



GSSD Expo Session Report

***Accelerating COVID-19 Recovery through Ushikamano wa Pan-Africa Report Launch***

***12<sup>th</sup> September 2022***

***14:30-16:00***

**Background:**

African countries have been generating innovative and context-specific solutions, in collaboration with various development actors, to respond to current development challenges. South-South Cooperation (SSC) promotes horizontal knowledge exchanges between two developing countries at similar levels of development, while Triangular Cooperation (TrC), which involves a third TrC facilitating partner from a developed country or multilateral organization, is also growing as a medium for development cooperation. Despite restrictions in travel and the significant socio-economic impacts of the pandemic on countries, South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is gaining momentum in Africa.

The Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) held in 2019 makes a number of recommendations for enhancing SSTC, including the scaling up of national-led efforts to institutionalize SSTC; promoting the access to and transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms; and building multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with the private sector. As mandated in the BAPA+40, the UNDP supports these SSTC efforts as a knowledge broker, partnership facilitator, and a capacity development supporter for SSTC.

In this context, building on the [First African South-South Cooperation Report](#) launched at BAPA+40, UNDP gathered data through an online survey on African SSTC initiatives in the context of COVID-19 with the support of United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and is proud to present, in partnership with UNOSSC, the report ***“Accelerating COVID-19 Recovery through Ushikamano wa Pan-Africa”***.

The report showcases how African countries have developed coordinated and collaborative responses to COVID-19 and beyond through SSTC partnerships, illustrating the strength of Africa’s resilience through the mutual sharing and the powerful Pan-African solidarity, as the Swahili word ***Ushikamano*** suggests. It captures ongoing SSTC initiatives in Africa and articulates the importance of SSTC for addressing the impact of COVID-19 and other development challenges beyond the pandemic.

**The Event Objective was:**

- To promote peer learning through the sharing of national experiences of SSTC practices in addressing African development challenges.
- To generate and promote opportunities for enhancing regional and country-level South-South and Triangular Cooperation post BAPA+40 in Africa.
- To facilitate knowledge sharing and cooperation among partners of the global South.

## *Highlights of Remarks Presented by Panelists:*

### **Remarks from Ayodele Odusola, UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub Manager:**

Following acknowledgments of the plethora of challenges emerging from Covid-19, partnerships was identified as critical in the context of waning resources and shifting global priorities. Despite the pandemic, South-South and Triangular Cooperation continued to gain momentum on the African continent and facilitated effective and localized means of building forward better. To reinforce the on value of cooperation, it was indicated that the publication showcased Africa's ability to develop and implement solutions through partnerships and highlighted the role that UNDP can play to facilitate learning, share knowledge, and develop partnerships.

Additionally, In the light of this year's Global South-South Development Expo and also the UN Day for South-South Cooperation, it was noted that the publication reaffirmed the mandate of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation and UNDP in the promotion of South-South and Triangular Cooperation to achieve inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the African continent with a Pan-African and global solidarity vision.

### **Remarks from Xiaojun Grace Wang, Deputy Director for Programme and Operations, UNOSSC**

Solidarity was expressed as key to overcoming challenges faced today because it is in the DNA of all countries even when the expressions may vary because the spirit is the same. The power of South-south Cooperation is transfer of knowledge and exchange, transfer of facilitation were key identified areas for strengthening south-south collaboration and Triangular cooperation in efforts to leave no man behind.

### **Key Remarks on Launch of the report "Accelerating COVID-19 Recovery through Ushikamano wa Pan-Africa" by Ankun Liu**

- **The Pandemic highlighted different types of roadblocks to SSC & TrC initiatives** through delays in initiative formalization or technical exchanges due to travel restrictions; and Cancellation of projects due to shifting of priorities for resource re-allocation.
- However, it was also noted that **previous SSC& TrC initiatives played a role in enhancing Africa's response to the pandemic** thereby reinforcing the need for SSC & TrC as a key tool and opportunity. In response to the global health threat, African countries moved quickly to establish common positions and frameworks and reacted with a lot of coordinated measures at both regional and sub-regional levels.
- At **sub-regional level**, different **Regional Economic Communities coordinated** their member states to formulate collective health responses, including and not limited to establishment of sub-regional surveillance and control center, coordination committee and reporting statistics; development of response strategies and plans; medical procurement and deployment; and healthcare training.
- From survey that informed the report, it was noted that a number of SSC/TrC initiatives undertaken in Africa in response to COVID-19. Key emerging actors in those initiatives included countries like **Brazil, Cuba, China, Morocco, Turkey and Japan** were playing important roles to support African COVID-19 responses. Typical support included provision of

medical equipment and supplies, technical training, sharing of good practices, and deployment of doctors and nurses.

- **AfCFTA** was identified as a potential game changer for Africa's recovery and could serve as an example of **intra-continental** South-South Cooperation in the short-term by coordinating the development of regional medical hubs and development of **the Pharmaceutical Initiative** and in the long term by facilitating the re-shape of regional value chains, and boost local manufacturing of value-added products, which in turn will enhance job creation and economic growth.
- To achieve a stronger and more diverse partnership, **the private sector, Academia, Civil society organizations (CSOs) and multilateral institutions will continue to play an important role** in supporting African countries response to COVID-19. The private sector can gain from cooperation through in-kind contributions, financing support, technical and knowledge sharing experiences. Triangular cooperation will enable developing countries to source and access a wider range of resources, expertise and capacities to achieve national development goals. Academia and CSOs will play a role in expanding the **representation of people's voices, offer professional service and knowledge, and be the watchdog to ensure accountability and transparency.**

#### **Remarks from Rosine URUJENI, Chief Operations Officer Rwanda Cooperation Initiative (RCI)**

Following Covid-19, Rwanda embraced and integrated digitalization in various program areas. These included enhancing operational tools, reforming business models through virtual study visit, and birthing innovations like "Rwandapedia" where key knowledge exchange programs are available for reference, benchmarking and serve as opportunities for cooperation both nationally and globally. Rwanda continues to reinforce the need for SSC and TrC, and integrated such cooperation's in their vision 2050, National Development Plan and in the STI1 where they have identified 3 pillars, economic and transformation, social transformation, and transformational governance.

#### **Remarks from Emmanuel LAO, Global Partnership Focal Point Directorate of North-South Cooperation and Multilateral Organizations, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development - Cameroon**

Flexibility and adaptability of South-South and triangular cooperation have allowed Cameroon to face health, social and economic shocks following the Pandemic with resilience. Through Regional Cooperation and with triangular support, CEMAC established a regional plan to respond to COVID-19, economic and financial responses were adopted at regional level through triangular support from IMF and development partners like China, Morocco, EU, and the Islamic development bank among others. One major challenge raised for SSC & TrC was lack of a common framework across the continent, and the need for one in building a collective vision.

#### **Remarks from Wen'an Wang Vice Chair of the Joint Conference of Chinese Overseas Chambers of Commerce (JCCOCC) & President, South Africa-China Economic and Trade Association (SACETA)**

China has played a great role in supporting various needs for African development including technology, telecommunications, trade, health, infrastructure, and trade, and aims to continue supporting these areas in efforts to accelerate post-covid recovery within the continent.

China aims to continue supporting post covid recovery through various initiatives like focus on China-Africa cooperation, through the BRICS Summit, and the belt and road initiative. For example, through the "**Belt and Road**" initiative, China is committed to developing infrastructure that strengthens trade from East to West and transform the global economy. This was welcomed and identified as a great opportunity to African countries while also strengthening collaboration by Cameroon through presentation.

**Remarks from Nadine Piefer-Söyler, Policy Analyst, Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform Unit, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD**

As an institution with multiple triangular projects globally, OECD leverages on a model comprising of three roles in a triangular cooperation to support facilitation across the 243 multiregional projects supported, of which 15% are in Africa. The model makes use of the complementary strength of different partners to bring co-created and innovative development solutions. Recommendations from the OCED report on Triangular cooperation with Africa, "Seizing partnership opportunities to support re-building back sustainably from covid-19" were also echoed in the "Accelerating COVID-19 Recovery through Ushikamano wa Pan-Africa" report thereby reinforcing the advice being drawn from both publications. Key remarks included leveraging on TrC to support more circular innovations, addressing development megatrends, supporting capacities and eco-systems for cooperation, research and learning among others.

**Remarks from Dr. Ulrich Mueller, Senior Advisor, German Cooperation Agency (GIZ)**

The Covid 19 pandemic has underlined the need for more collaboration between countries and stakeholders. Its consequences have increased existing and created new poverty gaps. The recovery from the effects of the pandemic that we see more and more clearly now, will require even more collaboration. There is nobody, who has the right way and the best solution for our way forward and so we are wise to work together knowing that the best ideas often come where they have been less expected. Triangular cooperation is a cooperation form that allows such collaboration.

Germany has a long standing experience in triangular cooperation, especially with partners from Latin America and the Caribbean but increasingly as well in other parts of the world, in some cases also partnering with multilateral organisations. The German understanding of triangular cooperation is reflected in its 2022 position paper on the topic ([Triangular cooperation in German development cooperation | BMZ](#)) that sets the guidelines for German participation in triangular cooperation. Going forward, Germany wants to link triangular cooperation stronger with bilateral engagements and to increase triangular cooperation partnerships with private sector, CSO and Academia, as well as multilateral organisations such as UNDP. Some practice cases already show the effects on post-pandemic recovery achievable in that way.

**Way Forward – Panelists Take**

- **Cross-cutting stakeholder mobilization and inclusion to support Agenda:** The private sector was identified as a key player in supporting Post Covid-19 Economic Growth recovery. Civil society and academia can support SSTC expansion by continuing to harness the representation

of people's voices, offer professional service and knowledge, and be the watchdog to ensure accountability and transparency.

- **Work towards addressing some of the challenges countries faced at regional level** hindering SSC like lack of comprehensive regional frameworks for south-south cooperation, as well as lack of systematization and availability of comprehensive information on this form of cooperation.
- **There is need to diverse and expand modalities and attributors to south-south cooperation**, for instance financial cooperation in Cameroon was limited to China and India in accordance with the 2019 DFA study.
- Africa's responses to COVID-19 have shown **the importance of embracing technologies and digitalization**. In this regard, there are global and regional efforts to scale up relevant technology initiatives or solutions through SSC/TrC.
- **Digitalization as a catalyzer also supported by the African Union (AU)** High level panel of Emerging Technologies where a white paper on harnessing innovation and emerging technologies to address the COVID-19 impact in Africa shared good practices and provided 9 Recommendation Areas for leveraging innovative technologies.
- **Support towards Data collection for the evaluation of the quality of South-South cooperation** and its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and national and regional development priorities. Additionally, there is need for more research reporting and knowledge management on SSC and TrC to make good use of the full potential of SSTC in Africa.
- **From OCED database it shows that LAC region makes up 42%** of all triangular cooperation projects world-wide where projects include different stakeholders and diverse expertise. As an established region, there is a lot of African continents can learn from in efforts to identify how to build a south-south cooperation model that caters to their needs and interests.

## Moving Forward – UNDP / UNOSSC

UNDP will continue leveraging on and partnering with the extensive network, expertise and experience, as well as continue working with African countries and diverse partners in a range of key development areas, such as in Governance to build a new social contract between governments and citizens; in Social protection to address widening social and economic inequalities; in Green economy to restore balance between the nature, climate, and economy; and in Digital innovation to speed up and scale up development solutions.

### Annex:

- Report (En and Fr): [Accelerating COVID-19 Recovery through Ushikamano wa Pan-Africa](#)
- [Presentations from Panelists](#)
- [Concept Note](#)
- [Webinar Recording](#)
- [Solidarity Video](#)