the coordinating partner. The Fund focuses on responding directly to the national priorities and development objectives of partner countries, contributing financial resources and technical knowledge to support partner Governments in achieving the SDGs. It provides end-to-end support: the Government partner identifies a sectoral need and the United Nations comes in to assist in project formulation and implementation, guided by the priorities and approaches of the requesting Government. The Fund is demand-driven, non-prescriptive, non-conditional and flexible.

The Fund has also demonstrated speed and responsiveness during disasters and crises such as the COVID-19 global pandemic. The Fund, with support from UNOSSC, has leveraged established partnerships to facilitate support among countries of the Global South to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Guyana, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Saint Lucia, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu.

Twelve United Nations agencies, funds and programmes are currently implementing India-UN Fund supported projects. Through this unique partnership with the United Nations system, the Government of the Republic of India is able to leverage the comparative advantages of the United Nations, particularly its universal presence, cost-effective implementation, and wealth of normative and programmatic experience.

A detailed report on the India-UN Fund including results and achievements is available at: <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/partner-with-us/india-un-fund/>



Developing women's livelihoods and skills in Liberia

Launching of Cooperation
beyond Convention:
Independent Report
on South-South and
Triangular Cooperation
in 2019



Youth4South training
field visit at agricultural
demonstration site in
Shenyang, China

WAY FORWARD



Following a demand-driven approach, South-South cooperation projects, initiatives and dedicated facilities under UNFSSC will be further expanded through replication and scaling up of good practices. UNOSSC will further **assist Member States and partner agencies to design and implement sound pilot projects/initiatives, and/or identify effective and innovative solutions** to promote South-South cooperation and advance the 2030 Agenda, and facilitate replication or scaling up of the most viable pilot initiatives or good practices.



Building on the progress achieved and lessons learned to date, the **ongoing demand-driven projects and initiatives** under UNFSSC that respond to the Decade of Action for the SDGs, including the Cities Project, the DG Forum, the GSSDC Project, the South-South Galaxy, the Youth4South Programme and selected regional initiatives, will be prioritized for scaling up.



In close **collaboration with Member States**, United Nations agencies, regional bodies, multilateral institutions, think tanks and relevant stakeholders at the global, regional, national and subnational levels, UNOSSC will use UNFSSC to better support the implementation of BAPA+40 outcomes and other relevant United Nations agreements and policies on South-South and triangular cooperation.



Leveraging UNFSSC, further efforts will be made through multiple approaches, including coordination, collaboration, knowledge management, policy services and programmatic support, to better **tackle the COVID-19 pandemic in the Southern countries** and to prepare them to respond better to similar crises in the future.

UNFSSC will be used in facilitating the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development, 2020–2024, to **achieve more coordinated and coherent actions in planning, resource mobilization, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting** on South-South and triangular cooperation at the global, regional and country levels.



A **greener and more digital approach** will be applied to the organization of future GSSD Expos to support the expansion of global and regional networks of development stakeholders and the systematic sharing of the most relevant, high-quality knowledge and development solutions.



The South-South Galaxy will be further strengthened, expanding partnerships and the user base within the United Nations system and beyond, engaging Governments, international financial institutions, businesses and other social entrepreneurs to **facilitate access to markets and engage in the global e-value chain.**



Technical research and knowledge exchange on green innovation and capacity-sharing will be further promoted through public-private partnerships and South-South cooperation.



To better respond to the demands from Member States and partners, UNOSSC will further leverage UNFSSC as a **framework to increase resource mobilization for flexible programming.**



UNOSSC will continue using UNFSSC to **mobilize human-resource contributions** through secondments from Member States and partner agencies to increase its human-resource capacity and diversify its areas of expertise and networks.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF THE UNFSSC PORTFOLIO

UNFSSC serves as a pooled funding mechanism with multiple contributing partners. It is also an umbrella fund that hosts sub-funds such as the India-UN Development Partnership Fund. The contributions are received in cash and in kind.

A. CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED AND ALLOCATED THROUGH A DEDICATED FACILITY: THE INDIA-UN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Government of the Republic of India is the largest contributor to UNFSSC through a dedicated facility. The India-UN Development Partnership Fund was established in 2017 as a sub-fund of UNFSSC that has its own governance structure, programme guidelines, sub-fund code for financial accounting purposes and reporting system.

2017
-
2019



Revenue:
\$25,000,000¹



Allocations:
\$19,305,298



Contributor:
**Republic
of India**

¹ Inclusive of \$5 million contributed in 2017

B. CONTRIBUTIONS* RECEIVED AND UTILIZED THROUGH THE POOLED FUNDING MECHANISM

2018
-
2019



Revenue:
\$7,377,553



Expenditures:
\$8,763,645



Contributors:
**19 Partners, mostly
Member States**

2009
-
2019



Revenue:
\$37,632,314



Expenditures:
\$30,351,171



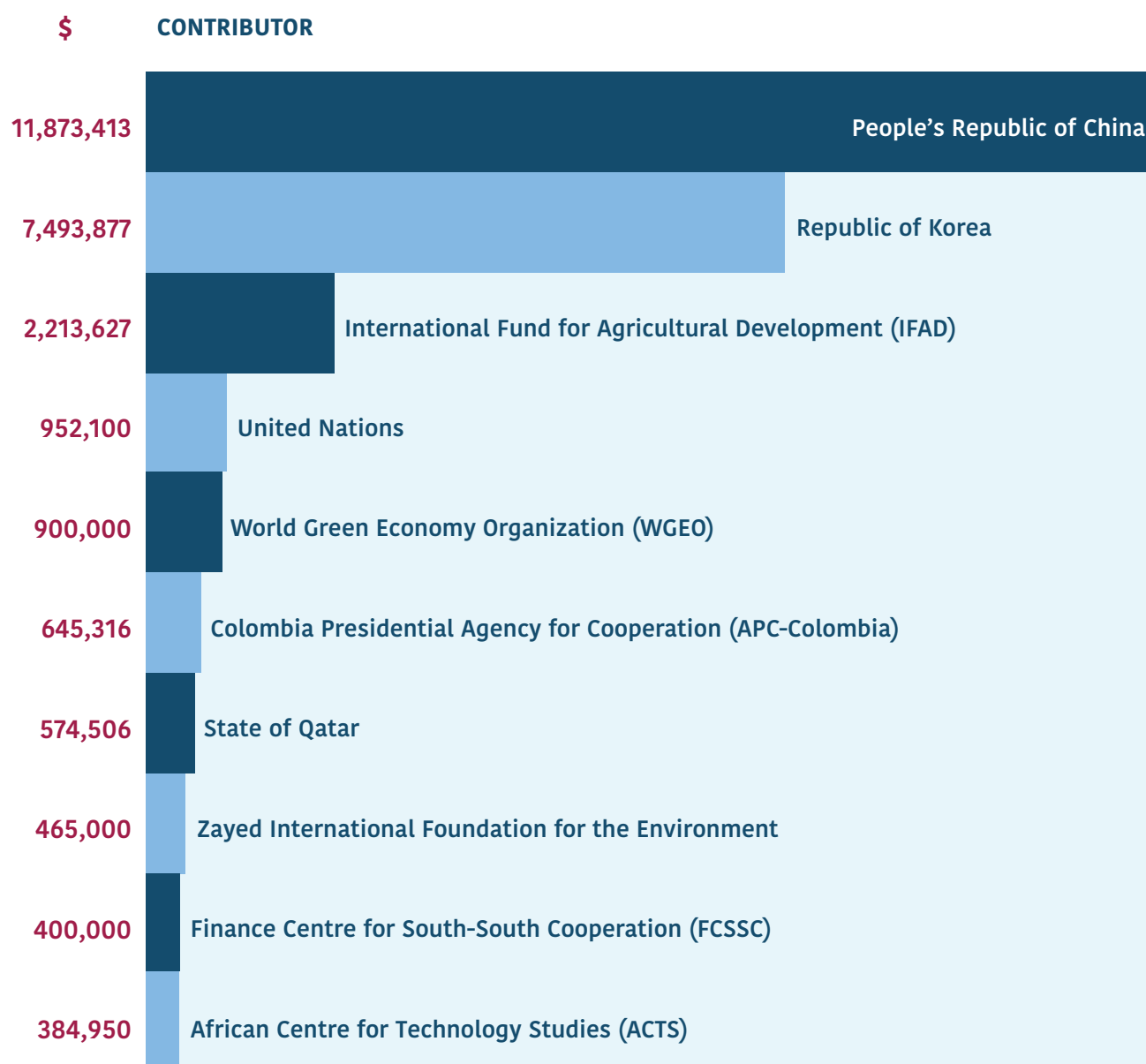
Contributors:
**41 Partners, mostly
Member States**

ALL CONTRIBUTORS TO THE POOLED FUNDING OF UNFSSC, 2018–2019



* Exclusive of in-kind contributions and of dedicated facilities therein.

10 LARGEST CONTRIBUTORS TO THE POOLED FUNDING OF UNFSSC (2009–2019)



C. IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

The Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Fiji and the Pacific Islands Development Forum have contributed human resources through secondments. Unearmarked UNFSSC contributions have enabled these secondments to cover mandated UNDP indirect costs.

The Finance Centre for South-South Cooperation provided an in-kind contribution for the development of the information technology platform for the South-South Galaxy, a global knowledge-sharing and partnership-brokering system powered by artificial intelligence.

Various other countries and institutional partners have made in-kind contributions to the organization of major events by UNOSSC in collaboration with the United Nations system and Member States.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE UNFSSC PARTNERS

The results presented in this report have been achieved through implementation of activities together with various partners. UNOSSC would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge them for their valuable partnerships and contributions.





DECADE OF >>> ACTION

**UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION:
RESULTS REPORT 2018-2019**

RESULTS ACHIEVED WITH OUR PARTNERS



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