



United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation



Global South-South Development Expo 2022 Report

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United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

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Finally, the management of UNOSSC expresses its sincere gratitude to the entire UNOSSC team who worked tirelessly to ensure the success of GSSD Expo 2022.

Disclaimer

The information presented in this report is intended to furnish readers with a general understanding of all the sessions that were held in the Global South-South Development Expo 2022, which took place in Bangkok from 12 to 14 September 2022. The information contained in this report was taken from the various videos, reports, and concept notes that were shared by the organizing agencies of each session. For organising agencies which did not share relevant videos or session notes, only event concept notes have been included.

Introduction



01

Introduction

In 1974, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 3251 (XXIX), endorsed “the establishment of a special unit within the United Nations Development Programme to promote technical cooperation among developing countries”. With the endorsement of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries by the General Assembly in 1978 (resolution 33/134), the Special Unit was strengthened in order to fulfil its primary mandate, set forth in BAPA. Its name was then changed to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) by High-level Committee decision 17/1 of 2 April 2012 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/39.

UNOSSC receives policy directives and guidance from the General Assembly and through its subsidiary body, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. The UNOSSC Strategic Framework is presented every four years to the Executive Board of UNDP, UNFPA, and UNOPS.

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation:

- mainstreams South-South cooperation across the UN system and at the global level. It works to support countries’ efforts to manage, design and implement South-South cooperation policies and initiatives through the identification, sharing and transfer of successful Southern-generated development solutions. It also advocates for support to South-South initiatives, including through the organization of the UN Day for South-South Cooperation;
 - engages a wide range of partners, including Member States, UN entities, multilateral bodies and private sector and civil society organizations in order to provide the most efficient, effective and comprehensive support for South-South cooperation;
 - innovates by continually seeking, showcasing and transferring forward-thinking Southern development solutions to development partners to meet the critical development challenges of today;
- enables countries of the South – emerging, middle income and least developed – to work together to use their wealth of resources, tangible and intangible, in support of national, regional and global development efforts;
 - serves as the Secretariat to the High-level Committee (HLC) on South-South Cooperation, a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, which provides policy directives and guidance and reviews worldwide progress in South-South cooperation. In this context, it monitors trends in South-South cooperation among UN agencies as well as globally, preparing reports for various inter-governmental bodies, including the report of the Secretary-General on the State of South-South cooperation; and
 - manages the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation, and the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

Overview of the Global South-South Development Expo

Launched in 2008, the Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo is a global event organized by UNOSSC, in collaboration with Member States, United Nations agencies, private sector enterprises, civil society organizations and academic institutions. It is the only worldwide multi-stakeholder platform offered by the United Nations for systematic showcasing of development solutions at national, regional and global levels – as a direct response to the

expressed interest and needs of stakeholders from the global South. It enables all 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.

Previous Global South-South Development Expos

YEAR	HOST	PLACE	THEME
2008	United Nations Development Programme	New York	Towards a New Global Partnership Compact for South-South Cooperation for Development
2009	World Bank	Washington, D.C.	Innovative Solutions through Inclusive Partnership
2010	International Labour Organization	Geneva	South-South Cooperation for Development: The Human and Social Protection Dimension
2011	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Rome	Southern Development Solutions to Global Food Security Challenges
2012	United Nations Industrial Development Organization	Vienna	Energy and Climate Change: Inclusive Partnerships for Sustainable Development
2013	United Nations Environment Programme	Nairobi	Building Inclusive Green Economies: South-South Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication
2014	Organization of American States	Washington, D.C.	Scaling up South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development
2016	Government of the United Arab Emirates (through the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment)	Dubai	Enhancing Innovation towards Achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
2017	Government of Türkiye	Antalya	South-South Cooperation in the Era of Economic, Social and Environmental Transformation: Road to the Fortieth Anniversary of the Adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action
2018	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation	New York	Showcasing institutions supporting South-South and triangular cooperation in preparation for BAPA+ Conference
2022	Government of Thailand and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	Bangkok	Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future

Context of the Global South-South Development Expo 2022

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 169 targets and over 231 indicators, sets out an ambitious and transformative vision for humanity and the planet, now and into the future. The 17 SDGs are integrated; they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. With an urgent call for action by all countries united in a global partnership, the SDGs aim to promote universal economic and social prosperity, environmental sustainability, and continued progress on sustainable broad-based development that leaves no one behind.

While tremendous progress has been made since the launch of the SDGs in 2015, governments have faced challenges in advancing at the required speed and scale. The *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019*, which is the Secretary-General's annual report on SDG progress, noted uneven progress and remaining challenges, across geographical regions, in achieving the 17 goals prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia have made the least progress across many targets. The slow implementation of the SDGs brought together international development partners to reaffirm their commitments, through pledging the "SDG Decade of Action", in 2020. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic further derailed progress toward the attainment of the SDGs, reversing years of progress, particularly in eradicating extreme poverty.

The *Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022* highlights that, as of the end of 2021, more than 5.4 million people globally had died due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with some estimates suggesting excess deaths of almost 15 million. The overwhelmed health systems and disrupted health services undermined years of progress fighting other deadly diseases. The report shows that while the global economy started to rebound in late 2021, it has slowed down again due to new COVID-19 variants and continued vaccine inequity, along with rising inflation, supply chain disruptions, policy uncertainties and unsustainable debt in Southern countries. The report estimated that an additional 75 million to 95 million people will have been pushed into extreme poverty in 2022 compared to pre-pandemic levels. The public health emergency quickly transformed into an international humanitarian and socioeconomic crisis, significantly affecting the world's poorest

and most vulnerable, and exacerbating existing inequalities and disparities. And, as the world is still reeling from the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic, geopolitical uncertainties and climate change are all weighing down heavily on countries.

In 2019, the United Nations called for a 'Decade of Action' to accelerate sustainable solutions to the world's biggest challenges ranging from poverty to gender equality, climate change, inequality and closing the financing gap. Now, with about eight years left to deliver the 2030 Agenda, accelerated action, effective leadership and governance, increased participation at all levels of society, collective efforts, sustainable use of resources and transformative solutions that can address the ever-increasing development challenges, are more important than ever.

In the effort to accelerate action, Member States have made agreements on a number of complementary development frameworks. These include the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030,¹ the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,² the Agenda for Humanity,³ the 2015 Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,⁴ the National Urban Policy Framework,⁵ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,⁶ and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40 outcome document).⁷ In these complementary development frameworks, Member States have continued to emphasize the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation for action.

Additionally, Southern countries and regions are developing their own strategies, plans and cooperation initiatives to facilitate sustainable development. Examples include the Belt and Road Initiative, championed by China,⁸ the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),⁹ the Agenda 2063 of the African Union,¹⁰ the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Community Vision 2025,¹¹ the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action [S.A.M.O.A.] Pathway,¹² the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2032 (DPoA),¹³ the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024,¹⁴ and the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America.¹⁵

1 For more information, see https://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

2 For more information, see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=2051&menu=35>

3 For more information, see <https://agendaforhumanity.org>

4 For more information, see https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

5 For more information, see <https://unhabitat.org/programme/national-urban-policy>

6 For more information, see <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDFPA%20E.pdf>

7 For more information, see A/RES/73/291. Available at <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/N1911172.pdf>

8 For more information, see <https://au-afcfta.org>

9 For more information, see <https://au-afcfta.org>

10 For more information, see <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview>

11 For more information, see <https://www.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/images/2015/November/aec-page/ASEAN-Community-Vision-2025.pdf>

12 For more information, see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/samoapathway.html>

13 For more information, see <https://www.un.org/ldcportal/tags/doha-programme-action-dpoa>

14 For more information, see <https://www.un.org/ohrls/content/vienna-programme-action>

15 For more information, see <https://iirsa.org/en/Page/Detail?menutemid=28>

The comprehensive and complex modalities for international development include UN-facilitated bilateral, triangular, and multi partnerships; development bank-facilitated partnerships, both at the regional and international level, as well as multilateral or globally focused partnerships. Such modalities should concentrate on capacity-building/technical support, provide financial support, technology development and transfer, infrastructure development, and support for institution-building. The development agenda, bolstered by such agreements and partnerships, is essential for the alignment of South-South cooperation and sustainable development; one led by Southern economies and guided by Southern interests, values and emphasis on non-conditionalities and non-interference.

South-South and triangular cooperation remains an important cornerstone of development activities and offers vital modalities for action to complement North-South cooperation. "As the world recovers from the devastating social, economic and human impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, along with existing threats of climate change, South-South and triangular cooperation is the need of the hour" said António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General. South-South and triangular cooperation has been identified as a critical component in many key areas of the BAPA+40 outcome document, such as the eradication of poverty and inequality, trade and investment, climate action, health, education, youth, job creation and technology transfer, which has become even clearer after the COVID-19 crisis. Leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation via its myriad of modalities, such as technical exchanges, peer-to-peer learning, exchange of knowledge and solutions, and financial support, plays a critical role in building resilient, sustainable and inclusive societies and in achieving the SDGs.

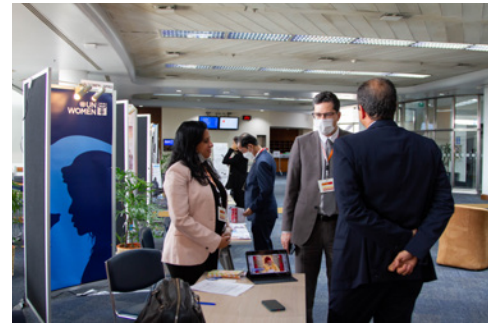
In this vein, the overarching theme of the GSSD 2022 Expo was *Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future*.

The GSSD Expo is organized by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), in collaboration with United Nations agencies and all other partners, as part of its efforts to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation globally and within the United Nations system. The GSSD Expo 2022 was co-hosted by the Government of Thailand and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and was held from 12 to 14 September 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand. The GSSD Expo 2022 showcased evidence-based successful development solutions and initiatives that are being implemented in the context of a robust and equitable global recovery from the adverse impacts and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The GSSD 2022 was the 11th GSSD Expo, and the first one to be hosted in the Asia and Pacific region. It aimed to:

- Facilitate discussion on how South-South and triangular cooperation can best support recovery efforts, particularly in addressing extreme poverty, food insecurity, vaccination inequality and other global challenges.
- Identify, showcase and facilitate the creation and strengthening of specific multi-stakeholder South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives that have the potential to contribute significantly towards a speedy recovery.
- Review and discuss development policies and capacity-building efforts, identifying impediments and remedial measures to be introduced through South-South and triangular cooperation methodologies at national, regional and global levels.
- Support institutional capacity-building of development agencies and South-South cooperation mechanisms in developing countries.







Virtual Expo

GSSD Expo 2022 Snapshot

11th anniversary

Marking the 11th edition since its inception, the GSSD Expo 2022 was the first held in the Asia-Pacific region, and the first to combine on-line and in-person participation, featuring:

30+ UN agencies

The participation of more than 30 UN agencies.



5000+

South-South cooperation stakeholders



11

thematic solution forums



150

governments, international organizations, private sector, civil society and academia

21

side-events

50+

booths

Over 5000 participants during the hybrid GSSD Expo in Bangkok.

11 thematic solution forums and 21 hybrid and virtual side-events. Over 50 on-site and virtual booths in the Expo Exhibition.

4000 virtual participants

Nearly 4000 participants engaged through hybrid/virtual side-events and the Virtual Exhibition on South-South Galaxy.



1.5 million People

More than 1.5 million people reached through social media and webcast.



Good Practices



Launch of "Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development, Volume 4", featuring 140+ good practices, presented by our partners, including Member States, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations entities and other development partners.



Celebration of the **United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation 2022**

High-level inauguration of the Global South-South Development Expo 2022 Exhibition

02

High-level Inauguration of the Global South-South Development Expo 2022 Exhibition

The Global South-South Development Expo 2022 commenced with a High-level Opening Ceremony on 12 September 2022. The plenary session featured distinguished leaders and senior officials who delivered keynote statements to launch the Expo, highlighting the importance of and voicing their commitment to supporting South-South and triangular cooperation as a key modality for Member States to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

All speakers noted the importance of partnerships and solidarity in tackling the challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly since it had not only derailed the achievement of many national and global development targets, but also reversed much of the socioeconomic progress that many countries had achieved. The high-level dignitaries looked forward to the ensuing discussions during the Expo to address development challenges through South-South and triangular cooperation, and encouraged the participants to learn from each other, share experiences and build new partnerships for more inclusive, equitable, sustainable development.

The high-level dignitaries also visited the various booths set up in the Expo Exhibition Hall. In particular, they opened the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Trust Fund booth, jointly with the ambassadors of these countries to advocate for increased South-South cooperation in partnership with the UN System. The purpose of the IBSA Trust Fund, administered by UNOSSC, is to identify replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to interested developing countries as examples of good practices in the fight against poverty and hunger. The IBSA Trust Fund booth showcased the impactful results of this partnership model.



Opening remarks

The UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, noted that “in this era of unprecedented challenge and upheaval, solutions lie in solidarity. South-South and triangular cooperation are critical for developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate disruption, address the global health crisis, including COVID-19 recovery, and achieve all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It is important that Southern-led development solutions are shared far and wide. South-South and triangular cooperation must play an ever-increasing role in resolving our common challenges. But, that does not absolve the wealthier nations of their responsibilities to work constructively with the developing world, especially to reduce growing inequalities between and within nations. As we commemorate the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, I encourage all nations and communities to redouble cooperation and build bridges to achieve an equitable and sustainable future for all”.

The President of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Abdulla Shahid, affirmed the “warm ties of solidarity among the peoples and countries of the global South and the urgent need for their continued cooperation in light of the global South’s shared historical ties and development pathways. Such cooperation is pivotal in shaping today’s development landscape and to meeting our common aspirations”.

He noted that the world is at a critical time with the pandemic, the climate crisis, long-standing and new conflicts, economic inequalities and rising inflation jeopardizing many of the development gains that the world has struggled for decades to

achieve. The consequences of the pandemic have been particularly severe for the countries of the global South. Without the global South’s comprehensive recovery, he said that it would be difficult to get back on track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. “The energy, ingenuity and cooperative spirit will be needed, and success will also require the support of the broader international community, including development finance, sharing of knowledge and technical expertise”.

The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, H.E. Vijavat Isarabhakdi, noted that Thailand remains committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery from the pandemic. He said that the Thai Government has embraced the bio-circular green economy model alongside the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy and believes that “this development approach will contribute to food security, health security, job security and energy security, thus strengthening the social safety nets for all. During these difficult times, Thailand has endeavoured to play our part in helping other developing countries to respond to the needs of the hour and strengthen their public health systems. We have also strived to sustain positive momentum in other areas of development cooperation, such as food security, climate change, energy efficiency, rural development and community-based tourism. A case in point is the wide range of human capacity-building activities that we have undertaken with many developing countries beyond our immediate region”.

Finally, he noted that sustainability is the solid foundation for shared



security and prosperity. It can only be achieved through common resolve and collective efforts. The GSSD Expo 2022 provides a valuable forum to exchange new ideas, share adaptable solutions, reinforce existing networks and explore new partnerships for development cooperation.

The Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, noted that South-South and triangular cooperation has been at the heart of ESCAP's work since it was established. "Through our research and analysis, our inter-government platform and our technical cooperation programme, we are proud to have made a significant contribution to the development of Asia and the Pacific, establishing key regional institutions, negotiating crucial inter-governmental agreements, undertaking quality normative and analytical work, advocating for policies to address critical and emerging issues, and building the capacity of members to address common and transboundary development challenges in the region".

She highlighted that "South-South cooperation is a key modality of our Member States in response to crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the impacts of climate change, that no country can shoulder on their own". Ms. Alisjahbana also gave examples of South-South cooperation mechanisms that ESCAP has fostered for supporting countries in need. For example, the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development (RESAP), which provides countries without a space programme of their own with access to space-derived data products and services for inclusive and sustainable development. To leverage South-South and triangular cooperation, ESCAP has also "broadened regional trade and investment research and knowledge through the Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade, also known as ARTneT. ESCAP is also supporting governments to promote inclusive business models and fostering regional cooperation to preserve trade and transport connectivity in the context of the pandemic".

The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Achim Steiner, noted that the GSSD Expo "aims to showcase some of the very best development solutions across the world, ready to be shared and scaled up. In doing so, it is helping countries to build forward better from the devastating socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic".

He remarked that South-South cooperation is a modality that recognizes that development is no longer a one-way transfer of funds or expertise. Rather, it is centred on the principle of co-investing and that this dynamic form of cooperation is bolstering the ability of countries and communities to respond to the crisis. For example, South-South and triangular cooperation is powering a ground-breaking regional initiative involving the African Union, the World Bank, and the Africa Vaccine Acquisition Task Team that allows countries to purchase and deploy vaccines for up to 400 million people across the continent of Africa. Also, a South-South cooperation project is helping to foster the transfer to renewable energy technology between the Governments of China, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka, with a focus on smallholder farmers.

Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Head of Delegation, UNOSSC, noted that while the COVID-19 pandemic was transboundary, "it has had the most severe impact on the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. It has set a challenge for development cooperation and South-South has risen to that challenge".

She observed that during this Expo, discussions on how South-South and triangular cooperation can best support recovery efforts would be held, Southern solutions and initiatives would be showcased, and development cooperation policies, diversified approaches and capacity development opportunities would be reviewed. She hoped that the discussions would be most valuable and impactful as they connect like-minded partners and lead to many more South-South and triangular cooperation opportunities for sustainable development.

Mr. Kitack Lim, Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization, noted that "shipping is invaluable to global trade and economic growth, as over 80 per cent of world trade relies on shipping". He said that there are opportunities presented by this GSSD Expo to drive a green and sustainable maritime future while continuing to keep seafarers at the core of shipping's development. He also noted that, as a global standard-setting authority for safety, security, efficiency and environmental performance of international shipping, the IMO has a comprehensive body of over 50 international conventions.

He further noted that many of the IMO's projects rely on South-South and triangular cooperation on a regional and global level. Hence, it is important to seek every opportunity to expand the portfolio of long-term global, regional and national projects, which are result-oriented and externally funded. These projects support developing countries in addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges related to sustainable maritime transport and enable them to benefit from the new opportunities, including in areas such as decarbonization and digitalization.



Leadership Roundtables

03

Leadership roundtable 1

Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) for Sustainable Development Goals

Organized by the Government of Thailand

Context

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development urges action to create a more fair, just and equitable world, with an aspiration to create more peaceful, prosperous and sustainable societies, now and into the future, for all. At the core of the 2030 Agenda lie the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), intended to be achieved by 2030, which emphasize the interconnected environmental, social and economic aspects of sustainable development, by putting sustainability at their centre. More specifically, they call for urgent action by all countries, to unite in a global partnership to end poverty, improve health and education, reduce inequalities, spur economic growth and simultaneously address climate change and work to preserve our natural resources.

Thailand's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) shares common principles and objectives with the SDGs, seeking to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and increase food security, as a means of achieving sustainable development, therefore supporting and complementing the successful implementation and realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Introduced by His Majesty, the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, SEP is an approach to sustainable development that advocates moderation, reason, and prudence. With a human-centred approach, the development framework is based on knowledge and virtue, and emphasizes the need to strengthen a community's capacity to ensure a balanced way of life and build resilience, with respect for the environment. The philosophy aims to create a balance and stable development, at all levels, from individual, family and community to society at large, by developing the ability to cope appropriately with the critical challenges arising from extensive and rapid changes (i.e. globalization) in the material, social, environmental and cultural conditions of the world.

The principle of Sufficiency Economy stresses the importance of following/adopting the middle path for appropriate conduct by the population at all levels of society (i.e. individual, family, community and nation) in terms of development and administration, in order to modernize in line with the forces of globalization.

The SEP is also the guiding principle and framework of Thailand's South-South and triangular cooperation. Since the early 2000s, Thailand has been able to share and apply the SEP with the international community, and a number of bilateral and trilateral "SEP for SDGs" partnership programmes have been fostered, especially with developing countries, one of the most notable being with Bhutan. Bilateral cooperation includes learning centres, and SEP sustainable community development is an example of both bilateral and trilateral cooperation.

The esteemed panellists in this Leadership roundtable described the concept of SEP in order to give the audience a better understanding of its framework. They gave practical examples of how SEP is being applied through international partnerships, particularly in the context of South-South cooperation and reflected on how technical cooperation and capacity-building can meaningfully contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level.

Moderator

Ms. Cataleya Phatoomros, Director, Development Affairs Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Panellists

- **Mrs. Kamolinee Suksriwong**, Executive Director of the Division of Study and Extension of the Royal Development Works, Thailand;
- **Mrs. Ureerat Chareontoh**, Director-General of Thailand International Cooperation Agency, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand;
- **Dr. Watcharapong Wattanakul**, Vice President for Research and International Affairs, Chiangmai Rajabhat University, Thailand;
- **Mr. Karma Tenzin**, Deputy Chamberlain of Head of Queen's Project Office (QPO), Bhutan.



Summary of interventions:

Mrs. Kamolinee Suksriwong noted that SEP is embedded in all Thailand's development projects and is a "thinking process" which incorporates five elements: moderation, reasonableness, self-immunity/resilience, knowledge, and morality/virtue. These elements, applied in the economy, society and environment, lead to sustainability through promoting self-reliance. She highlighted that SEP is a means of achieving SDGs 1 (No poverty), 2 (Zero hunger), 3 (Good health and well-being), 6 (Clean water and sanitation), 10 (Reduced inequalities), 12 (Responsible consumption and production), 13 (Climate action), 14 (Life below water), 15 (Life on land), and 17 (Partnerships for the goals).

Mrs. Ureerat Chareontoh noted that SEP is the guiding principle and framework for Thailand's South-South and triangular cooperation and gave examples (see Good Practices section below) of the application of the SEP in terms of bilateral and trilateral cooperation. SEP for SDGs has been applied across 17 development

countries, such as Benin, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Mongolia and Sri Lanka, amongst others.

Dr. Watcharapong Wattanakul described the One Gewog One Product (OGOP) project in Bhutan, which is Thailand's bilateral cooperation project with the country. OGOP promotes sustainable development and empowers rural communities by helping Bhutanese farmers increase their livelihoods and expand their sales. Currently, the OGOP project is based in 6 communities across Bhutan.

Mr. Karma Tenzin noted that the outcome of SEP includes addressing SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 5 (Gender equality), and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth). In particular, gender equality improved with increased capacity development for women. Furthermore, sustainable development practices improved through the provision of equipment and trainings for good hygiene practices for food processing.

Good practices as highlighted by the panellists

The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

- The SEP has been applied to agricultural development to promote farming patterns; water source development to address drought, flooding and water pollution; soil development to encourage multi-cropping and integrated farming; forest development for reforestation and conservation of mangroves; and management of natural resources such as oceans and forests.
 - Six Royal Development Study Centres have been established in Thailand, to share good practices, conduct research, and provide training and capacity development to farmers.
 - The establishment of six Learning Centres for the development of SEP-based sustainable agriculture in the Lao People's Democratic Republic is an example of South-South cooperation.
 - Friends from Thailand is a volunteer programme that sends volunteers to give advice and conduct feasibility studies for development projects outside Thailand. Currently, volunteers have been sent to 18 countries, such as Benin, Cambodia, Myanmar, Viet Nam, amongst others.
- The One Gewog One Product development project was implemented with the overall goal of improving the livelihoods and increasing the incomes of Bhutanese rural communities, by developing quality, local products for the local and international market, in line with SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth). It provides capacity development trainings and study visits, equipment procurement, and sets up points of sale for handicrafts.
 - SEP sustainable tourism and sufficiency economy and community development in Mongolia is an example of trilateral cooperation between Thailand, Germany and Mongolia.

Key recommendation(s)

In terms of post-COVID-19 development cooperation and policy direction, providing health, job, food and energy security is critical, together with building resilience through capacity-development efforts.

Leadership Roundtable 2

Our Common Agenda: A Ministerial Dialogue

Organized by UNOSSC

Context

The Secretary-General's report, *Our Common Agenda*,¹⁶ looks ahead to the next 25 years and represents the Secretary-General's vision on the future of global cooperation. It calls for inclusive, networked and effective multilateralism to better respond to humanity's most pressing challenges. In the report, the Secretary-General notes that the "COVID-19 is upending our world, threatening our health, destroying economies and livelihoods and deepening poverty and inequalities. Conflicts continue to rage and worsen. The disastrous effects of a changing climate – famine, floods, fires and extreme heat – threaten our very existence".

To be able to face these challenges, the Secretary-General suggests that the world has to find solidarity: "First, now is the time to re-embrace global solidarity and find new ways to work together for the common good. This must include a global vaccination plan to deliver vaccines against COVID-19 into the arms of the millions of people who are still denied this basic lifesaving measure. Moreover, it must include urgent and bold steps to address the triple crisis of climate disruption, biodiversity loss and pollution destroying our planet".

The Secretary-General further notes that, instead of using solidarity to mitigate the problems, the contrary is happening; "Increasingly, people are turning their backs on the values of trust and solidarity in one another – the very values we need to rebuild our world and secure a better, more sustainable future for our people and our planet".

South-South cooperation is built on the foundation of solidarity. Article 8 of the Outcome Document of the Second United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation states that "We recognize the importance and different history and particularities of South-South cooperation, and we reaffirm our view of South-South cooperation as a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their national well-being, their national collective self-reliance and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the

Sustainable Development Goals, according to the national priorities and plans".¹⁷

Against this backdrop, the esteemed panellists in this Leadership roundtable discussed the solidarity needed for a strong recovery from COVID-19 in the global South. Ministers reiterated the vital role of South-South cooperation and the need for multilateralism in reducing inequalities and for staying committed to established mandates, particularly noting that the notion of Leave no one behind (LNOB) is a promise that needs to be fulfilled.



¹⁶ For more information, see <https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/>

¹⁷ A/73/L.80

Moderator

Ms. Patchari Raksawong, Television personality and news presenter)

Panelists

- **H.E. Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen**, M.P. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh;
- **H.E. Mr. Santiago Andrés Cafiero**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina and President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation;
- **H.E. Ms. Nancy Tembo**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malawi and Chair of Group of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs);
- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);
- **Ms. Rabab Fatima**, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLS).

Summary of interventions

H.E. Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen noted that solidarity is much needed, as these are the best and the worst of times. He advocated for an institutional framework that will help Member States address common challenges, such as COVID-19, vaccine inequity, inflation, breakdown of supply chains, and the adverse impacts of climate change. A good example, he noted, was the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a 10-member state organization, which has resulted in significant increases in trade and foreign direct investment. He noted that development partners had become protectionist and were not coming forward with financing options. Thus, an institutionalized forum will help address financing challenges, improve trade and investment and address bottlenecks.

H.E. Mr. Santiago Andrés Cafiero (not in English/ no translation)

H.E. Ms. Nancy Tembo, noting the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on the least developed countries (LDCs), said that, as the most vulnerable countries, the LDCs require enhanced global support to overcome the challenges brought about by COVID-19, and that while South-South and triangular cooperation has contributed to sustainable development, the full potential of such cooperation has not yet been fully realized. She highlighted that South-South cooperation can generate impactful results, such as productive capacity development, infrastructure development, energy, science, technology, trade, investment and transit-transport cooperation to strengthen institutional and technical capacity and improve education and knowhow.

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana deliberated on the need to strengthen the engagement of the UN system with regional and subregional inter-governmental organizations. Given that the regional commissions have been asked to lead this initiative, Ms. Alisjahbana suggested four points on how this can be operationalized, given that there are so many inter-governmental organizations in the region. First, she recommended that multilateralism be further advanced, and the diverse needs of the Asia-Pacific region be addressed. Second, that collaboration and cooperation must be scaled up, a good example being ASEAN, in

which collaboration is not only with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), but also with the broader UN system, framed within the “Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (2021-2025)”¹⁸ This is further complemented through the “ASEAN Community Vision 2025” road map,¹⁹ with Thailand being the lead coordinator. Furthermore, within such collaborations, the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UN DPPA) leads the political/security pillar and secretariat-to-secretariat pillar, while ESCAP leads on economic and social affairs pillar. Third, priority areas for cooperation must be identified. For example, ESCAP has been collaborating closely with subregional and regional organizations for transboundary and cross-border climate action and environmental protection. Fourth, there must also be a focus on COVID-19 mitigation and recovery, and the current geopolitical impacts on food, energy and finances.

Ms. Rabab Fatima noted that in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, South-South cooperation showed what solidarity really looks like. She highlighted that South-South and triangular cooperation is vital to achieving the deliverables of the “Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031” (DPoA) that was adopted in March 2022.²⁰ The DPoA includes, amongst other initiatives, a new system of stockholding to address food insecurity, a new online university, an international investment support centre, and a sustainable graduation support facility, which will require solidarity in the approach from the global South.

Ms. Fatima emphasized that South-South and triangular cooperation provides a wealth of knowledge, expertise and resources that can help vulnerable countries, and concluded by saying that the LNOB notion must be a promise fulfilled. There is a need to mobilize more human, financial and technical resources through South-South and triangular cooperation to achieve goals and targets of global development commitments.

18 For more information, see <https://asean.org/plan-of-action-to-implement-the-joint-declaration-on-comprehensive-partnership-between-asean-and-the-united-nations-2021-2025/>

19 For more information, see <https://www.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/images/2015/November/aec-page/ASEAN-Community-Vision-2025.pdf>

20 For more information, see <https://www.un.org/ldcportal/tags/doha-programme-action-dpoa>

Key recommendation(s)

H.E. Ms. Nancy Tembo noted that Southern partners can provide concrete support through innovation and provision of education for youth, including access to digital learning and skills development. She also said that South-South cooperation can be tailored to the express needs of LDCs for digital transformation by harnessing information and communication technology to narrow the digital divide. Innovative solutions, including South-South digital cooperation and financing arrangements can strengthen efforts in building resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change. Finally, she noted that countries of the global South can further strengthen support to LDCs in all areas in a predictable manner in line with the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana noted that multilateralism needs to be further advanced by being more inclusive through the involvement of all stakeholders concerned to benefit and leverage for stronger networking, and also include multilateral development banks, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Given that the Asia-Pacific region is vast and diverse, it is also vast and diverse in its subregional and regional organizations, such as the ASEAN, Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, etc.

Hence, it would be beneficial to scale up and strengthen collaboration and cooperation with regard to mechanisms for cooperation and membership of regional commissions. In terms of substance, priority areas for cooperation must be identified, with the primary focus being the achievement and advancement of the SDGs and other global development commitments, such as the Paris Climate Agreement. The needs of the subregions and regions as well as countries must be focused on and expertise must be leveraged.

Ms. Rabab Fatima noted that there is a need for tactical assistance and good practices, such as building productive capacity, infrastructure, sustainable energy, resilience-building, trade, investment and transit support, given that the landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have unique development challenges.

H.E. Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen noted the need to set up a formalized, institutionalized Ministerial Forum, under the aegis of the United Nations, where foreign and finance ministers from Southern countries can discuss, dialogue and explore the potential of the global South, and can collaborate to promote South-South and triangular cooperation to address the compounded challenges of COVID-19 and vaccine inequity, amongst others.

Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, in her final remarks and summary of key points, highlighted the need for inclusive and networked multilateralism and the need for ministerial-level dialogues and consultation mechanisms to advance South-South and triangular cooperation. She also noted the need to focus on critical transformative areas for development in the global South, such as digital technology, public health, productive capacity, infrastructure, financing transportation, and recommended further strengthening of UN's collaboration with regional and subregional mechanisms, and increasing cross- sectoral coordination mechanisms.



Leadership roundtable 3

Strengthening Multi-Hazard Early Warning for Disaster and Health Resilience in ASEAN

Organized by the United Nation Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Context

This high-level policy dialogue focused on strengthening multi-hazard early warning to build resilience for disaster and health.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that the intersection of natural and health hazards increases the complexity of risk and adaptation objectives. Even though a number of biological hazards, such as vector-borne and heat-related diseases, are closely linked with floods or heatwaves, these intersections have yet to be systematically included in disaster or health management policies. Climate change is also adding a new layer of complexity, increasing both the frequency and intensity of natural hazards and related biological hazards, creating a vicious circle of disaster, climate and health challenges. While the overarching trends in climate change are global, the impacts of the 1.5°C and 2°C warming scenarios vary across all regions and subregions.

In this session, the panellists discussed the urgent need to accelerate climate action, by strengthening the resilience and adaptive

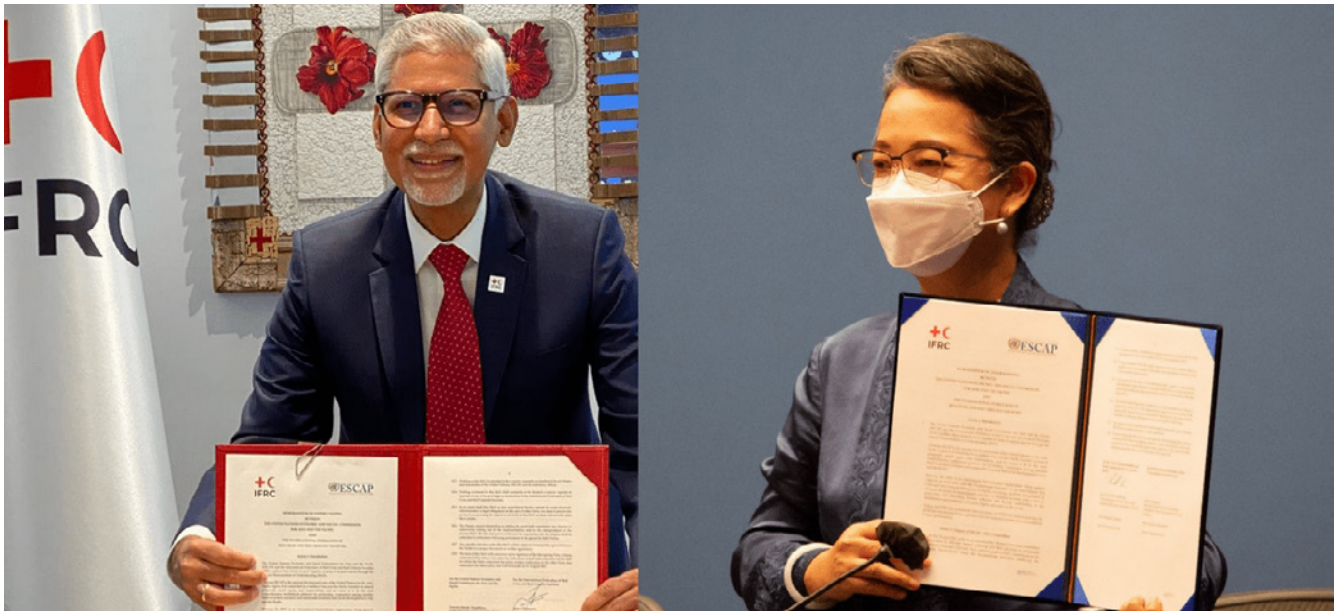
capacity of the region to climate-related disasters. Strengthening the resilience and adaptive capacity of more vulnerable regions, such as landlocked countries and island states, must go hand in hand with efforts to raise awareness and integrate measures into national policies and strategies. It is still possible, with the political will and a wide array of technological measures, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This requires urgent collective action. Addressing climate change is one of 17 Global Goals that make up the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An integrated approach is crucial for progress across the multiple goals. To this end, the panellists discussed good practices and leading examples of South-South and triangular cooperation where countries worked together to solve common challenges and provide technical support. They discussed opportunities to strengthen interregional cooperation, as noted below, to tackle transboundary disaster-climate-health risks, and provided key recommendations.

Moderator

Ambassador Chirachai Punkrasin, Executive Director, ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue (ACSDDSD)

Panelists

- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP;
- **His Excellency, Jagan Chapagain**, Secretary-General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- **H.E. Khadeeja Naseem**, Minister of State for Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Maldives, and Chair of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;
- **Mr. Ku Bunnavuth**, Director of Cooperation and ASEAN Department, Cambodia;
- **Ms. Vasiti Soko**, Director National Disaster Management Office, Fiji;
- **Dr. Riyanti Djalante**, Assistant Director for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance at the Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;
- **Dr. Indrajit Pal**, Associate Professor and Chair, Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Management, Asian Institute of Technology.



Key highlight

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to promote building resilience in a world of climate change through numerous areas for collaboration, including but not limited to climate action, disaster risk management and building inclusive and resilient communities.

His Excellency, Jagan Chapagain Secretary-General of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, representing ESCAP, signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

Key messages

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, in her opening remarks, noted that the Asia-Pacific region continues to be hit by all kinds of disasters and that countries are ill-prepared to deal with multiple compounding, cascading and overlapping impacts of these disasters. Highlighting messages from the *Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2022* for ESCAP subregions, she noted that under all climate change scenarios and in comparison to global averages, the Asia-Pacific region is the most affected by heavy precipitation, agricultural drought, hot temperatures and heatwaves, and warming winds with intensifying tropical cyclones.²¹ She stressed that no work on resilience-building will ever be fully realized without partnerships, as the transboundary nature of disasters makes it clear that regional cooperation on resilience-building is critical.

H.E. Khadeeja Naseem, Minister of State for Environment, Climate Change and Technology, Maldives, and Chair of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction, emphasized that the monsoon season has overwhelmed the Asia-Pacific region. She noted that the Maldives is one of the lowest lying countries in the

world, with increased rainfall, typhonic winds, storm surges, salt water intrusion and coastal flooding.

She acknowledged that the Maldives has been supported by the ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness, to build national capacity and multi-hazard early warning systems by pooling funds and facilities through South-South cooperation. Through the fund, seasonal monsoon forums have been held and hydrological and meteorological expertise has been shared for impact-based forecasting. She concluded by noting that with more opportunities for South-South cooperation, the world will be better prepared for the transboundary disasters of today and tomorrow.

H.E. Jagan Chapagain, noted that there is a critical need to alleviate human suffering and find solutions for sustainable development and that the strength of networks lies in local cross-border collaboration. H.E reiterated that communities and the most vulnerable must be put at the centre of disaster management.

Mr. Ku Bunnavuth stated that Cambodia was impacted by typhoons, floods and droughts, and that gender, income

21 For more information, see <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/pathways-adaptation-and-resilience-east-and-north-east-asia-subregional-report>

inequalities and socioeconomic factors determine how climate vulnerabilities affect people. Cambodia's National Committee for Disaster Management is tasked with leading, administering and coordinating disaster management activities for prevention, mitigation and emergency response and recovery. The National Committee established an early warning system to send warning messages on mobile phones which, during COVID-19, disseminated vital information to community members.

Ms. Vasiti Soko noted that disaster management systems were put to the test during the pandemic. She highlighted that the integrated disaster risk management approach of the National Disaster Management Office, Fiji, included close engagement with disaster management authorities and health officials and ministries at national and subnational level and regional cooperation with other partners to facilitate effective responses for the dual and overlapping emergencies of COVID-19 and cyclones. She recognized that disasters know no borders and require strong

regional coordination and cooperation.

Dr. Riyanti Djalante, recognized that the ASEAN-UN Joint Action Plan is a key partnership instrument. She noted that the ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management is important for forecasting and early warning systems. Strengthening ASEAN-UN interoperability and collaboration related to emergency preparedness and response is also crucial. For example, ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) is comparable to the General Assembly Resolution and the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance (AHA) Centre is comparable to Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Dr. Indrajit Pal highlighted that the water crisis is becoming a global risk. Assessment of multiple hazards must be conducted through a systems-based approach to build resilience. South-South cooperation is critical in promoting academic research, education and teaching on disaster and climate resilience.

Good practices as highlighted by the panellists

Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness²²

- A multi-donor trust fund which is committed to securing continuous funding for disaster resilience efforts and strengthening the capacity of Asia-Pacific countries to prepare to disaster risks.

Asia-Pacific Risk and Resilience Portal²³

- The portal addresses the emerging disaster-climate-health nexus. It locates the risk hotspots of cascading hazards, calculates current and future economic losses, and assesses the cost for countries, regions and subregions of adaptation to the new riskscape. It also recommends adaptation priorities.

Regional Cooperative Mechanism for Drought Monitoring and Early Warning in Asia and the Pacific²⁴

- Experts from China, India, the Russian Federation and Thailand provide technical support and training to improve drought monitoring capacity and build resilience. Beneficiary countries include Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Sri Lanka. This mechanism enhances the capacity of governments to use space-based data for effecting drought monitoring and early warning.

Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early Warning System for Asia and Africa (RIMES)²⁵

- An international and inter-governmental institution for the generation and application of early warning information.

National Committee for Disaster Management, Cambodia²⁶

- EWS 1294 is an early warning system designed in collaboration with development partners to send warning messages to mobile users in the region. EWS 1294 has now evolved from flood warnings to multi-hazard disaster warning to disseminate critical information to the public.
- A flood monitoring system, PRISM, has also been developed. It is currently being used to improve access to early warning for communities, and links field information, technological innovations and key data points. PRISM is now operational in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Mongolia and Cambodia.

Law, Disasters and Public Health Emergencies in the Pacific²⁷

- Report published in collaboration with the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and the Pacific Resilience Partnership (PRP) looks at the intersection of public health emergencies and conventional disaster risk management and approaches in the Pacific.

22 For more information, see <https://www.unescap.org/disaster-preparedness-fund>

23 For more information, see <https://rrp.unescap.org>

24 For more information, see https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/Final_Drought%20brief.pdf

25 For more information, see <https://www.rimes.int>

26 For more information, see <https://globalplatform.undrr.org/organization/national-committee-disaster-management-cambodia>

27 For more information, see https://disasterlaw.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/media/disaster_law/2021-12/Law%2C%20Disasters%20and%20Public%20Health%20Emergencies%20in%20the%20Pacific.pdf

ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER)²⁸

- A legally binding regional agreement to guide regional cooperation in the field of disaster management and response, and build a region of disaster-resilient nations, mutually assisting and complementing one another, sharing a common bond in minimizing the adverse effects of disasters in pursuit of safer communities and sustainable development

ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management IV (2021-2025)²⁹

- Outlines ASEAN and UN's mutual intentions and commitments to work together.

Key recommendation(s)

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana recommended building customized adaptation and resilience pathways, with an emphasis on risk-informed development policies and investments. She noted that technological innovations and frontier technologies, such as geospatial and digital innovation, must be leveraged fully as these reduce the cost of implementing policies, but also have effective impacts on transformative adaptation, such as risk analytics, integrated multi-hazard risk assessments and early warning and surveillance and strategic foresight. She encouraged regional cooperation with subregional cooperation approaches to capitalize on untapped potential to address the region's shared vulnerabilities, for example AADMER – the first legally binding inter-governmental agreement on disaster management. Finally, she reiterated that progress is not possible without building partnerships.

H.E. Jagan Chapagain recommended combining the strength of regional governments with global networks, which includes sharing expertise, data, tools, knowledge and human resources. Such collaborations are a powerful way to address the global challenges faced today, especially climate-related disasters. He hoped that marginal communities and the most vulnerable are put at the centre of climate adaptation, and that the environment and ecosystem are protected in order to foster healthy and resilient communities. He also noted that anticipatory action must become the new normal and disaster management must be integrated to address humanitarian needs and reduce losses and damage from disasters. Finally, he highlighted the need to build individual and community capacity to anticipate, prepare for, reduce the impacts of, cope with, and recover from crises and future risks.

Ms. Vasiti Soko recommended that multi-hazard approaches need to be entrenched in legislation and policy and that domestic preparedness and response systems should include all-of-government and all-of-society coordination. Law and regulation must meet the best international practices set by international public health regulations and guided by the Bangkok Principles, the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, etc. She also highlighted that existing mechanisms should be strengthened to cater for emerging disasters, including early warning systems. There must be harmonization of these structures and mechanisms because, otherwise, introducing multiple sets of parallel structures is costly and counter-productive. Listening, learning and engaging with existing networks to build stronger community connection and multi-hazard early warning systems can benefit from this locally led information gathering. Finally, she noted that building and unlocking community knowledge can improve community awareness, especially so that the vulnerable/marginalized can understand climate change and disaster risk. In this regard, facilitating community-based disaster and hazard monitoring to deliver effective early warning systems can ensure that communities and individuals are better prepared for the next disaster.

28 For more information, see <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/AADMER-Work-Programme-2021-2025.pdf>

29 For more information, see <https://asean.org/book/asean-un-joint-strategic-plan-of-action-on-disaster-management-iv-2021-2025/>

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation Celebration

Key Priorities and Future Directions in Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future

On 12 September, a high-level event was held in commemoration of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation. This event was co-hosted by the Government of Thailand, ESCAP and UNOSSC. During the event, stakeholders reflected on the vital role of South-South and triangular cooperation in supporting Member States achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and deliver on the Decade of Action, while effectively recovering from the global COVID-19 crisis, and building resilient, sustainable, smart and inclusive societies.

This commemoration was also marked by the launch of the publication *"Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development – Vol. 4"*, which presented over 130 good practices from more than 50 partners, including Member States, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations entities, and other development stakeholders. The publication highlighted successful development solutions, including on COVID-19 response and recovery, poverty alleviation, climate action, trade facilitation and digitalization. Building on the three prior editions, the fourth volume significantly expands the South-South and triangular cooperation knowledge base across all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), highlighting innovation, and a greater diversity of partners now leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation collaboration for development.

A reception and a cultural event were also hosted by the Government of Thailand and ESCAP.

A playlist with all video statements is available on the UNOSSC YouTube channel. To watch them, please scan the QR code below:



- **Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang**, Head of Delegation, *UNOSSC*
- **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of *ESCAP*
- **H.E. Dr. Suriya Chindawongse**, Permanent Representative of *Thailand* to the United Nations
- **H.E. Ms. María del Carmen Squeff**, Permanent Representative of *Argentina* to the United Nations, *President of the twentieth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation*

Video Statements by Permanent Representatives representing groups of countries.

- **H.E. Mr. Munir Akram**, Permanent Representative of the *Islamic Republic of Pakistan* to the United Nations and Chair of the *Group of 77 and China (G-77)*
- **H.E. Mrs. Agnes Mary Chimbiri-Molande**, Permanent Representative of the *Republic of Malawi* to the United Nations and Chair of the *Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs)*
- **H.E. Mr. Collen Vixen Kelapile**, Permanent Representative of *Botswana* to the United Nations and Chair – *Bureau of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs)*
- **H.E. Mr. Arrmanatha Christiawan Nasir**, Permanent Representative of the *Republic of Indonesia* to the United Nations and Chair of the *Group of Twenty (G20)*

Video Messages by Permanent Representatives and partners

- **H.E. Ambassador Ronaldo Costa Filho**, Permanent Representative of *Brazil* to the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. Zhang Jun**, Permanent Representative of *People's Republic of China* to the United Nations
- **H.E. Ms. Ruchira Kamboj**, Permanent Representative of *India* to the United Nations
- **H.E. Ms. Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif AL-Thani**, Permanent Representative of *Qatar* to the United Nations
- **H.E. Mr. Hwang Joonkook**, Permanent Representative of the *Republic of Korea* to the United Nations
- **H.E. Ambassador Sonia Pereira**, Deputy Permanent Representative and Chargée d'Affaires of *Colombia* to the United Nations
- **Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi**, Director General, *International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)*



South-South Cooperation Global Directors General Forum for Sustainable Development

04

Strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation Institutional Capacity and Ecosystem for a Sustainable and Resilient Future in the Context of COVID-19 and other Global Crises

Organized by UNOSSC

in cooperation with the Government of Thailand and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), with support from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Context

In tandem with the increased magnitude of South-South cooperation in the past decades, several milestones, such as the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (1978), the Nairobi outcome document (2009),³⁰ and the outcome document of the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) in 2019, have given a necessary impetus to effectively leverage the cooperation modality to achieve sustainable development.

The devastating socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have derailed progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). COVID-19 disrupted supply chains, forced millions of people into extreme poverty, increased debt across the global South, and exacerbated inequality, including vaccine inequity, around the world. Maternal and child outcomes have worsened with an increase in maternal and child deaths. Estimates showed an additional 8.3 to 38.6 per cent increase in maternal mortality in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Studies have also reported a negative mental health impact, increased alcohol and substance use, and increased psychological stress.

The economic recovery is predicted to be very uneven, underpinned by steady but highly unequal vaccine access across countries. Growth is concentrated in a few major economies while most emerging markets and developing economies lag behind. The worst economic prospects are among low-income countries, with a forecast reversal of the gain in poverty reduction. Meanwhile, COVID-19 disrupted education systems as a result of school closures, causing poorer households to shoulder higher burdens due to lower capacity for online learning. Dropout rates increased and school completion rates decreased, leading to low levels of learning outcomes. Provision of essential services such as school meals and vaccination for children were interrupted. It is

estimated that 379 million children were affected by lack of school meal provision globally. The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific had reported that 850 million students in Asia-Pacific lost almost half their academic year by 2020 and 6.7 million students dropped out of school.³¹

It has become clear that the existing global systems are not resilient enough in major crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and global financial crises. With only less than nine years left to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, it is high time for the global community to come together to rethink its approach and find the transformative and sustainable development solutions needed to address the intractable development challenges.

The twentieth session of the UN High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, held in June 2021, reiterated the significant role and enhanced value of South-South cooperation during the pandemic by underlining the solidarity underpinning the cooperation modality that enabled developing countries to obtain vaccines, necessary medications and personal protective equipment from their global Southern partners. With its expanded scope and solidarity-based cooperation models, South-South and triangular cooperation remain vital modalities of development actions, not only to address the immediate impacts of the pandemic but also to build resilience and transformational systems for the future.

The Directors General Forum is an annual event organized by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in cooperation with co-hosting and sponsoring organizations. First launched in 2008, the South-South Cooperation Directors General Forum for Sustainable Development (DG Forum) has been an important advocacy tool and platform bringing together leaders from

30 Based on an inclusive consultation that concluded in Kenya at the Global Partnership's Second High-Level Meeting (HLM2), the Nairobi Outcome Document was released on 1 December 2016. This document will help to shape how existing and new development actors can partner to implement Agenda 2030 and realize the SDGs.

31 For more information, see <https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-022-00861-1>



cooperation agencies and institutions of national governments and other partners, and providing an opportunity to exchange views on South-South and triangular cooperation approaches and methodologies. The previous DG Forums highlighted the significance of stronger institutional arrangements and ecosystems for South-South and triangular cooperation at national, regional and global levels, with specific recommendations on how to strengthen the institutionalization of South-South and triangular cooperation for effective implementation of the BAPA+40 outcome document.

National ecosystems enhancement matters to all South-South and triangular cooperation stakeholders for successful engagement in and meaningful contribution to South-South and triangular cooperation as a means of achieving sustainable development. This year's DG Forum was co-hosted by the Government of Thailand and the ESCAP, with support from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). It attracted the participation of Directors General of development cooperation agencies, national focal points for South-South and triangular cooperation and other institutional partners from governmental representatives of UN agencies, inter-governmental organizations, as well as regional and subregional institutions. The Forum aimed at supporting the global South with their South-South and triangular cooperation capacity development and ecosystem enhancement specifically by:

- Identifying Southern countries' pressing capacity development needs and gaps to better plan and manage South-South and triangular cooperation, including emerging demands in the context of COVID-19 recovery and other global crises.
- Sharing good practices and experiences in strengthening Southern countries' institutional capacities and national ecosystems, primarily from national development cooperation agencies but also from other sectoral agencies, covering different thematic dimensions and issues including, but not least, climate change, digitization, poverty eradication and social protection.
- Discussing the role of the UN system and multilateral organizations and sharing their efforts in building institutional, human and technical capacities within Member States and the UN system needed for South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Providing inputs to the development of a capacity development service catalogue for South-South and triangular cooperation ecosystem enhancement, which pools capacity development services offered by broad South-South and triangular cooperation partners as resources for South-South peer learning, and the design of pilot South-South capacity development initiatives, which will be facilitated by UNOSSC with the support of interested partners.

Opening and welcoming remarks

Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Head of Delegation, UNOSSC, opening the DG Forum, noted that with its scope and solidarity-based model, South-South and triangular cooperation has risen to the challenges posed by COVID-19 and proved a valuable modality of development cooperation, not only to address the immediate impact of the pandemic but also to build resilience and transformation systems for the future. She also noted that the pre-forum survey showed that two thirds of the participating countries had made significant progress in strengthening their monitoring processes and integrating South-South cooperation in their development programmes since the last DG Forum. However, one third of survey participant countries reported that their efforts were modest due to lack of sufficient information and knowledge about South-South and triangular cooperation opportunities and coordination.

Mrs. Ureerat Chareontoh, Director-General, Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA),³² noted that global challenges, such as COVID-19, geopolitical tensions and climate change, are looming threats that need to be addressed through South-South and triangular cooperation. Designated by the Government of Thailand as a national focal point for international development cooperation, TICA is working closely with its trade and development partners from the North and is exploring new financial modalities for South-South and triangular cooperation with new partners, such as Egypt, Türkiye and Morocco. Other stakeholders, such as the private sector, are also being engaged to leverage resources, expertise and innovation. She emphasized that South-South and triangular cooperation is a collective endeavour for developing countries and should serve as a complement, not a substitute, to North-South cooperation.

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), highlighted the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation, particularly in building the capacity of countries in terms of domestic resource mobilization and resilience to climate change. Ms. Alisjahbana was encouraged by the possibilities offered by South-South and triangular cooperation in terms of strengthening early warning

systems, improving and integrating transport infrastructure, including the Asian Highway network,³³ and increasing exchange in agricultural practices, technology transfer and regional trade. She reiterated that South-South and triangular cooperation is and must remain an integral part of global multilateralism, complementing, but not replacing North-South cooperation. She further noted that the dialogues during the DG Forum are important if South-South and triangular cooperation is to be demand-driven and effective.

Mr. Datuk Amer Bukvic, Director-General, Global Practices and Partnerships, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), noted that in its efforts to solve development challenges, IsDB provided financial resources and used South-South and triangular cooperation as a key mechanism to help member countries share solutions and expertise. The aim of IsDB is to make sure member countries become full-fledged players in the global architecture of South-South and triangular cooperation, while benefitting from bilateral and regional collaboration through their mechanism. IsDB believes that South-South and triangular cooperation is a key enabler for solving South-South development challenges and remains committed to exchanging ideas and solutions for development cooperation.

Mr. Naoki Ando, Director-General, Operations Strategy Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), highlighted that South-South and triangular cooperation has tremendous potential to respond to current and future crises. He noted that two areas need to be prioritized for discussions: i) the need to strengthen national institutional capacities and ecosystems to deliver effective development capacity; and ii) expanding South-South and triangular cooperation towards building new agendas and preparing for other future crises. He hoped that the South-South and triangular cooperation community can contribute by quick sharing of knowledge and experiences, and that South-South and triangular cooperation be more action-oriented and flexible. South-South and triangular cooperation has tremendous potential to provide innovative solutions and unlock new areas of partnership to make a new road map to address current development challenges.

32 TICA's mission is to advise on government policy relating to development cooperation and to implement bilateral development cooperation projects with foreign countries, inter-governmental organizations, regional organizations, international NGOs and other relevant international entities. TICA aims to undertake development cooperation according to the government's foreign policy and to foster good relations with foreign countries, especially neighbouring countries.

33 It is a cooperative project among countries in Asia and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) to improve their connectivity via highway systems. It is one of the three pillars of the Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project, endorsed by the ESCAP commission at its forty-eighth session in 1992, comprising Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway (TAR) and facilitation of land transport projects.

Guest speakers

H.E. Ms. Adriana María Mira de Pereira, Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, noted that though El Salvador has not shared much cooperation with South Asian countries, it does have a lot in common. She gave a number of good practice examples for South-South and triangular cooperation which have proved effective in the health-care sector and in promoting the modernization of public policies and focusing on socioeconomic cultural integration. For El Salvador, capacity development and knowledge management are priorities.

Ms. Millicent Cruz Peredes, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to the Kingdom of Thailand and Permanent Representative to ESCAP gave a brief summary of the Asia-Pacific Directors General (APDG) Forum. She noted that 26 countries participated in the forum, where the three key takeaways were: i) South-South cooperation is very important in achieving the SDGs while North-South cooperation is also important, especially the peer-to-peer learning provided by South-South cooperation as those are powerful tools for the growth of countries; ii) the APDG Forum is a unique platform and needs to be strengthened; and iii) concrete measures are needed for South-South cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and could be undertaken by strengthening the APDG Forum. The APDG Forum also discussed modalities to strengthen South-South cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region, endorsing the formation of three working groups to: i) support the needs of new assistance providers; ii) streamline the needs and resource matching; and iii) further strengthen the APDG and guide it substantively.

H.E. Mr. Yousef Hassan Khalawi, Secretary-General, Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA), noted that with the COVID-19 pandemic, the geopolitical and climate crises, drought and floods, years of progress have been lost. The inequitable distribution of wealth is exacerbated during such crises and there is a dire need to address the developmental challenges.

Mr. Liu Hua, Head of Technical Cooperation, Deputy Director-General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), noted that the organization, in support of South-South cooperation, delivers national, regional and interregional projects to build human capital according to the needs of beneficiary countries. IAEA supports regional efforts to strengthen the ecosystem for development cooperation through capacity building and the application of nuclear science and technology to address development challenges. For example, the Zoonotic Disease Integration Action (ZODIAC), is an IAEA flagship initiative for member countries to strengthen their preparedness to detect and respond to outbreaks of zoonotic diseases through nuclear and related techniques. So far, 125 countries have designated national laboratories and are ready to collaborate in this endeavour. IAEA works in close partnership with Member States, UN organizations and civil society and its partnership-based approach is built on understanding that nuclear technology can provide unique benefits to support sustainable development.



Session 1

Strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation Institutional Capacity and Ecosystem for a Resilient and Sustainable Future

Moderator

Mr. Muntasir Majdoub Hamid Ahmed, Technical Cooperation Specialist, Regional Cooperation and Integration Department, IsDB

Panelists

- **Mrs. Olaya Ondina Dotel Caraballo**, Vice-Minister for International Cooperation, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development of the Dominican Republic;
- **Mr. Prabhat Kumar**, Additional Secretary (Economic Relations and Development Partnership Administration) of the Ministry of External Affairs, India;
- **Mr. Xu Wei, Director**, Department of International Cooperation, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA);
- **Mr. Mohamed Hicham Baiz**, Advisor to H.E Ambassador Director-General of Morocco Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI);
- **Ms. Lina Puentes**, Coordinator of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Directorate of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.

Key messages

Mrs. Olaya Ondina Dotel Caraballo

- South-South and triangular cooperation made it possible to exchange experiences and development capacity, during the pandemic.
- Entrepreneurship, innovative ecosystems and digitalization should be increased in health, education, Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and social security.
- For Latin America and the Caribbean, South-South cooperation is focused on capacity development and strengthening national policies for development.
- The international community needs to enforce the commitments signed with emphasis on development cooperation.
- Developing countries have shown incredible capacity for development in health education, but need to push for alliances that require that coordination and hard work to achieve their developmental goals.
- A framework needs to be created to generate and transfer technology in a sustainable way to identify opportunities, increase resilience, especially for landlocked countries; new policies and actions are needed that originate in Southern countries and can be shared with others.

Mr. Prabhat Kumar

- India's development partnership incentives are the core element of India's foreign policy based on "The World is One Family" principle. This is a comprehensive model of cooperation with multiple instruments, such as grant and aid, lines of credit, and capacity building, ranging from commerce to culture, energy to engineering, health to housing, IT to infrastructure, sports to science. Development cooperation does not come with any conditions.
- After Bapa+40, there have been more multilateral and triangular cooperation networks. For example, the IBSA Fund and India-UN Development Partnership Fund.
- The IBSA Fund, between India and Brazil and South Africa, identifies replicable and scalable projects that can be disseminated to developing countries on a demand-driven basis to combat poverty and hunger. \$44 million have been allocated in 39 partner countries.
- The India-UN Development Partnership Fund assists countries to achieve any of the 17 SDGs with a \$100 million commitment. 65 development projects have been implemented in 48 developing countries.
- Two other South-South cooperation projects are the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and the Internal Solar Alliance.



- Digital technology needs to be leveraged to enhance, design and deliver development tools. Strong national digital education system enabled a response to the COVID-19 challenges, with lines of credit set up.
- In the South-South cooperation framework, India has been involved with capacity building and, especially, IT skills development.

Mr. Xu Wei

- The future of humans relies on human development and developing countries need to support each other.
- China has diverse projects and, in the South-South and triangular cooperation framework, it supports resource and technology sharing.
- China also facilitates South-South and triangular cooperation through development funding to support projects, with the WHO, UN agencies and other partners. There are about 30 such projects in 50 countries.
- Projects aim to support agricultural development, youth and women's health, and food security.
- China deployed the largest humanitarian support in its efforts toward recovery from the pandemic.
- Funds included \$10 million for pandemic relief and 1 billion vaccines.

Mr. Mohamed Hicham Baiz

- South-South cooperation is a strategic pillar of Morocco's foreign policy, with Africa as a priority. With the "human component" at its centre, its 4 dimensions are politics/diplomatic; economy/sustainable human development; cultural; and peace and security.
- Morocco's ecosystem for South-South cooperation in Africa includes public institutions, government agencies, training institutes, civil society, private companies and ministries.
- The Morocco Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI) has recognized 4 fields of intervention: academic and cultural cooperation; technical cooperation and sharing of expertise; sustainable human development projects; and international humanitarian actions.
- South-South and triangular cooperation in Morocco is based on 4 values: commitment, mobilization, agility and organization.

Ms. Lina Puentes

- The COVID-19 pandemic is a catalyst for South-South cooperation which highlights the need for strengthening the South-South cooperation ecosystem
- There is a need for an internal cooperation architecture that is aware of the implementation and monitors demand.
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships for financing capacity-building and mobilization and sharing of new technologies were essential during the pandemic.
- In Colombia, providing care to migrant populations was possible due to South-South cooperation solidarity, horizontality, reciprocity, flexibility and ideology.

- Knowledge, resources and innovations must be channelled from different partners in an optimal strategic and efficient manner.
- There is an urgent need to accelerate engagement with the private sector, civil society and academia for a more inclusive development cooperation.

Key recommendation(s)

- Transparency, climate change and risk management must be embedded in national budgets so international cooperation needs an original architecture to incorporate these factors, especially in terms of digitalization, food and energy crises.
- There is a need to set up a timeline for continued support after a project is implemented, so that the project is utilized optimally. Form institutional arrangements with partner countries for a longer period of time. Annual capacity-building programmes are needed with partner countries on South-South cooperation to share best practices.
- There is a need to encourage the private sector and leverage the capacity of the United Nations and other agencies, and to make policies that are country-specific and address specific needs of countries.
- There is a need to involve new partners, such as the private sector and civil society, in order to strengthen the ecosystem and use technological tools.
- Strengthening must be based on human development, training and the transfer of knowledge between stakeholders.

Intervention by Indonesia

- Indonesia's South-South and triangular cooperation policies are managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of State Secretariat and the Ministry of National Development Planning. Such inter-ministerial coordination brings together elements of foreign relations, nation planning and financing. The Government also collaborates with the private sector. To secure sustainable financing in South-South and triangular cooperation, Indonesia has established an endowment fund managed by Indonesian aid to support development cooperation. Triangular cooperation serves as a good model for cost saving. Knowledge sharing is also important to enhance operational capacity.



Session 2

South-South and Triangular Cooperation Financing Mechanisms

Moderator

Ms. Jenifer Bukokhe Wakhungu, Deputy Director, Local Transformative Finance, UNCDF, Kampala, Uganda

Panelists

- **Mr. Anouj Mehta**, Country Director, Thailand Resident Mission, Asian Development Bank (ADB);
- **Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur**, Senior Partnership Officer with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD);
- **Ms. Al Shaimaa Al-Sheiby**, Senior Director, Strategic Planning and Economic Services, Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development;
- **Ms. Madhu Raghunath**, Sector Leader for Sustainable Development for Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand (BMPT) Programme, World Bank;

Key messages

Mr. Steve Olive

- There is a need for strong and diverse leadership in innovative development cooperation partnerships. United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has fostered trilateral cooperation partnerships in every country it works in.
- USAID believes in locally-led development. By fostering economic and social development and supporting regional and local expertise, USAID provides proven local solutions to local regional problems. For example, agricultural productivity in Brazil and Colombia, innovation and energy management in India, leadership and peace and democracy promotion in South Africa, and disaster response based on Indonesia's vast experience.
- Trilateral cooperation, regardless of financial mechanisms, requires: i) strong locally-led partnership; ii) co-investment and local development partners; and iii) clear demand for development cooperation.
- USAID partnered with TICA in trilateral cooperation by signing a strategic partnership agreement in 2022 to assist other countries in Asia.
- USAID promotes non-traditional partnerships, sharing resources and expertise, and elevating new and diverse development partners for locally led, long-term, sustainable development impacts.

Mr. Anouj Mehta – Enabling green finance flows into infrastructure

- Innovative finance mechanisms are required to face challenges related to 'climate + finance'. A large amount of financing is required in the region, with a shortage in the flow of private capital at scale, with issues related to bankability.
- ADB has a three-fold strategy to catalyse green finance:
 - policy development through work with national governments, such as the Philippines and Indonesia, and with city governments, such as Hue, Viet Nam, to work on specific policy pools, such as infrastructure opportunity pipelines or waste management tools;
 - focused knowledge and capacity-building to develop projects that are green and climate-resilient and to mobilize private capital;
 - access to finance through National Derisking Facilities to leverage public sector funds and try to catalyse private sector capital for projects that are green and sustainable, for example, the National Solar Park Project in Cambodia and the Electric Ferries in Thailand.
 - Regional financing vehicles, such as the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility accelerates the development of green infrastructure in ASEAN by better utilizing public funds to create bankable projects and catalyse private capital, technologies and management efficiencies.



Ms. Ama Brandford-Arthur

- The role of South-South and triangular cooperation in current global food crises requires pooling of different levels of expertise and utilizing all development tools to make progress and advance toward the 2030 Agenda.
- South-South and triangular cooperation enables Southern partners to engage in the design and implementation of development interventions, as complementary tools to North-South cooperation.
- Fostering unique knowledge, experiences and technology, adapted to a particular context of the global South is essential, especially to support smallholder farmers and rural communities.
- IFAD leveraged collaboration through the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility with \$40 million for rapid response funds for governments to allocate on an as-needed basis.

- The China-IFAD facility has 17 projects worldwide, working to enhance rural productivity and address vulnerable populations in, for example, Rwanda, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Cuba, Tajikistan and Afghanistan.³⁴
- South-South and triangular cooperation is critical for enhancing the capacity of developing countries to engage with one another to pursue and improve inclusive development in terms of agricultural production and food security, nutrition and crises response.

34 The China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility was established in 2018, with a contribution of US\$10 million in supplementary funds from the People's Republic of China. As the first Facility in IFAD dedicated to South-South and triangular cooperation, the Facility finances South-South and triangular cooperation projects and programmes to complement IFAD's South-South and triangular cooperation agenda by increasing the volume of South-South exchanges, spurring innovation, and promoting investments in rural areas and in rural people. Strategic priorities include: a) promote innovations in strengthening the productive, managerial, financial and marketing capacities of rural people; b) pilot inclusive production and business models which generate higher incomes for rural people in agricultural and non-agricultural rural activities; c) promote investments and trade between developing countries that provide services or markets to rural people.

Ms. Al Shaimaa Al-Sheiby

- South-South cooperation is the DNA of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development and is at the core of its mandate.
- Bilateral and multilateral partnerships and South-South and triangular cooperation platforms are important as they allow for sharing and comparing tried and tested practices, policies and instruments.
- OPECs' Strategic Framework 2030 challenges conventional thinking and tries to bridge huge financing gaps with three lessons learnt:
 - Agility is key. For example, to address needs for war in Ukraine a \$1 billion facility was set up, and \$10 billion from the bilateral and multilateral arms of OPEC were mobilized to support food security.
 - Value addition. Recognizing that climate change is the single most important cross-cutting theme across all sectors, the need for climate finance and knowledge products is critical. For example, the need to adopt climate change policy and advice, and integrate digitalization and big data models to support policymakers to drive inclusive growth and decarbonization as the value of knowledge. For example, \$100 million mobilized to support digitalization and entrepreneurship in Morocco, and \$120 million to fund Panama's National Climate Change Policy with focus on e-mobility.
 - Enhancement. To advance the OPEC model that is built to amplify the impact of partnerships pivoting toward more open architecture models, with innovative financing

solutions and mobilizing private capital. For example, the OPEC-UNCDF partnership in the Climate Finance and Energy Innovation hub with a focus on LDCs in Africa to leverage innovative financing approaches, with a \$100 million grant.

Ms. Madhu Raghunath

- Knowledge sharing is an effective catalyst for accelerating development processes, especially since knowledge-sharing is a building block for the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Learning from peers is more convincing and powerful, so a multi donor trust fund has been established to support South-South knowledge exchange through the South-South Exchange Facility, with \$2 billion leveraged in development funding.
- 16 South-South cooperation grants led to 39 World Bank projects, leveraging \$13 billion in development financing.³⁵
- A successful example of South-South cooperation is Malawi learning from Senegal on malnutrition and stunting. A \$57 million investment reduced stunting levels by 10 per cent, with targeted nutrition intervention, through knowledge exchange.
- Another example is Greening Transport, where Viet Nam learnt from Brazil, China, Colombia and Indonesia, about Bus Rapid Transit. The \$124 million World Bank financing targeted green transport projects focusing on electric mobility, road safety and reduced air pollution and travel time.

Key recommendation(s)

- Leveraging climate financing and bringing it to the development agenda. Enhanced South-South and triangular cooperation can help find innovative financing solutions specially to focus on the climate agenda.
- Co-designing, co-creating, co-financing programmes based on individual country strength. For example, USAID and Thailand are using Thailand's expertise in identifying emerging and contagious diseases to build the capacity of other countries to allow them to identify emerging diseases.
- Focusing on agility, innovation and partnerships, and multi-donor partnerships, is important to leverage finance and capacity.
- Finding home-grown solutions. Southern-led finance solutions to play a more active role in supporting emerging economies, to mobilize the private sector to implement a development agenda that is more suited to domestic conditions.
- Utilizing local knowledge and being well-placed to address development priorities. South-South and triangular cooperation interventions must be linked to the capabilities of Southern-led finance institutions.
- Targeting specific thematic areas where things are not moving, by having roundtable meetings and building partnerships to find models that can be used particularly for biodiversity and nature-based solutions.
- Utilizing 'twinning', which is finding and developing partnerships between financial institutions, and countries, and between cities which face similar challenges. For example, partnerships between Chile and Cambodia which face similar water issues.

35 For more information, see <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/246541468162567542/pdf/556890W105FDCC1box0349464801PUBLIC1.pdf>

Session 3

The Role and Efforts of the United Nations System in Building Capacities Needed for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Moderator

Mr. Denis Nkala, Chief, Intergovernmental and UN Systems Affairs, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Panelists:

- **Ambassador Beatrice Pacunega Manano**, Head of the Department for International Economic Cooperation, Uganda;
- **Mr. Haoliang Xu**, UN Assistant Secretary-General, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Assistant Administrator and Director of Bureau for Policy and Programme Support;
- **Mr. Luis F. Yáñez**, Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) [virtual format];
- **Ms. Rie Vejs Kjeldgaard**, Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Deputy Director-General (DDG) for Field Operations and Partnerships Portfolio and Director of Partnerships and Field Support Department, International Labour Organization (ILO);
- **Ms. Gita Sabharwal**, UN Resident Coordinator, Thailand;
- **Mr. Oliver Paddison**, Chief, Country with Special Needs Section, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Presentation

UN system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation and capacity-building efforts

Background

- From the outset, the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) alluded to Member States' ownership of the Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries agenda and called for the UN Development System to support their agenda as invited.
- In 2020, the first-ever UN System-Wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation was approved by the Executive Committee of the UN Secretary-General. Developed through an inclusive inter-agency process, the strategy aims to ensure more coordinated and coherent support to Member States in driving forward the 2030 Agenda and the Decade of Action to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The seventy-sixth GA Second Committee resolution on South-South cooperation recognized the importance of supporting the policies and activities of developing countries in the fields of science, technology, innovation through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation in the areas of financial and technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer, on mutually agreed terms. It calls upon the United Nations development system to continue mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, at country level, as appropriate, as a means of

accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. It also called upon the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, at the request of Member States, to support, as appropriate, technical and scientific cooperation and North-South, South-South, triangular, regional and international cooperation on access to science, technology, innovation and knowledge-sharing, on mutually agreed terms.

Objectives

- To provide a system-wide policy orientation to UN entities to galvanize and coordinate a coherent approach to policy, programmatic, operational and partnership support on South-South and triangular cooperation and, increase impact across UN activities at all levels: national, regional and global.
- To support the national priorities of countries of the South under national ownership and leadership and to drive forward the 2030 Agenda and the Decade of Action to deliver on the SDGs.
- Implementation to be governed by each entity individually, based on its mandate and programme of work.



Key expected outcomes

- Outcome 1: Strengthened United Nations ability to respond to developing countries' demands to address specific development challenges through South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional, human and technical capacities in countries of the South, through/for South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Outcome 3: Improved exchanges on experiences, knowhow, appropriate technologies and adaptable development solutions among developing countries and Southern policymakers, institutions, professionals, civil society, academia, and private sector organizations.
- Outcome 4: Enhanced integration of Southern perspectives and needs into global and regional policies and international development cooperation.
- Outcome 5: Mobilization of financial and in-kind resources and expertise through South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships and strategic alliances towards increased impact of South-South cooperation.

Action plan to implement strategy

- A detailed action plan was prepared in 2021 in consultation with over 30 UN entities to ensure implementation of the Strategy.
- The action plan includes a set of system-wide deliverables, activities, indicators toward ensuring a broad implementation of the specific outcome area moving forward.
- The action plan is meant to provide broad guidance to agencies when they engage in South-South and triangular cooperation or when they prepare their agency-specific strategy or plan.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework

- M&E framework for the UN system-wide strategy prepared in close consultation with Inter-Agency Mechanism members, including indicators, monitoring tools etc.
- Reporting on 16 prioritized indicators through ongoing reporting and data collection mechanisms including the partner country government surveys of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and other UN surveys.
- Reporting on progress in the implementation of the strategy through the annual report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation as requested by the General Assembly.

Examples of indicative activities to implement the Strategy

- Strengthening the national ecosystem for South-South and triangular cooperation;
- Strengthening the capacity of Member States to design, implement, and monitor South-South and triangular cooperation;
- Mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation through the UN's regional plans and development of country strategy and country plan documents in consultation with national government;
- National stock-taking – mapping of South-South and triangular cooperation assets and demands/identification of development needs that can be supported through South-South and triangular cooperation and key priority areas for collaboration and engagement on South-South and triangular cooperation through UN country strategy planning processes;
- Capacity-building of UN staff;

- Initiatives to strengthen and promote regional and inter-regional cooperation, including through exchange of best practices in South-South cooperation.

UNOSSC capacity development support

- UN support provided at country level to integrate South-South and triangular cooperation perspectives into UN's country strategy and country plan documents.
- Help UN entities to respond systematically to requests received from the Member States on South-South and

triangular cooperation support.

- Build the capacity of UN staff at country level and in the Resident Coordinator's Office to undertake an analysis of capacity needs and assets for South-South and triangular cooperation in discussion with the partner country.
- Empower UN staff at country level to recommend programmes and initiatives to support national priorities and SDGs through South-South and triangular cooperation modalities.
- Guide UN at country level on support to national governments in integrating the South-South and triangular cooperation perspective into Voluntary National Reviews on SDGs.

Key messages

Ambassador Beatrice Pacunega Manano

- Uganda places great importance on South-South and triangular cooperation as it is an essential part of SDG 17, aimed at strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnerships for sustainable development. South-South and triangular cooperation is critical in knowledge-sharing and expertise.
- For development transformation and South-South and triangular cooperation, the African Union Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area are significant for the socioeconomic development of the region.
- Regions of solidarity and self-reliance are being promoted by sharing home-grown solutions that are locally relevant and contextually appropriate, especially seen during COVID-19.
- In Uganda, South-South cooperation is becoming institutionalized, with Uganda having its own South-South cooperation network, agencies and secretariats.
- Uganda has been leveraging South-South cooperation in global development with unique solutions for knowledge-sharing, exchange of best practices with partners with similar development trajectories, technology transfer and financial support.
- Uganda is collaborating with Zambia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Mexico in the health sector, with Mauritius in governance, and with South Korea on hygiene.
- Uganda is working for inclusion, innovation, transformation and collaboration with UN agencies, funds and programmes.
- A successful example is the cooperation between FAO, the Government of China and the Government of Uganda in agriculture since 2012. It aimed to increase production in agriculture, horticulture, livestock and renewable energy, through skills transfer.

Mr. Haoliang Xu

- There is a focus on policies, legal and regulatory frameworks, coordination issues and guidelines to establish concrete South-South and triangular cooperation actions, for example, with countries such as Türkiye or Indonesia.
- The UNDP-UNOSSC South-South Global Thinkers Initiative, a coalition of think tank networks that gives voice to Southern countries by producing research on how countries require institutionalization of South-South and triangular cooperation.
- UNDP is working with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the Global Partnership for Development Cooperation (the Global Partnership or GPEDC)³⁶ to achieve development effectiveness through all sorts of cooperation, which includes South-South and triangular cooperation. It also aims to measure the effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation based on the principles of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation.

Mr. Luis F. Yáñez (not in English/ no translation)

Ms. Rie Vejs Kjeldgaard

6 points to institutionalize in the UN system:

- The United Nations must collectively play to its comparative advantage, especially in human rights and normative work.
- There is a need for the United Nations to facilitate and ensure that all voices are being included. That is, inclusiveness of real economy players, such as the workers and the employers.
- The BAPA+40 framework is crucial as it provides a strategic framework with an emphasis on monitoring and measuring what is being offered through South-South and triangular cooperation, including impacts.

³⁶ GPEDC is the primary multi-stakeholder vehicle for driving development effectiveness, to “**maximize the effectiveness of all forms of cooperation for development for the shared benefits of people, planet, prosperity and peace.**” It brings together governments, bilateral and multilateral organizations, civil society, the private sector and representatives of parliaments and trade unions, among others, who are committed to strengthening the effectiveness of their partnerships for development and the 2030 Agenda.

- UN agencies are called to institutionalize their approach, which means having dedicated teams working for South-South cooperation, a budget to support it and a strategy to guide it.
- South-South and triangular cooperation is to be used as a vehicle in all policy and strategic areas.
- There is a need to collectively communicate and disseminate the learning, share it, and to make the sharing interactive.

Ms. Gita Sabharwal

3 points to integrate South-South cooperation into the cooperation framework:

- Undertake a baseline inventory and assessment of South-South and triangular cooperation projects in close coordination with TICA.
- Reposition the strategy for South-South and triangular cooperation with TICA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through: i) aligning South-South cooperation to three outcomes of the cooperation framework, namely low carbon economy, human capital development and addressing inequality; ii) invest in flagships for the medium to long term; and iii) leverage Thailand's role as a provider of South-South and triangular cooperation and, where required, as a recipient. Identified themes are the bio-circular-green economy through transformative technology for low carbon growth, sustainable tourism, sustainable financing; migrants; and the Voluntary National Reviews.

- Measuring social returns on investments in South-South and triangular cooperation by leveraging work that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has undertaken to show social returns on investments.

Mr. Oliver Paddison

- ESCAP has a twinning programme for Voluntary National Reviews (VNR), in implementing the SDGs.
- Two or more countries that are preparing their VNRs in the same year are connected. Countries exchange good practices and lessons on the VNR process and reforms to promote SDG acceleration. For example, partnerships between Kyrgyzstan and Armenia; Uzbekistan and Georgia; Sri Lanka and Pakistan; and Tuvalu and the Philippines.
- The aim is to strengthen VNR preparation through shared problem-solving, tips and advice, enhance partnerships to exchange best practices, and strengthen leadership on SDGs and promote South-South and triangular cooperation. For example, between Sri Lanka and Pakistan, which were facing similar problems.
- Different types of twinning can be explored, by utilizing subregional SDG platforms as a platform and analysing drivers of success and how to continue partnerships after VNRs.

Key recommendation(s)

- To take the twinning programme for countries preparing VNRs forward, establish South-South cooperation in or between other regions.
- UN systems can do much more to tackle the agenda of climate change in the context of South-South and triangular cooperation, in the areas of green jobs, the bio-circular-green economy, reducing carbon emissions, precision agriculture, and sustainable financing.
- South-South and triangular cooperation must be applied to various areas of the SDGs and in all developing countries, and there is a need to continue working with the United Nations to make sure that good practices are shared through South-South and triangular cooperation.
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) needs to be encouraged to work with the Africa Free Trade area.
- Space is required for UN agencies, funds and programmes to work with Member States to tackle climate change, and global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Interventions

Serbia: Acknowledged that UNDP is working in Serbia to build capacity to help Serbia become a country that, in addition to receiving aid, is now providing aid as well, especially humanitarian development aid.

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA): In the reporting on South-South and triangular cooperation, the representative asked two questions: i) if it is possible to take into consideration partnerships that UN entities have with external inter-governmental organizations, like IRENA, taking in consideration that IRENA is part of UN energy and that is part of the critical issues that UN wants to tackle now, and, ii) in terms of reporting, what changes can be seen in the Secretary-General's report to the Second Committee on the basis of the action plans that are being implemented.

In response, **Ms. Rie Vejs Kjeldgaard** provided the ILO perspective, noting that reporting is integral to how the ILO is providing and using development cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, as a complementary way to deliver on their overall strategic priorities. The ILO, she noted, is accountable to Member States, who have told them what to deliver, and for that reporting is done in every biennium. With respect to the second question, Ms. Rie Vejs Kjeldgaard noted that in terms of results and impacts, ILO has data to show what part of their work is attributable to South-South and triangular cooperation.

Ambassador Beatrice Pacunega Manano noted that the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) must ensure that there must be a greater voice, or a bigger chapter in the Secretary-General's report in regard to South-South and triangular cooperation BAPA+.

Mr. Haoliang Xu noted that in terms of reporting, Member States do not have a consensus on how to measure the inputs and impacts of South-South cooperation. There have been proposals for Member States to use the OECD systems for reporting, but some developing countries do not agree due to different perspectives. The Global Partnership for Development Cooperation is looking at all forms of collaboration, and there is a question of how to achieve harmonization in terms of measuring the inputs and impacts of South-South and triangular cooperation. He highlighted two relevant points: i) UNOSSC, UNDP and UNFPA are working together to develop a framework for monitoring and evaluation UN system-wide strategies for measuring South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development. There have been recent movements in the UN Statistics Commission towards measuring South-South and triangular cooperation, where Member States like Brazil have offered proposals on how to move forward and countries can also volunteer to experiment, learn lessons and accumulate data on reporting; and ii) UNCTAD, as a custodian of SDG 17, measures different kinds of financial inputs, so UNCTAD is also invested in adequate reporting, although more work is needed.



Session 4

Multi-Stakeholders' Engagement and Coordination for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Moderator

Mr. Eiji Wakamatsu, Director, Deputy Head, Office for Global Issues and Development Partnership, Operations Strategy Department, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Panelists:

- **H. E. Amb. Imad Zuhairi**, Director-General, Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA);
- **Amb. Maria Luiza Lopes**, Vice-Director, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC);
- **Dr. Sudarat Damrongwatanapokin (D.V.M., Ph.D)**, Senior Advisor to the Office of International Cooperation, Department of Disease Control, Ministry of Public Health of Thailand, and to Southeast Asia One Health University Network;
- **Ms. Lauren Landis**, Representative and Country Director for Kenya, World Food Programme (WFP).
- **Mr. Patrick Mugarwa**, Officer in Charge, Partners in Population and Development (PPD)
- **Ms. Yuefen Li**, Senior Advisor, South-South Cooperation and Development Finance, the South Centre, Geneva
- **Ms. Rashmi Banga**, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Cooperation and Integration Among Developing Countries, UNCTAD

Key messages

H.E. Ambassador Imad Zuhairi,

- The Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA) was created as Palestine's aim to mobilize its human and institutional resources, expertise and knowhow for solidarity, technology assistance and the international development cooperation agenda.
- PICA delivers development solutions to partner countries. PICA adapts South-South and triangular cooperation as its main reference for its international cooperation framework, with a network of specialized expertise. Phase 1 of this framework is to focus on a partnership-driven approach. PICA engages with the diaspora, the Government, and considers the private sector to be a fundamental partner.
- Successful Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) have helped scale up development projects that target countries that bring together technology and financial capabilities, especially in critical fields, such as health and education. These include the Busala Innovation Challenge with projects such as White Sapphire Plastic; Mahsool: Food security through real time data; and Mobile village: Environmentally-friendly homes for marginalized communities.

- Innovations have helped Palestinian entrepreneurs to build impactful and scalable start-ups and enabled them to implement cooperation projects when dealing with global development challenges.
- The goal is to make a bridge to connect Palestine with the development needs of marginalized communities around the developing world, thus contributing to the realization of SDGs.

Ambassador Maria Luiza Lopes

- 'Multi-stockholding starts at home': Brazil has a domestic network of local partners from different sectors in its programmes of international cooperation. The first projects of the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) were based on agriculture and health, but as work increased worldwide, the need for partners grew.³⁷ ABC realized the potential of universities, the public sector, specialized agencies, civil society, the private sector etc.
- Diversification of local partners can add value and multiply the benefits gained from cooperation. An example of multiple partnerships is the Brazilian Cotton programme with Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and involves the Brazilian

37 The Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), affiliated to the Ministry of External Relations (MRE), is the agency of the Brazilian Federal Government in charge of all international technical cooperation involving Brazil and other countries or international organisms. The ABC operates according to the guidelines of Brazilian foreign policy (which are managed by the MRE) and focuses on national development policies defined by the Government's sectoral programmes and plans. The ABC has the mandate to negotiate, coordinate, implement and monitor technical cooperation projects and programmes that stem from agreements signed between Brazil and other countries and international organisms.



public (ABC, the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation - EMBRAPA), the private sector, in addition to academia, and international organizations (UNDP, FAO, ILO etc.). The programme is in 17 African countries, 7 Latin American countries and 1 Asian country.

- The many benefits of partnerships include increasing sustainability of projects, increasing transparency and critical observation, allowing partners to think about projects and consider improvements.

Dr. Sudarat Damrongwatanapokin

- Thailand Health Development Cooperation consists of coordination between TICA and the Office of International Cooperation in the areas of public health, laboratory, clinical practice, vaccination, etc. Cross-border health cooperation takes place with neighbouring countries, e.g., in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.
- A project has been implemented on communicable diseases surveillance, prevention and control in emerging and re-emerging diseases to reduce communicable diseases across borders, and to strengthen the capacity of health personnel and the referral system. Also, there is cross-border twinning of hospital systems in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.
- Strengthening preparedness and response to COVID-19 in Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Myanmar to ensure public health measures, contact tracing, prevention and control of community spread.

Ms. Lauren Landis

- The World Food Programme (WFP) is working with partners to build the capacity of Kenyan institutions to make it self-sufficient. WFP works as a broker of technical assistance and South-South and triangular cooperation etc.
- Three good examples are:
 - School feeding programme: WFP handed over the school feeding programme to the Kenyan Government and now 12 countries are learning from Kenya about school feeding, which is a thriving South-South cooperation opportunity.
 - Social protection: a comprehensive system and an operational tool for single registry has been built with multiple partners, with other countries coming to learn.
 - Flagship initiative with China, where WFP and China test models and technology through South-South and triangular cooperation trade mechanisms to address food safety and post-harvest loss.

Mr. Patrick Mugirwa

- Through Partners in Population and Development (PPD), multiple organizations from diverse sectors work together, combining their mandates, unique resources, competencies and experiences. Partnerships are diverse – humanitarian, moral, political ideological, or economic solidarity among partnering organizations.
- An example of a multi-stakeholder partnership facilitated by PPD is the African Partnership of Parliamentary Committees of Health with 26 African country parliaments. The objective is government accountability on the implementation of commitments.

- The Network of African Parliamentary Committees of Health (NEAPACOH) is another good practice example of building and managing a multi-stakeholder partnership.³⁸
- Among the benefits of partnerships are greater impact in the country of work, access to human resources, greater effectiveness, more negotiating power, meaningful engagement, advocacy platform and opened gates and opportunities.
- Some challenges to partnerships are policymakers with different backgrounds, high turnover of elected policymakers, scarce resources, complex or conflicting policy issues and mandates, amongst others.

Representative of the IsDB

- The IsDB representative introduced the Strategic Foresight Study that shed light on South-South and triangular cooperation, analyses current trends in South-South and triangular cooperation and identifies trajectories on how South-South and triangular cooperation can evolve based on how countries are developing socioeconomically.
- The Study aims to identify and prioritize critical areas for inclusive and green recovery of the South and build resilience to external shocks.

Ms. Rashmi Banga

- The Strategic Foresight Study helps developing countries to have a sustainable recovery from COVID-19.
- Two publications are: *Building South-South solidarity in the times of COVID-19*, and *South-South cooperation for climate adaptation*.
- Recommendations include:
 - To scale up South-South finance; Southern regional development banks can play an important role with new capital injections.
 - To give enough policy space to developing countries so that they can design and revisit their trade and innovation policies. The role of government and international organizations is important here, especially to give industrial subsidies for post-COVID-19 recovery.
 - To build regional value chains. Development countries will face a critical challenge in terms of external demand, and South-South and triangular cooperation can be a complement to North-South trade, especially in health products, vaccines, food, which can help developing countries to set up a path to sustainable growth. Trade pacts can be designed for emergency and crises periods.

Key recommendation(s)

- Utilize opportunities to come together and choose comparative advantage to solve development challenges.
- Scale up from bilateral to multilateral, and country level to subregional and global level partnerships, to leverage the many regional initiatives through South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Share resources willingly, especially for those countries that have more than others.
- Build methodologies to measure South-South and triangular cooperation, even though several platforms show what is being done on South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Look at neighbouring countries with more experiences, and share that knowledge and experience.

Interventions focused on the importance of engaging multi-stakeholders, unleashing the potential of global and local financing, and strengthening the measurements and institutionalization of UN agencies for better support.

38 The NEAPACOH is one of the active networks engaging members of parliament in Africa to strengthen the delivery of their functions of oversight, legislation and representation, in tackling health challenges in the region. Set up in 2005, it is an open network for African parliaments, and therefore, any African parliament interested in the network's goals can participate in its activities.

General recommendations: what are the actionable recommendations leading to better capacity development and ecosystems for effective South-South and Triangular cooperation?

Key takeaways from each session

Session 1

Concrete actions

- involve partners, private sector and civil society to increase the effectiveness of South-South cooperation partnerships;
- build human capacity, especially through South-South and triangular cooperation training. Speakers called on the United Nations to set up efforts to support capacity development;
- increase digitalization and share best practices, as there are many benefits of digitalization;
- link information systems with national cooperation so South-South cooperation can be defined.

Session 2

Concrete actions

- reform the entire global financing ecosystem by developing domestic capital markets as the global financing mechanism and ecosystem is not working for LDCs and most Southern countries;
- reform intergovernmental fiscal transfer systems;
- improve local fiscal space, by improving the tax base, natural resources base, and own source revenue, having investment-friendly projects, and putting in place guarantee schemes.
- find home-grown solutions, and build locally-led partnerships;
- leverage climate financing and bring that to the development agenda;
- utilize multi-donor facilities to leverage private capital.

Session 3

Concrete actions

- BAPA+40 is a visionary framework, and the United Nations can support and facilitate the South-South and triangular cooperation system.
- United Nations must respond to the demands of member States.
- Institutional structures are critical and so there is a need for each country to have a coordinating entity or ministry.
- The United Nations must play to its comparative advantage, including normative framework and human rights principles and be inclusive of all voices.
- The UN agencies should institutionalize their approach to South-South cooperation, including dedicated budget and strategies.
- United Nations should apply more South-South and triangular cooperation for developments in agricultural improvements, green jobs, circular economy.
- Raise the bar of good South-South and triangular cooperation system practices.
- Harmonize measurements of inputs and build a monitoring system to measure impacts of South-South and triangular cooperation.

Session 4

Concrete actions

- Need to implement past recommendations.
- Need coordinating brokers and centres and need to build trust and partnerships.
- Institutionalization is critical with strategic plans and common visions.

Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

05

Session 1

Mapping Multilateral Support Via South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific: Getting Back on Track to Realize the 2030 Agenda

Organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), with the support of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and co-organized by the Royal Thai Government.

Context

South-South and triangular cooperation has grown in importance over the past decades in the Asia-Pacific region, enabling the achievement of remarkable economic and technological progress. Emerging countries have been cooperating with partners within and outside the region and many are now at a stage that they can provide technical assistance and development finance and share innovative approaches to help other countries of the South to advance sustainable development.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has been providing a regional platform to facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation among its 62 members and associate members and to address development challenges and opportunities. Historically, ESCAP's South-South and triangular cooperation activities helped shape its technical assistance programmes, informed its research and analysis, and underpinned its inter-governmental and consensus-building work.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has had devastating impacts on economies and people across the region, has provided ESCAP with a unique opportunity to focus its energy on supporting Member States to build back better and accelerate its progress towards the 2030 Agenda, keeping South-South and triangular cooperation at the centre of its mission.

One of the centrepieces of ESCAP's South-South and triangular cooperation work is its Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (Asia-Pacific DG Forum). Leading up to the Second High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), ESCAP jointly established the DG Forum with the Government of Thailand and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in June 2018. Every year, it brings together the heads of development cooperation and South-South cooperation agencies and units of ESCAP member States to share experiences, good practices, and provide a venue for facilitating collaboration on issues related to South-South and triangular cooperation.

The third and most recent Asia-Pacific DG Forum, held virtually in November 2020, brought together Directors General and other stakeholders from 23 countries in Asia and the Pacific to share experiences concerning their responses to, and recovery from, the COVID-19 pandemic, and exchange national and regional actions to build back better.

In preparation for the fourth Asia-Pacific DG Forum, ESCAP and UNOSSC proposed to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices among Member States and to foster new ideas, namely through: (a) the establishment of a South-South Network of Technical Cooperation Providers; and (b) the creation of working groups on South-South cooperation to strengthen the functions of the Asia-Pacific DG Forum. These proposals were discussed in bilateral discussions as well as during a Roundtable on Network for South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific, convened as an associated event of the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (ninth session) in March 2022.

The objectives of this meeting were to: (i) discuss South-South cooperation needs and resources based on the findings of ESCAP's survey on South-South cooperation modalities; (ii) exchange ideas and experiences on ways to improve access to available South-South and triangular cooperation support and resources; (iii) discuss ESCAP's regional and subregional South-South support mechanisms and approaches in Asia and the Pacific that can assist Member States in their efforts to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and get back on track towards meeting the SDGs; and (iv) provide recommendations to the Global Directors General Forum.

The meeting was attended by over 100 participants from 30 Member States combining the South-South cooperation practitioners from the capitals and from the Permanent Missions in Bangkok, as well as by the Pacific Islands Development Forum and the International Atomic Energy Agency.



Opening remarks

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP noted the importance of: (i) greater access to information on innovations and documentation of good practices, sustainable development policies and approaches; (ii) strengthening exchanges among countries that have recently started technical cooperation initiatives and linking these to experienced assistance providers for guidance; and (iii) improved matching between resources and needs for effective South-South cooperation.

H.E. Ms. Ureerat Chareontoh, Director-General of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA),³⁹ noted the continued relevance of the Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum as a unique platform for heads of national cooperation agencies across the region. She emphasized the increased development efforts in the public health sector due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the catalytic role of technology and innovation in economic and social progress, presenting Thailand's home-grown approach, the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, as an example of promotion of sustainable development with a degree of self-reliance.⁴⁰

Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Head of Delegation, UNOSSC, emphasized that Asia and the Pacific is the only region that has institutionalized a dedicated regional Directors General Forum for South-South and triangular cooperation. She highlighted that many countries in the region have advanced South-South cooperation through the “5Ps” for development cooperation: philosophy, practice, product, platform, people. She cited notable examples from Thailand’s Sufficiency Economy Philosophy to China’s commitment to the shared future of humankind, India’s ‘Vasudeva Kutumbakam’ (world is one family), as well as Japan’s promotion of “Kaizen” approach through triangular cooperation. She further stressed the importance of South-South cooperation initiatives among SIDS and g7+ countries affected by conflict, acknowledging the richness of experiences as well as the importance of collaboration with subregional mechanisms through active engagement with UN platforms and regional development banks.

39 The Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) was established on 19 October 2004 by a Royal Decree to serve the Royal Thai Government as a focal agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand in administering international development cooperation. TICA is principally responsible for the implementation of Thailand’s development cooperation programmes in neighbouring countries in particular, as well as other regions of the world. There are various forms of cooperation, such as the development projects, volunteer and expert programmes, fellowships, scholarships and training programmes.

40 The principle of Sufficiency Economy stresses the importance of following/adopting the middle path for appropriate conduct by the population at all levels of society (individual, family, community and nation) in terms of development and administration in order to modernize in line with the forces of globalization.

Session 2

The Role of South-South Cooperation for Getting Back on Track to Realize the 2030 Agenda

The eminent panellists in this session reflected on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on their respective countries, and shared the lessons learned and good practices of South-South cooperation that helped them cope with and recover from the pandemic.

The panellists noted that the COVID-19 pandemic brought about a number of challenges, impacting food supplies and public service delivery, particularly in the health and education sectors, and affecting bilateral and multilateral cooperation. COVID-19 has imposed shocks on all segments of food supply chains, simultaneously affecting farm production, food processing, transport and logistics, and final demand. Not all sectors and products have been equally affected, and different products have experienced disruptions at different stages of the supply chain. This crisis has exposed the many inadequacies and inequities in our education systems – from access to the broadband and computers needed for online education, and the supportive environments needed to focus on learning, to the misalignment between resources and needs. In the health sector, the COVID-19 pandemic has proved relentlessly challenging for health care. Although some positive consequences have resulted from these challenges, including the move to routine virtual health care and the increased attention on staffing and supply chain sustainability, these positive consequences have been overwhelmed by the pandemic's negative impacts on health.

The panellists shared their efforts in finding solutions to these challenges. For example, by providing aid to countries needing support in education and facing other socioeconomic problems. Furthermore, solutions included increased digitalization to address education needs, and expand the social security programme, boost agricultural entrepreneurial innovation, build capacity, support agricultural start-ups, find non-traditional development partners, such as the private sector, and develop human capital. The panellists reiterated the need to focus on cross-border issues and especially on climate change mitigation, and deliberated on the need for an institutional framework to bolster South-South cooperation.

Moderator

Ms. Sandra Hanutsaha

Panelists:

- **H.E. Dr. Mahendra Reddy**, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment, Fiji;
- **H.E. Mr. Tuvdendorj Gantumur**, Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia;
- **Mr. Prabhat Kumar**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India;
- **Mr. Elmaddin Mehdiyev**, Director of Azerbaijan International Development Agency – AIDA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan;
- **Ms. Kanchana Wanichkorn**, Vice-President, Office of the National Higher Education Science Research and Innovation Policy Council (NXPO), Thailand;
- **Mr. Anir Chowdhury**, Policy Advisor, a2i Programme, Cabinet Division, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Division and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh;
- **Mr. Aminuddin Mat Ariff**, Regional Coordinator (Asia), Islamic Development Bank.



Key messages

Ms. Kanchana Wanichkorn

- South-South cooperation plays an important role as a tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- There is a need to move from project-based to platform-based cooperation.
- Key elements for successful South-South cooperation are close collaboration with government officials; the importance of trust and shared values; and the involvement of the right partners and stakeholders.
- Noting the limitations of South-South cooperation, there are synergies and complementarities between South-South and North-South cooperation, in particular in the digital sector.

Mr. Anir Chowdhury

- Mr. Anir Chowdhury presented the matchmaking methodology, through which Bangladesh promotes sharing of specific examples of how technology and innovation have led to a socioeconomic improvement, linking these initiatives to potential new areas of application.

Mr. Prabhat Kumar

- Mr. Kumar shared challenges experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of assistance providers.
- India provided online training programmes for beneficiaries from over 160 countries, and leveraged digital technology to provide medicine, vaccines and medical expertise to 150 countries.

H.E. Mr. Tuvdendorj Gantumur

- Mr. Tuvdendorj shared recent examples of South-South cooperation, implemented through programmes on biodiversity, climate change, desertification and land degradation and water supply.
- He shared Mongolia's work in the area of foreign direct investment for sustainable development and its participation in the regional drought mechanism, both supported by ESCAP.

H.E. Dr. Mahendra Reddy

- Dr. Reddy noted the limitations of South-South cooperation, but also its importance in bringing together countries that are at similar stages of their development trajectory and consequently face the same challenges.
- He shared examples of successful home-grown solutions to mitigate the impact of climate change, the main threat to various sectors of economy in small island developing countries, which particularly affects tourism, agriculture and marine resources.

Mr. Elmaddin Mehdiyev

- Mr. Mehdiyev noted the specific situations of newly emerging assistance providers and emphasized the need for countries sharing a similar level of development to create a network to share good practices and experiences, to avoid duplication and repetition of mistakes.

Mr. Aminuddin Mat Ariff

- Mr. Mat Ariff noted how the pandemic required the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) to pivot to non-traditional development partners and seek new forms of collaboration, focusing on demand-driven activities.
- Through its Reverse Linkage mechanism, IsDB pursues assistance projects through a trilateral linkage in which the bank serves as the facilitator and catalytic financier,

Key interventions

H.E. Mr. Teuku Faizasyah, Director-General for Information and Public Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and Co-Chair of the third Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum, expressed Indonesia's commitment to achieving a strong and inclusive recovery in the region and to mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, as 2022 president of the G20, and highlighted the role of South-South cooperation in facilitating joint research, knowledge and technology transfer.

The representative of **Singapore** noted the role of the Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum in promoting regional cooperation and dialogue among the global South. The representative reiterated Singapore's support for strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation, including through the Singapore Cooperation Programme,⁴¹ which is evolving to adapt and design programmes to meet the changing needs of fellow developing countries in areas such as resilience-building, education, supply chain management and digital transformation, noting the launch of special packages for Africa, the Forum of Small States and Small Island Developing States.

The representative of the **United States of America** shared the experiences of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in improving outcomes in governance and human rights, economic prosperity, management of natural resources and health, promoting local solutions through partnerships with representatives of the global South, and through trilateral cooperation. She further noted the Government's commitment to localization, recognizing that global development challenges are inherently local, shaped by local histories, systems and dynamics.

The representative of **Pakistan** noted that the majority of the experiences presented reflect government-to-government cooperation, emphasizing the need to expand South-South and triangular cooperation by incorporating the private sector. The representative inquired about the existence of institutional frameworks that could support the delineation of best practices from the perspective of providers.

directly working with providers and recipients of technical assistance. The model follows five core features for project selection, namely peer-to-peer approaches; ownership and commitment; win-win arrangements; inclusivity and strategic alignment. These principles allow for active engagement of the private sector as an investor and ensure that projects tangibly benefit all stakeholders, leading to sustainable relationships and encouraging providers and recipients of technical assistance to contribute financially.

In response to the question put by the representative of Pakistan:

- the representative of **Azerbaijan** emphasized the leading role of the government and national agencies in managing technical assistance and stressed the importance of involving non-government agencies at international level, as emerging donor countries have many priority tasks to address domestically, including amendments to legislation to pass relevant laws;
- the representative of **IsDB** shared how IsDB addresses available opportunities for private actors to gain access to necessary resources, not only from the target country but also from various potential investors from other countries.
- the representative from **Bangladesh** added the need for project management units and emphasized the difficulty of developing these in recipient countries, where international organizations such as UNDP could play a catalytic role;
- the representative of **Thailand** noted, with regards to institutional settings, the need to move from project- to platform-based implementation and emphasized the impact that open innovation and entrepreneurship can have. She further reiterated the importance of sustainability, stressing the need to utilize funding to initiate programmes and ensure that these can sustain themselves beyond completion of projects.

The representative of the **Philippines** noted that COVID-19 has exposed many vulnerabilities of the global South, with countries facing fiscal and monetary constraints, and pointed out the effective role of South-South and triangular cooperation in sharing strategies to accelerate recovery, stimulating economic activity, and creating employment opportunities. The representative also noted the importance of platforms such as the Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum for exchanging experiences and strategies, and learning from each other to jointly overcome crises.

The representative of **China** noted the importance of South-South cooperation in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and shared examples of how China supported countries to tackle the pandemic, including through the provision of vaccines.

41 It is a series of programmes conducted by the Government of Singapore to facilitate the sharing with other developing countries of the technical and systems skills that Singapore has learned and acquired over the years. Technical assistance focuses on training and increasing the skills of a nation. As a country whose only resource is its people, Singapore believes human resource development is vital for economic and social progress. Singapore had also benefited from technical assistance from other countries and international organizations. The training programmes under this arrangement include the ASEAN Training Awards, the Singapore Cooperation Programme Training Awards and the Small Island Developing States Technical Cooperation Programme.



By the end of 2021, China's CoronaVac and Sinopharm vaccines accounted for almost half of the 7.3 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses delivered globally, and were enormously important in fighting the pandemic, particularly in less wealthy nations.⁴² The representative highlighted the results achieved through Belt and Road initiative, and shared how China's Global Development Initiative (GDI) seeks to promote the collective efforts of the international community to refocus on development issues and ensure stronger, greener and healthier global development and to build a global community of development. President Xi Jinping proposed the GDI at the UN General Assembly in 2021. Aiming at building a global community of development, the GDI puts development first and the people at the centre, and seeks to expedite the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. One year on, the GDI has received the support

of over 100 countries and many international organizations, including the United Nations. More than 60 countries have joined the Group of Friends of the GDI. Today, the Group of Friends has become an important force boosting solidarity and coordination among countries as they work together to pursue development. The representative added that it became an effective platform for discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and concluded by highlighting the significance of the the Asia-Pacific DG Forum in advancing discussions on development cooperation.

The representative of **Bangladesh** noted the benefit of an institutional mechanism for studying the pipeline innovations that are ready for replication in some other countries and inquired about the existence of such a mechanism.

42 For more information, see <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-02796-w>

Session 3

Modalities to Support South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific

Presentation: Recent developments in South-South cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region

The ESCAP Secretariat presented the timeline of recent global and regional developments in the area of South-South cooperation and achieved milestones, which include the establishment of the Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum, the BAPA+ 40 conference, dedicated ESCAP and General Assembly resolutions, culminating in the organization of the Global South-South Development Expo in Bangkok. A survey was launched by ESCAP with the objective

of mapping the needs, resources and capabilities of Member States related to South-South and triangular cooperation. The representative shared the survey results, including expressions of interest to contribute to chair the proposed working groups and provided insight into Member States' expectations regarding the functions of the Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum.

Presentation: Outcomes of the "Roundtable on Network for South-South Cooperation in Asia-Pacific"

The ESCAP Secretariat presented the outcomes of the "Roundtable on Network for South-South Cooperation in Asia-Pacific", jointly organized by UNOSSC and ESCAP on 24 March 2022. The objectives of the roundtable meeting were to discuss two proposed arrangement options to promote the exchange of experiences and best practices among Member States and to foster new ideas, including through the establishment of dedicated working groups. The Forum endorsed the formation of three communities of practice:

- to support the needs of new assistance providers;
- to streamline needs and resource matching; and
- to further strengthen the Asia Pacific Directors General Forum and guide it substantively.

The Forum was informed that several Member States had already signed up to be part of the working groups.

The representative of Indonesia noted the need for Member States to join the initiative and strengthen South-South cooperation and continue promoting the exchange of experience and best practices with regards to the establishment of the working groups. Concerning participation in the working groups, Indonesia would consult with relevant ministries responsible for South-South cooperation and get back to the secretariat at a later stage, as the Indonesian policy on South-South cooperation is managed by a committee of several ministries and chaired by the foreign ministry, requiring consultation between these ministries before making any commitments.

Presentation: South-South Cooperation Connector

The ESCAP Secretariat presented the South-South Cooperation Connector,⁴³ a tool developed by ESCAP in line with the outcome of the third Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum convened in November 2020, which called for concrete regional actions to facilitate South-South cooperation. The roundtable meeting in March 2022 also highlighted the need for a regional platform to document successful experiences, promote exchange between partners and the matching of assistance recipients and providers. In response to these requests, ESCAP set up a dedicated virtual

interactive platform, hosted on the ESCAP SDG Helpdesk platform. This one-stop shop for South-South and triangular cooperation in the region aims to bridge the supply and demand gap of technical cooperation and facilitate the alignment of offers of technical assistance by providers and the recipients of assistance. It further promotes networking and active collaboration between key players through working groups and communities of practice through three components:

43 The Asia-Pacific South-South Cooperation Connector is an interactive virtual platform developed by ESCAP for the benefit of Member States in the region and key players of South-South and triangular cooperation. It aims to provide support and facilitate the alignment between offers of technical assistance by providers and the recipients of assistance. The South-South Cooperation Connector also facilitates networking and active collaboration among key players/centres of excellence in the region, including through active working groups/communities of practice.

- Connect – this functionality aims to bring together experts through communities of practice towards advancing South-South and triangular cooperation. Three communities of practice were incorporated for the launch of the Connector, in line with the outcomes of the roundtable meeting and survey.
- Engage – this functionality brings together assistance providers and beneficiaries. Member States can raise a request for assistance or share assistance offers directly through the dashboard. It provides request/offer forms and contact information through user-friendly visualization.
- Learn – this functionality aims to provide a compilation of external links to relevant resources and knowledge products on South-South and triangular cooperation

The South-South Cooperation Connector will allow South-South and triangular cooperation practitioners to connect with each other directly and instantly. It will be updated by users on a regular basis, supporting the identification of current and emerging priorities without the need for additional surveys. It will provide the working groups with an efficient and transparent platform for information sharing.

The representative of Kazakhstan

- Noted that the Ministry of Trade and Integration has developed a platform to deepen cooperation between the Central Asian countries. Noting the example of free trade zones between Kazakhstan and China, he added that similar special zones are being developed with Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and this experience could be shared with other countries for the benefit of South-South cooperation.
- The representative expressed Kazakhstan's interest in working through the presented South-South Cooperation Connector to contribute information and experiences.

Concluding remarks

The Chair delivered her concluding remarks in which she encouraged other countries in Asia and the Pacific to work together with ESCAP and UNOSSC and host the next session of

Mr. Adnan H. Aliani

Mr. Aliani summarized the contributions at the fourth Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum, and reiterated that peer-to-peer learning serves as a powerful tool for learning and growing, emphasizing the importance of South-South cooperation. He noted that the Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum is a unique platform and the only regional platform of its kind, and highlighted the need to ensure that it leads to concrete actions and collaborations to promote South-South cooperation in the region. Mr. Aliani reiterated that Member States noted the need of a framework to guide collaboration and named the three working groups that were adopted by consensus. He ended by saying that as a next step, ESCAP would send out a communication to the identified countries interested in leading or contributing to working groups. Based on these responses, meetings of the working groups would be convened to further concretize these and define the terms of reference and action plans for each working group, to enable the working groups to be functional by the fifth Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum, which is planned for the last quarter of 2023, and report on progress and achievements.

The representative of Malaysia

The representative confirmed Malaysia's continued commitment to contributing to South-South cooperation and to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With reference to the proposed working groups, she added that Malaysia welcomes the initiative and acknowledges the importance of establishing a mechanism to access and share information among Member States more efficiently and expressed interest in supporting countries through effectively matching available resources and assistance requirements to make sure that programmes carried out are demand-driven.

the Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum. The Forum agreed that the Chair would brief the global Directors General Forum on the outcomes of this meeting.

Thematic Solutions Forum

06

Thematic solution forum 1

South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Maritime Transport and a Green Recovery

Organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Context

Maritime trade is vital to the world's economy and to regional economies. Over 80 per cent of the volume of international trade in goods is carried by sea, and the percentage is even higher for most developing countries (UNCTAD, 2021). During the COVID-19 pandemic maritime transport played a crucial role in ensuring the supply of essential goods, such as food, energy, particularly for the developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for measures to improve the safety and security of international shipping and to prevent pollution from ships. The IMO is heavily engaged in the fight to protect and preserve the environment - both marine and atmospheric - and is energetically pursuing the limitation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from shipping operations. The IMO has adopted measures to reduce air pollution from ships as well as energy efficiency measures, and has a long and successful track record of matching the requirements of developing countries, including Least Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, with resources made available by a range of governmental, institutional and corporate donors.

ESCAP provides a regional inter-governmental platform and think tank, generating action-oriented knowledge, and providing technical assistance and capacity-development services in support of national development objectives, regional agreements and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It has scaled up its work in maritime transport significantly,

building on past achievements and culminating in the inclusion of the thematic area of Maritime and Interregional Connectivity in the new Regional Action Programme on Sustainable Transport Development, adopted by the fourth Ministerial Conference on Transport, in December 2021.

As part of the United Nations family, IMO and ESCAP are actively working towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated SDGs. Most of the elements of the 2030 Agenda will only be realized with a sustainable transport sector supporting world trade and facilitating the global economy. The parties intend to work together to support the following initiatives: knowledge sharing; inter-governmental cooperation; capacity development; joint resource mobilization; and strengthening UN-wide initiatives and programmes. ESCAP and IMO will provide activities under the following areas of mutual interest: marine environment protection and climate change; maritime transport facilitation in support of global and regional trade flows; and maritime safety.

Both IMO and ESCAP acknowledge the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation and promote a culture of collaboration and innovation, by creating wider partnerships across countries, regions, subregions and multiple stakeholders. South-South and triangular cooperation has proved effective in promoting not only marine environment protection but also maritime transport and in enhancing global supply chains, and is key to ensuring a green recovery and a sustainable future for shipping.

IMO and ESCAP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will enhance future cooperation in the maritime sector in the Asia-Pacific region.

This MoU will harness IMO's competence for setting global standards for international shipping and ESCAP's experience as a regional inter-governmental platform and think tank offering sound analytical products, and generating action-oriented knowledge that sheds insight on evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region.

Moderator

Mr. Kitack Lim, International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General;

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Youngso Kim**, Head, Partnerships Department of Partnerships and Projects, International Maritime Organization;
- **Mr. Weimin Ren**, Director, Transport Division, ESCAP;
- **Ms. Mavis Joseph**, IMO Technical Cooperation Officer (Virtual);
- **Ms. Tran Thi Tuyet Mai Anh**, Director, International Cooperation and IMO Department, Vietnam Maritime Administration (VINAMARINE);
- **Professor Wei Ruan**, Shanghai Maritime University, Head of the Maritime Technologies Cooperation Centre (MTCC) Asia (Virtual);
- **Mr. Watchara Chiemankulkit**, Maritime Attaché/Minister Counsellor, representing the Kingdom of Thailand at IMO
- **Mr. R. Duncan McIntosh**, Senior Regional Maritime Specialist, Transport Sector Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, Asian Development Bank.

Key messages

Mr. Kitack Lim, in his opening remarks, noted that over the past few years, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the shipping industry and its essential seafarers. IMO has worked tirelessly at all levels to find solutions to the difficulties they have faced, such as in travelling to and from their ships and in obtaining vaccinations. IMO's response has included urging its Member States to designate seafarers as key workers, establishing a Seafarer Crisis Action Team (SCAT), and adopting resolutions and issuing circular letters to provide guidance for all stakeholders about how to support seafarers. He concluded by saying that maritime trade is vital to the world's economy and to regional economies. South-South and triangular cooperation is key to ensuring a green recovery and a truly sustainable future for shipping.

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana emphasized that South-South cooperation has been a cornerstone of the Asia-Pacific advances in sustainable transport connectivity, and maritime transport is not an exception. South-South cooperation is a win-win strategy for truly transformative action in the shipping sector, especially as far as the green recovery is concerned. One of the examples mentioned today will be the recent initiative on green shipping corridors, which is gaining traction among the ports of Asia (Port of Shanghai) and America (Port of Los Angeles).⁴⁴ They showcase zero-emission fuels and technologies along maritime trade routes between two (or more) ports, can help accelerate the adoption of alternatives to petroleum-based fuels in the maritime industry, which in turn can reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Such collaborative actions, driven by recognition of the climate change urgency, ahead-of-the-curve ambition and the spirit of innovation, can and should be a hallmark of the new era in sustainable maritime connectivity.



44 For more information on Green Shipping Corridors, see <https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/sustainability/our-insights/green-corridors-a-lane-for-zero-carbon-shipping>

Good practices as highlighted by the panellists

IMO's Knowledge Partnership Mechanism for Maritime Technical Cooperation

- Focus on implementation includes:
 - Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) which includes seminars, workshops, training courses to help Member States have better understanding and implementation of IMO instruments.
 - International Development Cooperation. Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding is larger in terms of size, longer term and can provide consolidated solutions to the issues. \$178 billion funding in 2021.
- Recipients for the Resource Mobilization Strategy are LDCs and SIDS.
- The Knowledge Partnership Mechanism includes:
 - stage one: Knowledge Partnership dialogue;
 - stage two: Grants;
 - stage three: Infrastructure projects.
- Areas of cooperation include marine environment protection, maritime safety and security and facilitation.
- A South-South and triangular cooperation example is the GloFouling Partnership to prevent biofouling.

ESCAP's Regional Action Programme for Sustainable Maritime Transport and South-South Triangular cooperation

- Efforts to promote South-South and triangular cooperation include:
 - inter-governmental process;
 - analytical work;
 - capacity development and technical assistance.
- Green recovery efforts include:
 - decarbonization: core of sustainable shipping;
 - initiative - Green Shipping Corridors for shipping routes between two major port hubs (including intermediary stopovers) on which the technological, economic and regulatory feasibility of the operation of zero-emissions ships is catalysed through public and private actions.

Maritime cooperation in ASEAN

- Work closely with dialogue partners, affiliated organizations and IMO to implement the Kuala Lumpur Transport Strategic Plan (KLTSPP) and other projects to enhance maritime activities within the region.
- The KLTSPP includes:
 - implementation of the ASEAN Single Shipping Market through the implementation of the agreed strategies and measures;
 - implementation of the Roll-on/roll-off (RO-RO) shipping network operation in ASEAN;
 - development of an efficient and integrated inland waterway transport network;
 - enhancement of navigation system and security measures in line with international standards;

- formulation of the necessary policy initiatives and recommendations to develop strategic maritime transport logistics between ASEAN and Dialogue Partners;
- intensification of regional cooperation in improving transport safety;
- intensification of regional cooperation in the development of sustainable transport-related policies and strategies;
- identification and implementation of the key measures on sustainable transport;
- enhancement of regional cooperation in the application of smart technology in the transport sector.
- Marine Environment Protection of the South-East Asian Seas (MEPSEAS Project) is in phase II of the IMO and Norad (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation) collaboration. It aims to protect the marine environment from the negative effects of ships and shipping by working in conjunction with seven developing countries in South-East Asia: Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam.

Practices of the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre (MTCC) - Asia for the reduction of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) from shipping

- wide collaboration across the regional maritime network;
- technology facilities include: trimming optimization technologies; global ship GHG emission monitoring system; port operations based on the Just-In-Time concept; more than 20 online courses and subjects for energy efficiency (ship and port); and a knowledge bank for GHG-related conventions, regulations and implementation practices;
- over 45 capacity-building programmes for transferring needs-based technologies in over 30 countries in the Asia region since 2017, with 2000 participants.

Asian Development Bank: Multilateral banks, sustainable maritime transport and port development in the Asia-Pacific region

- Infrastructure projects include:
 - port projects in the Pacific: enhancing the safety, security and sustainability of Apia Port, Samoa; sustainable and climate-resilient connectivity project, Nauru; land and marine connectivity project, Solomon Islands; outer island maritime infrastructure project, Tuvalu; Nuku'alofa port upgrade project, Kingdom of Tonga.
- Knowledge products include:
 - Tonga volcano damage assessment;
 - the South-East Asia (SEA) Green Ports Scoping Study recommended an enhanced approach to expanding coverage and compliance of environmental concerns emanating from seaport operations;

→ The South Asia-South-East Asia (SA-SEA) Maritime Connectivity Study developed a road map of maritime investments to facilitate inter-subregional trade between South Asia and South-East Asia.

→ Partnerships include:

- The Silk Alliance to pilot a viable, zero-carbon “Green Corridor” maritime route in South-East Asia.
- A regional financing facility, which is still under development, for green ports and maritime decarbonization.

Key recommendation(s)

Concerted actions are needed from multiple stakeholders through determination from governments, technical readiness from the business sector and participation from key stakeholders.

ESCAP, as a regional platform for the promotion of sustainable maritime connectivity and decarbonized shipping in Asia and the Pacific, can provide: knowledge and experience sharing and capacity building; research and analysis; and inter-governmental consensus-building.



Thematic solution forum 2

Accelerating Learning Recovery and Transforming Education in South-East Asia Through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (SDG 4)

Organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO)

Moderator

- **Dr. Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela**, Director, Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Secretariat; and
- **Ms. Mitsue Uemura**, Regional Education Advisor, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO)

Panelists:

- **Ms. Margarete Sachs-Israel**, Chief of Section for Inclusive Quality Education, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education;
- **Mr. Roger Chao Jr.**, Assistant Director and Head of Education, Youth and Sports Division, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat;
- **Ms. Duriya Amatavivat**, Senior Advisor to the Office of Permanent Secretary for Education, Ministry of Education of Thailand;
- **Mr. Toan Dang**, Programme Officer, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Education, UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education
- **Mr. Ali Ibanez**, Secretariat Manager, Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM)
- **Dr. Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela**, 16:40 Director, SEAMEO Secretariat

Context

The COVID-19 pandemic caused unprecedented disruption to education, both globally and regionally, and severely impacted education delivery, learning outcomes, student engagement, and health and well-being, particularly affecting vulnerable and marginalized children and adolescents the most. Countries in the Asia-Pacific region were among the first to be impacted by the pandemic, with disrupted access to learning for 800 million learners. While school closures varied across countries in the region, overall, 1.1 trillion hours of in-person learning have been lost in the region. It is estimated that millions are at risk of not returning to care centres, schools, or universities, in particular the most vulnerable, such as girls, children from poor and rural households, the disabled, and children from ethno-linguistic minorities. Many more have suffered serious learning losses, impacting their ability to participate fully in society and economies and live a fulfilled life. The pandemic further exacerbated pre-existing inequities in access to education and the pre-existing learning crisis in the region, which reversed

progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the education goal (SDG 4) to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. The pandemic also exposed serious weaknesses in current education systems, which points to the urgent need to transform education systems so that they become more inclusive and equitable.

Against this backdrop, The UN Secretary-General convened the Transforming Education Summit in response to the global crisis in education, which is one of equity and inclusion, quality and relevance.⁴⁵ Often slow and unseen, this crisis is having a devastating impact on the futures of children and youth worldwide.

45 For more information, see <https://www.un.org/en/transforming-education-summit>

The summit provided a unique opportunity to elevate education to the top of the global political agenda and to mobilize action, ambition, solidarity and solutions to recover pandemic-related learning losses and sow the seeds for transforming education in a rapidly changing world. Strong regional coordination for education in the Asia-Pacific region through the Learning and Education 2030+ Networking Group (LE2030+) promotes multi-stakeholder partnerships and facilitates South-South and triangular cooperation.⁴⁶ The second Asia-Pacific Regional Education Ministers' Conference (APREMC-II), which was held in Bangkok from 5 to 7 June 2022, also provided an important platform for ministers and key education stakeholders from the region to discuss challenges, exchange ideas and good practices from their experience and engage in a policy dialogue to identify solutions and collectively commit to action.

In this perspective, South-South and triangular cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships are central elements for effective reform and transformation of education systems, in which countries are learning from each other through technical cooperation, knowledge sharing and support. The panellists in this forum described South-South and triangular cooperation best practices to accelerate learning recovery and transformation of education for learners today and in the future. They sought to mobilize multi-stakeholder partnerships to raise political ambition, action and solutions, and demonstrated that inter-governmental organizations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), are exemplary mechanisms for South-South and triangular cooperation in the field of education.

46 For more information, see <https://bangkok.unesco.org/theme/sdg-4-education-2030-coordination-and-monitoring-asia-pacific>

Thematic solutions forum 3

South-South Economic Integration for Sustainable Recovery

Organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Context

The COVID-19 pandemic has created new development challenges for the global South. Millions of people have lost their jobs and are being pushed into extreme poverty. The global economy contracted and prospects for 2022 are also bleak. UNCTAD estimates that global economic growth will decrease to 2.6 per cent from 3.6 per cent for 2022. Developing countries have not only been hit harder economically by the pandemic, but will also take more time to recover because of their limited financial resources. Furthermore, climate change and the associated risks continue to pose more profound long-term challenges for developing countries with impacts on economic, social and environmental sustainability. The baseline forecast envisions a 5.2 percent contraction in global domestic product (GDP) in 2020, using market exchange rate weights - the deepest global recession in decades, despite the extraordinary efforts of governments to counter the downturn with fiscal and monetary policy support. Over the longer horizon, the deep recessions triggered by the pandemic are expected to leave lasting scars through lower investment, an erosion of human capital through lost work and schooling, and fragmentation of global trade and supply linkages.

To respond to the shocks of the pandemic and to the impacts of climate change, and to simultaneously build resilience and sustainable recovery, Southern countries need to act at the national, regional and global level, particularly by building South-South solidarity and economic cooperation and integration to build economic resilience, diversify economic structure and balance climate actions and economic growth goals. Since the turn of the millennium, South-South economic cooperation and integration has developed very rapidly. South-South merchandise trade now accounts for over one quarter of the world total. Cooperation in terms of finance, investment, industrial policy and macroeconomic coordination has also expanded significantly. In the last decade, South-South financial links have become far more important, as the significance of developing economies in the world economy has risen sharply, as have their levels of foreign exchange reserves and domestic savings. The increased importance of South-South financial links, relative to North-South financial links, has been further increased, due to the impact of the global financial crisis, which has weakened the ability and appetite of Northern countries

for North-South cooperation. In the past, a key advantage of, for example, including developed countries in the membership of regional development banks was their ability to contribute very significant resources that helped capitalize these banks and gave access to global capital markets. This is now changing quite significantly. For example, South-South trade has soared over the years to hit \$5.3 trillion in 2021. The volume of trade between developing countries is now higher than that between developing and developed countries.⁴⁷

Thus, strengthening South-South economic integration through finance, trade, investment, industrial, digital, technology and innovation for facilitating sustainable recovery of developing countries is critical. To facilitate such global efforts in promoting South-South cooperation for Sustainable Development, UNCTAD has been implementing a series of projects including South-South Integration and the Sustainable Development Goals: Enhancing Structural Transformation in Key Partner Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative; Development policies for sustainable economic growth in Southern Africa; and Promoting economic diversification and resilience in Barbados for a sustained recovery from COVID-19 shock. These projects have generated numerous achievements and contributed to the existing studies, practices and policy strategy formulation in developing countries in achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The panellists reflected on and debated the role of South-South economic integration in the post-COVID-19 recovery of developing countries. They discussed challenges that their countries are facing and particularly focused on boosting sustainable recovery from the shocks of COVID-19 and the recent geopolitical tensions, and on the importance of building resilience through successful climate adaptation.

47 For more information, see <https://unctad.org/news/south-south-cooperation-offers-solutions-solidarity-global-challenges>

Key messages

Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi noted that the impacts of the present multiple crises cannot be solved by using simple means, because the global crises include economic and non-economic issues, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical hostilities which are being augmented by the rise in global energy crises, leading to the food crises and debt crises. Since more advanced economies are not always in a position to rescue the global South, as was historically the case, the region will increasingly have to depend on its own resources. There is a great need to resuscitate discussion, discourses and build trust to regenerate the impact and the important role of South-South cooperation by sharing resources, knowledge and information, sources of medical equipment and assistance, amongst others.

Hon. Ryan Straughn highlighted that Barbados is a strong advocate for global cooperation, and in 2021, at the height of the COVID-19 restrictions, Barbados prioritized the establishment of diplomatic missions in Guyana and Kenya, that are consistent with its commitment to South-South cooperation. As an example of South-South cooperation, he shared that the Caribbean community has worked with the African Union and the African Asian Bank to access the African medical supplies platform to obtain COVID-19 vaccines and personal protection equipment and other medical supplies.

Mr. Chad Blackman recognized that the world faces unprecedented health and economic crises due to COVID-19, which not only laid bare the inadequacy of current systems, but highlighted the economic vulnerabilities of countries in the global South. Developing countries suffered more as they were already reeling from the climate crises, biodiversity loss and pollution. There is a need for developing countries to enhance cooperation and develop a common international agenda. Such efforts, he noted, would help build economic resilience, diversify economic bases, balance climate actions and economic goals, and promote reforms of the multilateral system.

Dr. Safdar Sohail noted that the countries of the South find themselves with unique vulnerabilities, particularly due to the combination and inadequacies of key policies lasting over many decades. For the Pakistani context, these include the debt policies

of national governments and local financial systems; the adoption of weak social protection policies; and inadequate attention to climate change adaptation. He described the many problems that the country is facing due to its inadequate national policies and the global impacts of climate change. The recent floods in Pakistan are evidence of the asymmetry in the global economic equation. Even though Pakistan is only responsible for 0.4 per cent of emissions, it suffers hugely from the negative impact of the emissions. He provided some recommendations and noted that South-South cooperation needs to be reinvented as it is at an existential moment given that the results of such cooperation have not been useful for Pakistan.

Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram noted that the Asia-Pacific region is struggling to avoid being caught in a new perfect storm with the introduction of unconventional monetary policies, the new Cold War, and the lack of commitment to the UN Global Green New Deal of 2008. He highlighted that this storm is causing a reduction in resilience for developing countries where lack of peace and the promotion of international tensions of war is undermining the possibilities of cooperation as developing countries are being forced to take sides. With COVID-19 affecting industries, most particularly hospitality and tourism, developing countries are struggling to deal with the debt they have incurred to cover cost and recovery from COVID-19. Furthermore, the response to the Ukraine war has been sanctions, leading to trade disruptions and resulting in the slowdown of the world economy, which will exacerbate problems and increase debt for developing countries.

Ms. Rebecca Grynspan noted that in today's globalized world South-South cooperation is key to building a world economy and global governance that works for all and that is what South-South cooperation is about. She highlighted that UNCTAD has helped countries in the South to create better jobs, protect the environment and build resilience. It has supported governments to design policies and strategies to integrate their economies into the global economy and diversify their productive structure. UNCTAD helps countries in the global South to advocate for their shared interests and the meetings they hold provide platforms for developing countries to exchange knowledge and experience and tackle key issues, boost development finance and build resilience.

Moderator

Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi, former Secretary General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Panelists:

- **Hon. Ryan Straughn**, Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Barbados;
- **Mr. Chad Blackman**, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations and other agencies in Geneva;
- **Dr. Safdar Sohail**, Dean of National Institute of Public Policy, Lahore, Pakistan;
- **Mr. Jomo Kwame Sundaram**, Senior Adviser at the Khazanah Research Institute and former Assistant Secretary-General on Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations;

Closing Remarks

Ms. Rebecca Grynspan, Secretary General, UNCTAD

Good practices as highlighted by the panellists

Barbados

- Barbados hosted the first AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forum, with over 700 delegates to enhance bilateral cooperation.
- Barbados partners with neighbouring countries to address food security issues for crop farming and hosted two agricultural forums to accelerate the implementation of this policy.
- Through funding from the China South-South Assistance Fund, and implemented by UNCTAD, the initiative “Multi-economic diversification and resilience in Barbados for a sustained recovery from COVID-19 shocks” provides policy recommendations to build capacity and leverage South-South cooperation for economic diversification and resilience and in realizing sustainable development.

UNCTAD: video of South-South cooperation

- South-South trade in goods has soared to over \$5.3 trillion in 2021 and is now worth more than South-North trade in goods.
- South-South financial cooperation has delivered big infrastructure projects.
- South-South industrial cooperation, particularly in manufacturing, has grown rapidly and facilitated the industrialization of developing countries.
- South-South partnerships are shaping the international agenda.
- Through research, consensus-building and projects, UNCTAD is helping developing countries to strengthen cooperation, to build and expand their productive capacity, diversify their exports, enhance climate resilience, and mobilize finance and investments for sustainable development.

Key recommendation(s)

- There is a need for South-South cooperation in climate adaptation and building solidarity and joint stances in climate negotiations and environment discussions at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in other forums.
- There must be a definition of climate vulnerability to access concessional funding, and new and creative long-term financial instruments are needed to refinance pandemic and climate debt, with allocation of funds as grant.
- Panellists called for developed countries to take the lead on including natural disaster clauses in their bonds.
- There is a need for reform of international financial instruments to be more inclusive to meet the needs of the states in the South.
- In the case of Pakistan, the climate science community should work out the percentage of the loss that Pakistan has and is experiencing due to climate change, to try to specifically allocate the part which is a result of climate change and calculate losses and damage to build concrete adaptation case studies, for effective climate mitigation and adaptation.
- Pakistan needs to review debt policies, social protection policies and climate adaptation policies and their internal linkages, revisit existing social protection discourse and redefine what the public good actually is. In the national and regional context, South-South and triangular cooperation should give importance to social protection issues, especially those resulting from climate change.
- There is a need to establish a dedicated secretariat for climate change in UNCTAD or in another South-South cooperation framework. UNCTAD-led cooperation between Pakistan, Türkiye, Malaysia and Kazakhstan which focuses on green industrialization, financial and regional economic integration, and technology transfer, is a good example of South-South cooperation.
- There is a need to be wary that all adaptation efforts must enhance resilience because the range of resilience needs is growing.
- Countries must learn from the ASEAN approach of staying neutral, during such geopolitical crises, in order to focus on development.
- The UN leadership needs to recognize the new development crises and appeal to old conventions of multilateralism; UNCTAD can show the relationship between peace, cooperation and war to facilitate South-South cooperation and address development challenges.

Thematic solutions forum 4

South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Reproductive Health and Population and Development

Organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Partners In Population and Development (PPD)

Context

As health systems began to address the COVID-19 pandemic, resources were diverted away from essential sexual and reproductive health services and population and development programmes to deal with the outbreak. COVID-19 has taken this situation from bad to worse, as scarce resources and attention have been diverted away from sexual and reproductive health care to pandemic-related response efforts. Earlier this year, a Guttmacher team estimated how sexual and reproductive health outcomes could change in many countries following only a modest decline of 10 per cent in access to care. The findings were staggering: a 10 per cent decline in sexual and reproductive health care in LMICs would correspond to an additional 49 million women with an unmet need for modern contraception, leading to millions of unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions and thousands of maternal and newborn deaths. The disruptions and long-term impacts to sexual and reproductive health services, including those for maternal health, thereby negatively impacted national and international efforts to achieve the goals of zero unmet need for family planning, zero preventable maternal deaths and zero gender-based violence and other harmful practices.

As the world is beginning to recover from the pandemic, it is crucial to invest more in reproductive health and in population and development. Not doing so will result in the poor health of the next generation of the current young population, thus harming the long-term socioeconomic prospects of a nation. Crucially, investing in maternal and reproductive health, and in the health of children and adolescents, is investing in the prosperous future of a nation.

Under the constraints of limited resources, the panellists in this forum shared lessons learned and good practices of how their countries coped with the huge demands of the pandemic, and simultaneously provided support to other countries through South-South and triangular cooperation, particularly in the context of sexual and reproductive health, population and development issues.

Moderator

Dr. Leila Joudane, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Representative, Philippines

Panelists:

- **Dr. Juan Antonio Perez III**, former Under-Secretary for Population and Development, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines;
- **Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Lopes**, Deputy Director, Brazilian Cooperation Agency, Brazil;
- **Dr. Bunyarit Sukhreat**, Director of RH Bureau, Department of Health, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand;
- **Dr. Ashrafi Ahmad**, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh;
- **Dr. Betty Kyadondo**, Director, National Population Council, Ministry of Finance, Uganda;
- **Ms. Tahrira Khan**, Senior Programme Officer, Partners in Population and Development;
- **Mr. Gao Weizhong**, Director-General, International Health Exchange and Cooperation Centre, China (Via Pre-recorded message).

Key messages

Dr. Juan Antonio Perez III noted that the restrictive measures implemented during COVID-19 significantly affected the supply and demand of health services with a shortage of health-care workers and reduced health-seeking behaviour in terms of access to essential sexual and reproductive health services. Violence against women and children increased and in the Mindanao region 29 per cent of the population found it difficult to access family planning services during the pandemic.

Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Lopes highlighted that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is a priority for Brazil, and has become a staple of its international cooperation. She recognized that Brazil's cooperation with Angola to address and reduce maternal mortality in Angola is a successful example of South-South and triangular cooperation.

Dr. Bunyarit Sukhraat noted that though digital health services were available in Thailand prior to COVID-19, such digital transformation greatly accelerated during the pandemic, with rapid legal and regulatory developments in three key areas: i) telemedicine guidelines; ii) Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) notification which sets the standards of telemedical services provided by medical facilities; and iii) tele-pharmacy guidelines. In terms of digital health interventions, addressing reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) is crucial in Thailand.

Dr. Ashrafi Ahmad recognized the opportunity that South-South and triangular cooperation can provide to shift focus and bring sexual and reproductive justice, backed by political will and investments that

are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all women and girls. She noted that the pandemic laid bare glaring inequalities, particularly for those people who experience intersecting vulnerabilities based on race, age, gender, disability, poverty and migrant and refugee status. She acknowledged that the support of the international community and development partners has taken Bangladesh forward in its aim to address sexual and reproductive health.

Dr. Betty Kyadondo emphasized that Uganda has benefitted much from South-South and triangular cooperation. Mechanisms for leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation in Uganda include sharing experiences, best practices, capacity-building and training programmes.

Mrs. Tahrima Khan noted that issues such as ageing, youth employment, decline in fertility, urbanization and migration are putting a strain on the development sector, together with the added impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and war in Europe. South-South and triangular cooperation is an important development model and she hoped that the United Nations and PPD will continue their collaboration.

Mr. Gao Weizhong celebrated China's role in advancing maternal and child health (MCH) through expanding partnerships and mobilizing development resources for partner and developing countries, and committed to building an open platform to expand South-South as well as North-South cooperation to share knowledge and experiences.

Good Practices highlighted by the panellists

Philippines

- A virtual helpline has been set up by the Government of Philippines to provide family planning health care in the form of information availability, and training videos for young people.
- An online talk-show "Let's talk about family planning" is a regular venue for public discourse and dissemination of family planning information.
- A Demographic Vulnerability Tool assists local governments in responding to pandemic-related health-care issues with data collected from the vulnerability assessments.
- A tool has been developed to mitigate urban migration and metro migration to encourage urban migrants to return home.
- The South-South and triangular cooperation partnership with Indonesia has strengthened ties between the Government and the religious community, specifically the Muslim community, including religious leaders and Muslim families/adolescents, to create awareness, improve access to and implement family planning. Recently this South-South and triangular cooperation partnership was renewed, and broadened, with an updated MoU covering the period of 2022 - 2025.

Brazil

- There is a maternal health-related project between the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz) and UNFPA to assist Angola, virtually (due to COVID-19 travel restrictions), in reducing the high MMR (Maternal Mortality Ratio), since maternal mortality had increased significantly as a result of COVID-19 lockdown measures.
- Data was gathered to cover four areas: i) the living conditions of target groups focused around nutrition and hygiene; ii) the conditions under which childbirth takes place for vulnerable groups; iii) investigating the recurring of violence/neglect of expecting mothers by partners/families; and iv) the functions/responsibilities of community and government partners.
- This collaboration resulted in the design and development of training course to address improved maternal health and was customized for the Angola context.

Thailand

- Through their phones or mobile applications, patients can consult virtually with doctors and pharmacies can dispense medicines virtually. Such digitization greatly reduced hospital visits across the country during the lockdowns.
- A digital platform, the Ministry of Public Health Immunization Centre (MOPH-IC) has allocated resources for COVID-19 management, including masks and vaccinations for expectant mothers.
- Telemedicine is utilized to give at-home abortion care in emergency situations. Patients can use video chat with doctors/physicians via Thailand's well-known application, Line. The abortion medication will then be made available for patients at their local hospital(s).
- Thailand's e-Health Wallet application, Pao Tung App, helps in the distribution of birth control pills and other medicines at subsidized prices.

Bangladesh

- Currently, Bangladesh is experiencing a demographic dividend with more young people in the population who are digitally active. Youth has been engaged digitally, through a focus on media, to best deliver messages regarding sexual and reproductive health, which is still a taboo in the country.
- Bangladesh has catalogued 2,600,000 persons with disabilities, disaggregated by 28
- categories. Therefore, different forms of sexual and reproductive health are being and should continue to be addressed from their point of view.

Uganda

- Uganda was the first country in Africa to begin using injectable contraceptives.
- There are exchange programmes for young Ugandans to learn skills in Egypt, South Africa, India and China.

- Successful technology transfer, especially from China, provides support to improve reproductive health.
- A compliance assessment tool has been developed to help countries assess the investments they are making to harness the demographic dividend.
- This was shared at UN Centre for Economic Cooperation in Ethiopia in 2019. Through this dialogue, Uganda learned more about mainstreaming gender into also harnessing the demographic dividend.
- Uganda has revised a costed national family planning plan, to address the increase in adolescent pregnancies during COVID-19.
- Uganda has revised the investment case for reproductive, maternal, and newborn care and hopes to expand it to address the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents.

China

- China sent a total of 28000 doctors and nurses to 73 developing countries.
- China provided 189 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to 27 countries.
- Joint production of vaccines in Africa achieved annual capacity of 400 million doses.
- South-South cooperation Belt and Road MCH Training hub helped to accelerate the reduction of maternal and infant mortality.
- For the past two and a half years, online training services have been provided as a result of the pandemic, to 300 participants which has continued and been scaled up in recent months.

Key recommendation(s)

Dr. Juan Antonio Perez III

- South-South and triangular cooperation must include work on population dynamics and development integration, family planning and reproductive health, reduction of stunting, adolescent reproductive health, gender mainstreaming and institutional capacity development.

Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Lopes

- There is a need to scale up the alternative virtual strategy/project to address maternal health. This will continue to prove useful, especially if faced with a shortage of financial resources, availability of experts, etc.

Dr. Ashrafi Ahmad

- Health coverage should be universal, free of charge and include sexual and reproductive health.
- There is a need to ensure that women, adolescents, youth, those with diverse genders and other identities have clearer influence and inputs into how health care can meet their needs.
- There is a need to promote South-South and triangular cooperation to strengthen efforts to reduce maternal mortality rates, provide quality health care, pay attention to adolescents and young married couples and address gender violence.

Partners in Population Development (PPD)

- There is a need to establish centres of excellence on South-South and triangular cooperation, and focal persons are needed at these centres.
- Capacity building on South-South and triangular cooperation for national government officials and focal persons for these centres must be increased, with the aim of increasing knowledge-sharing and technical cooperation.
- South-South and triangular cooperation must be institutionalized and there is a need to build a strategic framework to support the role of South-South and triangular cooperation through knowledge-sharing.
- The demand for three zeros: zero unmet need for contraception, zero maternal deaths and zero gender based violence, must be met.
- There must be increased political commitment for budgets that support South-South and triangular cooperation in population and development areas.

Mr. Gao Weizhong

- Development work must be prioritized to engage more action from government in MCH.
- In the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation, there must be a focus on political commitment, women's empowerment, sound planning, systematic service delivery, securing essential funding and leveraging advanced technology.
- There is a need to build an open platform to develop South-South and North-South cooperation.

Thematic solutions forum 5

Unlocking the Potential of National Home-Grown School Meals Programmes to Transform Local food Systems and Support Pandemic Recovery Through South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Organized by the United Nations Rome-based Agencies – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP)

Context

Food systems are central to protecting vulnerable people from the impact of the unprecedented global food crisis. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), in just two years the number of people facing, or at risk of, acute food insecurity increased from 135 million in 53 countries pre-pandemic, to 345 million in 82 countries today. Fuelled by conflict, climate shocks and COVID-19, the crisis is escalating as the war in Ukraine drives up the costs of food, fuel and fertilizers. Millions of people are struggling to put food on the table and are being driven closer to starvation in a storm of staggering proportions. The overlapping of major challenges, including the climate crisis, geopolitical conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic, have reversed development gains and contributed to putting national food systems, especially those in the global South, under pressure to respond and prevent it from worsening in 2023 and beyond.

Concerted efforts must be made to strengthen these systems, not only to respond to current crises, but also to enhance their resilience and capacity to become more self-reliant in the long term. Such resilience and sustainability will be key to protecting development gains from further loss. In line with the outcome document of the UN Food Systems Summit, national home-grown school feeding (HGSM) programmes have been recognized as an effective means of reaching the most vulnerable people living in hunger and as a strategic pathway toward a food system transformation. This innovative approach links school feeding programmes with local smallholder farmers to provide millions of schoolchildren in 46 countries with food that is safe, diverse, nutritious, and above all, local. The benefits of this are evident and manifold. The schools provide local farmers with a predictable outlet for their products, leading to a stable income, more investments and higher productivity. The children enjoy healthy, diversified food; this makes it more likely that they will stay in school, perform better and improve their adult job prospects. At the community level, home-grown school feeding initiatives promote nutrition education and better eating habits, and encourage the diversification of

production with a special emphasis on local crops. Community involvement, in turn, enhances the sustainability of programmes. HGSM can support the strengthening of local value chains for the global food crisis response and generate longer-term multisectoral benefits in education, health and livelihoods of children and communities.

While many countries have achieved significant progress in implementing HGSM programmes, some still face challenges in effectively connecting smallholder farmers to local food value chains linked to school feeding programmes. South-South and triangular cooperation can play a pivotal role in enabling countries to share their knowledge and experience to help each other enhance the capacity of HGSM programmes to reach the most vulnerable. Recognizing the urgency and importance of sharing lessons learned and leveraging its complementarities, the Rome-based Agencies (RBA) – FAO, IFAD and WFP – have come together to develop a joint South-South and triangular cooperation programme aimed at responding to the demands of five countries: Kenya, Rwanda, the Philippines, São Tomé and Príncipe and Senegal, which are all members of the Global School Meals Coalition. The programme aims at supporting the implementation of their respective HGSM programmes, benefitting from the knowledge and expertise of a wide range of partners in the global South. Whilst these five countries are provisionally identified as the initial set of participants, the RBA aim at expanding the programme to respond to increasing country demands.

The panellists in this session shared country examples of South-South and triangular cooperation and how HGSM programmes are supporting the achievement of sustainable livelihoods and food security and nutrition for schoolchildren.

Moderator

Ron Hartman, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Director, Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Division.

Opening remarks

Mr. David Kaatrud, World Food Programme (WFP), Director of the Programme – Humanitarian and Development Division.

Panelists:

- **Ms. Nerreah Anyango Olick**, Director of Primary Education, Ministry of Education Kenya;
- **Ms. Lauren Landis**, WFP Country Director in Kenya;
- **Ms. Lauren Landis**, Representative and Country Director, World Food Programme, Kenya Country Office;
- **H.E. Francisco Martins dos Ramos-Pardal**, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, São Tomé and Príncipe, IFAD representative in São Tomé and Príncipe;
- **Ms. Emime Ndiokubwayo**, IFAD representative in Cameroon and Central Africa Region (Former IFAD representative in São Tomé and Príncipe);
- **Mr. El Hadji Seck**, Director of School Canteens at the Ministry of National Education of Senegal;
- **Dr. Robert Gouantoueu Guei**, Head of the Sub-Regional Office for West Africa and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Representative in Senegal.

Closing remarks

Mr. Ye Anping, Director of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Key messages

Mr. David Kaatrud noted that South-South and triangular cooperation is key to supporting countries toward achieving the 2030 Agenda and progress toward SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). Collaboration with other UN agencies and other countries helps to improve food security and nutrition and such efforts are efficient and more coordinated. Since children have suffered the impacts of the pandemic more than any other group, and they bear the brunt of intensifying food crises, linking school meals to smallholder farming allows children to get local nutritious food and ensures local development and livelihood. Such systemic transformations make food systems sustainable for all.

Ms. Nerreah Anyango Olick highlighted that the HGSP is considered to be vital in the growth of Kenya as a nation, and the Government has joined the Global School Meals Coalition, committing to seek sustainable and innovative findings for nutritious food for schoolchildren. The Government has also taken a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships approach, including various Government ministries, such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Treasury and National Planning, and other development partners.

Ms. Lauren Landis noted that WFP Kenya has worked to build a strong platform for South-South cooperation. WFP aims to strengthen resilience through a climate lens and a food systems approach by increasing the production of smallholder farmers in drought and flood-prone areas. WFP also works toward capacity building in social protection and in emergency preparedness, climate action and nutrition. She noted that Kenya both shares knowledge about HGSP programmes and is open to learning from other countries. There is internal transfer of knowledge between

various counties within Kenya, and with the HGSP programme, there are many opportunities to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation for social protection and emergency preparedness.

H.E. Francisco Martins dos Ramos-Pardal noted that the Government of São Tomé and Príncipe has been implementing its National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) since 2016. The greatest challenge is to strengthen the mechanism for local purchases for school meals programmes, to allow for the gradual replacement of imports with locally produced food from family farms.

Ms. Emime Ndiokubwayo highlighted how IFAD, WFP and FAO are supporting the Government through South-South and triangular cooperation in the HGSP programme, by providing technical assistance, financial resources, and by brokering South-South and triangular cooperation exchanges and coordination meetings with donors, bringing all actors to monitor investments, avoid duplication, harness synergies, and create national, regional and continental programmes.

Dr. Robert Gouantoueu Guei recalled FAO's support, since 2012, in developing a framework for public procurement of local products related to school feeding, which allows sustainable livelihoods for smallholder farmers and diet diversification for children in schools. He hoped that technology transfer from partner countries will grow, to increase the efficiency of the development of sustainable value chains and sustainable sales for producers.

Mr. Ye Anping, in his closing remarks, invited interested parties to express their willingness to contribute to this initiative in various forms, including through financial technical and human resources.

Good practices as highlighted by the panellists

Kenya

- The National School Meal Nutrition, which is a strategic plan set for 2017-2022, is being carried forward to the next five years.
- A national policy on nutritious school meals and coverage of national school meals has been increased from 1.6 million to 6 million children by 2030.
- There is an annual budget of \$20 million for the school meals programme.
- Digital school meal data has been rolled out in National Education Management Information (NEMIS) systems, and 80 per cent of learners are recorded in NEMIS.
- There are peer-to-peer activities with other countries, such as study visits. Technical assistance has been provided to Togo, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania.

São Tomé and Príncipe

- The National School Feeding and Health Programme (PNASE) provides hot school meals every day for more than 46,000 students. In a context where more than two thirds of the local population is poor, this safety net is a key mechanism in mitigating food insecurity, malnutrition and in reducing school absenteeism.
- São Tomé and Príncipe and Cameroon are collaborating on growing onion and pepper crops.

Senegal

- In 2009, Senegal started a process of transition from international to local procurement for school canteens thanks to the support of FAO and WFP, through the "Purchase for Africans by Africans" programme in collaboration with Brazil. Senegal has established a decentralized model for school feeding, which enables local communities to play a significant role in the operationalization of school canteens. Despite these efforts of the Government, the reach of the HGSP programme remains limited (20 per cent coverage), as does the effective organization of smallholder farmers to produce and supply nutritious food to schools through the public food procurement.
- Local procurement guides have been translated into local languages to build the capacity of farmer organizations. FAO supports such capacity building for small producers.

Example of RBA cooperation in the production and sale of groundnuts in Kenya

In helping the large refugee population to grow ground nuts, FAO provides technical support and expertise, IFAD makes investments and brings in the private sector and other partners. WFP helps make sure there is sufficient water and sells the nuts to a company called Insta which produces a nutritional product. UNICEF and WFP buy the products and bring it back for nutritional treatment.

Key recommendation(s)

- There is a need to increase country-level consultations to formulate the intervention, technical and financial resource mobilization for implementation.
- Specific South-South and triangular cooperation matches with host governments must be identified and facilitated with RBA's support.
- Results and lessons learned will be duly captured as part of the monitoring and evaluation of the initiative and disseminated through South-South and triangular cooperation knowledge platforms, including the UNOSSC-managed South-South Galaxy.
- Additional partners, such as regional entities, international financial institutions and triangular partners are needed to help get this initiative off the ground.
- During his intervention, JICA's senior adviser, Mr. Shunichi Nakada, showcased the wealth of Japan's experience in implementing the HGSP programmes. JICA reiterated the relevance of South-South and triangular cooperation in promoting HGSP, underscoring the importance of exchanges amongst peers, who can share living experiences and technologies that can be adapted to local contexts. As a triangular partner, JICA sees great added value in also supporting South-South peer exchanges, to complement their bilateral cooperation with further knowledge, experience and technologies of developing countries to achieve development results. He recommended that South-South and triangular cooperation could provide better technological options fit for various developmental stages and local contexts since, for some countries, the technology is either too expensive or requires advanced management systems.

Thematic solutions forum 6

Scaling Up Conservation Agriculture to Accelerate Agri-Food Systems Transformation in the Global South

Organized by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM)

Context

In line with FAO's corporate Strategic Framework (2022-2031),⁴⁸ which is fully aligned with the SDG framework, the FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (RAP) has identified conservation agriculture (CA) as an important set of technologies and practices in support of agri-food system transformation. CA is an integrated farming system for crop intensification for sustaining food and nutrition security and improving livelihoods, while also preserving and enhancing the resource base and the environment. CA has proved to be one of the most appropriate and sustainable options to increase productivity, income and food security in the region. Extensive application and demonstration of CA has provided evidence of its comparative strength and advantages in the world, including in the Asia-Pacific region. Nevertheless, CA adoption in the region remains limited. Inadequate availability of appropriate machinery and equipment is one of the critical constraints for promoting CA in the region, in addition to the lack of an enabling environment to facilitate agri-food system transformation.

The Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) is one of the regional institutions of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and is guided by the vision of achieving production gains, improved rural livelihood and poverty alleviation through sustainable agricultural mechanization for a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable Asia and the Pacific. CSAM is contributing to South-South and triangular cooperation efforts in the region by providing a collaboration and exchange platform to Member States and other stakeholders in the area of sustainable agricultural mechanization, including CA.

Acknowledging that South-South cooperation has increasingly been recognized as one of the most efficient and effective means of exchanging technical knowhow and experiences among countries of the South, the esteemed panellists in this session promoted knowledge-sharing on CA practices and solutions amongst partners and highlighted the potential of South-South and triangular cooperation in establishing a network of CA professionals and practitioners. Their discussions facilitated the exchange of technical knowhow, policies and practices within and beyond the Asia-Pacific region. Panellists hoped to promote the adoption and upscaling of CA to accelerate agri-food systems transformation in Asia and the Pacific, specifically through: i) highlighting key developments in CA policies, technologies and its status in the Asia-Pacific region; ii) showcasing and exchanging technical knowhow and experiences in CA in Mongolia-China under the South-South cooperation framework facilitated by FAO and the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (CSAM) of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; iii) highlighting the potential for South-South and triangular cooperation in facilitating technical knowhow and policy experiences among countries of the South.

48 For more information, see <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7099en/cb7099en.pdf>



Moderator

Mr. Aziz Arya, Regional Policy and Program Officer, South-South and triangular cooperation Focal Point, Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO-RAP)

Opening and closing remarks

- **Mr. Kaveh Zahedi**, Deputy Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ESCAP;
- **Mr. Takayuki Hagiwara**, Regional Program Leader, FAO RAP;
- **Ms. Li Yutong**, Head, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, ESCAP;
- **Mr. Ye Anping**, Director, South-South and Triangular Cooperation Division, FAO;
- **Mr. Aziz R. Arya**, Policy and Programme Officer, Regional Focal Point for South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Rural Transformation, FAO RAP;

Keynote and case presentations:

- **Mr. Bo Zhou**, Agricultural Officer, FAO RAP;
- **Mr. Jambaltseren Tumur-Uya**, State Secretary for Ministry of Food Agriculture and Light Industry of Mongolia (MoFALI);
- **Mr. Anshuman Varma**, Deputy Head/Program Officer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific - Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (ESCAP-CSAM);
- **Mr. Peter Horne**, General Manager, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

Roundtable discussion:

- **Mr. Jiaoqun Shi**, Special Advisor for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, FAO RAP;
- **Mr. Li Hongwen**, Professor of China Agricultural University and Co-Chair of Conservation Agriculture Alliance for Asia-Pacific;
- **Mr. Saruth Chan**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia;
- **Mr. Mushtaq Gill**, Executive Director, South Asian Conservation Agriculture Network;
- **Ms. Katinka Weinberger**, Chief, Environment and Development Policy Section, ESCAP

Key messages

Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, in his opening remarks, noted that food and agriculture are in the spotlight as countries are struggling to achieve the SDGs. Sustainable inclusive transformative food systems are critical to feeding populations and protecting the planet. Currently, the main challenges being faced are the impacts of COVID-19, climate change and the war in Ukraine, all of which have put a strain on achieving food security. He reminded the audience of the five pathways that were identified at the Food Systems Summit which include ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all; shifting to sustainable consumption patterns; boosting nature positive production, thus ensuring equitable livelihoods; and building resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stresses. CA has a key role to play across the entirety of these five entry points due to its agronomic, economic and environmental benefits and in helping toward the transition to sustainable agricultural production, to name a few.

Mr. Takayuki Hagiwara, in his opening remarks, highlighted the challenges facing food systems, including population pressure, environmental degradation, growing demand on natural resources, hunger and malnutrition. He added that it was painful to note that 425 million people in the Asia-Pacific region were hungry in 2021, and the effects of the pandemic and climate change will only add to this number. Current food systems are failing a great many people and compromising future capacity to ensure food security for future generations. Thus, business-as-usual is not the viable option and transformational changes is a necessity. FAO is committed to mobilize all feasible efforts and has identified CA as an effective system of technological and farming practices in a quest to transform how food is produced. He noted that South-South and triangular cooperation has proved to be a highly effective and efficient means of bridging the knowledge gap, and FAO will endeavour to facilitate this exchange of knowhow and experiences.

Presentations/good practices as highlighted by the panellists

“Adoption and upscaling of CA in Asia and the Pacific”, by Mr. Bo Zhou

- CA is based on three principles: minimum mechanical soil disturbance; permanent soil organic cover; and crop diversification. It has three benefits: economic benefits that improve production efficiency; agronomic benefits that improve soil productivity; and environmental benefits that protect the soil and make sure agriculture is more sustainable.
- There has been huge growth in the last five decades; there are now 205 million hectares of CA areas in more than 102 countries
- China, India and Pakistan are the top three countries using CA in the Asia-Pacific region; other countries include the Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, Timor-Leste and Indonesia.
- In China, CA is adopted in rice/wheat and rice/maize systems with a focus on winter crops. In India, CA principles are adopted in no-till practice in the rice/wheat system, and in Pakistan for using happy seeders for the wheat/rice system.
- Regional CA platforms include the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, the South Asian Conservation Agriculture Network (SACAN), the Conservation Agriculture Network for South-East Asia (CANSEA) and the Conservation Agriculture Alliance of Australia and New Zealand (CAAANZ).

“Enhancing agricultural productivity and sustainability through South-South and triangular cooperation between China and Mongolia”, by Mr. Jambaltseren Tumur-Uya

- Some challenges are overgrazing of pasture land, a short crop season, extreme weather conditions with natural disasters, such as drought and sand and dust storms, and high dependency on food imports.

- Technology, technical capacity and production of small-scale agribusinesses were improved.
- More than 1000 beneficiaries who received direct or indirect support ensuring food security.
- Successful activities extended to livestock breeding, greenhouse farming, agricultural machinery services, wholesale trade, animal feed production, irrigated agriculture, storage, plant protection and beekeeping and aquaculture.
- The most successful implementations, particularly through technological transfer and technical assistance, were in the livestock and husbandry sector, horticulture and vegetable production, poultry farming, bee farming and aquaculture.
- Success factors include quick adaptation of the intervention to the local context, flexibility in project execution, effective communication, inclusiveness, maximizing benefits, and effective coordination.

“Sustainable agricultural mechanization for conservation agriculture amongst global South countries”, by Mr. Anshuman Varma

- CSAM is a regional institution of ESCAP, located in China, with a vision of achieving production gains, improving rural livelihoods and poverty alleviation through sustainable agricultural mechanization.
- Mechanization promotes the implementation of CA, reduces labour costs and improves operational efficiency, improves soil quality and increases grain yield and assists in the popularization of CA for smallholder farmers through local service provision.
- A successful case is the CSAM regional initiative on integrated management of straw residue via South-South and triangular cooperation which promotes the application of agricultural machinery and practices for sustainable circular use of straw residue as fertilizer, fodder, substrate for mushroom growing

and biogas production.⁴⁹

- Pilot projects in Liaxi, China and Viet Nam, and upscaling to Cambodia, Indonesia and Nepal and regional study tours have been conducted in China and India.

“Transitioning Australian research collaboration with China: future opportunities in conservation agriculture”, by Mr. Peter Horne

- cumulative long-term adoption of successful conservation tillage. Beginning in 1993 with 1,300 hectares of wheat and maize, to 8.2 million hectares in 2018;
- successful bilateral partnerships with China, and now moving to trilateral projects in the Pacific and South Asia;
- critical shortage in machinery and business models; these are strengths for China which can be harnessed for use around the region.

Roundtable discussions

Ms. Katinka Weinberger, leading the roundtable discussion, asked the panellists about the environmental and socioeconomic benefits of CA, and how the benefits of CA could be maximized to accelerate transformation toward resilient, sustainable agricultural food systems. She also asked why, despite the stated benefits, CA had not been adopted so widely in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Mushtaq Gill, in his response, noted that some of the socioeconomic benefits are reductions in the cost of production, reduction in tillage, improved soil health, and lower costs of fertilizers and seeds. To capitalize the benefits of CA, he recommended revisiting existing programmes, particularly during the conference on food security organized by FAO; revisiting the Green Climate Fund; and that South-South and triangular cooperation through the Australian Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements (ACIR) assistance would be helpful within the context of new challenges that are being faced in Pakistan with respect to the unprecedented floods.

Mr. Li Hongwen noted that good agricultural technology needs to protect the environment while reducing soil erosion and increasing crop yields and farming net income, with the latter two being prioritized. For this reason, he noted that CA is a two-pronged technology. To maximize the benefits of CA, he highlighted that sustainable machines are more important than high technology machines. In Asian countries, most farmers own small farmlands, so it is critical to think about the suitability of machines that cater to the specific needs and context of smallholder farmers. To incentivize farmers, he noted that to enhance collaboration with the global South, international organizations can do more work. FAO and ESCAP can also organize international programmes to encourage Southern countries to make agreements on CA and develop policies to promote it. Smallholder farmers, he noted, have limited abilities, need small machinery and have limited finance, so programmes and policies have to be suitable to their context.

Mr. Saruth Chan highlighted four points explaining why CA has not been widely adopted: i) lack of appropriate CA equipment; ii) adaptability to make crops green; iii) access to finance; and iv) lack of collaboration and organization between CA farmers and service providers. He noted that several actions have been taken in Cambodia such as the road map on CA and the Sustainable

Intensification (SI) road map, mainstreaming CA in national policy and sub-national policies, having dialogues and meetings with the private sector.

Mr. Jiaoqun Shi noted that FAO has identified a number of opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation to facilitate technical knowhow exchanges between countries and has recognized that CA is an effective system for transforming agri-food systems. He noted that China and India have a lot of information and experience to offer and that South-South and triangular cooperation offers opportunities to exchange knowledge, skills and technologies between policymakers and practitioners.

Ms. Li Yutong, in her closing remarks, reiterated the important role of CA in transforming food systems and how agriculture machinery plays an indispensable role in the development and application of CA. She noted that South-South and triangular cooperation has huge potential for scaling up CA. CSAM will promote agriculture mechanization in the region, including for CA, and provides a platform to exchange regional applications and promote cooperation. CSAM will continue to endeavour to scale up CA through sustainable mechanization solutions and contribute toward transformation of agri-food systems in the region.

Mr. Ye Anping, in his closing remarks, said that CA provides a strong example for agri-food transformation. CA is a farming system that can prevent losses, increase sustainable crop production systems, and is resilient to the effects of climate change. Therefore, it is important to expand in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda. South-South and triangular cooperation can play an important role for more sustainable and inclusive agri-food systems. CA can increase production, income and food security in the region, and the exchange of knowledge and skills is critical for promoting development and tackling food insecurity and poverty; the new FAO South-South and triangular cooperation guidelines for action can help diversify FAO South-South and triangular cooperation partners to better serve members.

49 The “Regional Pilot Project on Mechanization Solutions for Integrated Management of Straw Residue in Asia and the Pacific” has been cited among the 80 good practices in the UNOSCC report *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation in LDCs: From the Istanbul Programme of Action to Achieving Sustainable and Resilient Development*, March 2022.

Thematic solutions forum 7

Social Protection and Health: South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Enhance Capacity to Produce and Deliver Vaccines

Organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and World Health Organization (WHO)

Context

The COVID-19 pandemic, from its outset, raised issues that cut across a range of factors, including trade, transport, logistics, intellectual property, and the framework for and management of innovation and access, including issues related to technology transfer, in tackling public health crises. Open trade in vaccine inputs and capital goods, as well as the smooth transfer of knowledge and knowhow are critically needed to ramp up vaccine production, while transportation and logistics are crucial for the effective distribution of vaccines across and within countries. Given the stark inequalities between and within countries in health systems, as well as in access to vaccines, medicines and diagnostics, a regional approach to localization of research and development, and the production and supply of vaccines, is useful for ensuring affordable and equitable access to essential vaccines.

The panellists deliberated upon regional solutions to enhance affordable and equitable access to essential health products. To present possibilities for regional cooperation to enhance such access, the panellists focused on the practical aspects of regionalization in terms of private sector decision-making, governance, supply chains, and involvement of multiple stakeholders. They noted that vaccines could be made into a public good by making them less excludable, by decentralizing manufacturing, and by building local production capacity. They recognized the critical role that South-South and triangular cooperation has played in responding to and recovering from the global pandemic and that it has proved more relevant than ever for overcoming this unprecedented crisis and building back better.

Moderator

Rupa Chanda, Director, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Presentations

- **Professor Anthony So**, Johns Hopkins University;
- **Professor Frederick Abbott**, Edward Ball Eminent Scholar Professor of International Law, Florida State University, College of Law;

Panelists:

- **Dr. Nakorn Premsri**, Director, National Vaccine Institute (NVI), Ministry of Public Health, Thailand;
- **Prof. Dr. Narendra Kumar Arora**, Executive Director, The International Clinical Epidemiology Network (INCLIN) Trust International, New Delhi;

Concluding remarks

Srinivas Tata, Director, Social Development Division, ESCAP.



Key messages

Professor Anthony So noted that infectious diseases readily cross borders, but the means by which we respond to the pandemic challenges do not. Thus, it is this asymmetry in how resources are globalized that creates this challenge to establishing equity. He further noted that there was stark inequity in how COVID-19 vaccine access was allocated and that this was not a new story in global health, nor a challenge that could be solved at the country level. He further noted that regional collective action can bank on a history of shared economies and trade patterns that give shape to regional alliances, from the inclusive regionalism of ASEAN to mega-regional trade deals, such as the regional comprehensive economic partnership.

Professor Frederick Abbott highlighted that in addition to the inequitable vaccine distribution during COVID-19, there was also a general deterioration in trade relations and a fragmentation of the international trading system. Thus, the global network in terms of supply chains is not moving in a positive direction, and this provides another argument in favour of moving towards localization of production. He provided various options for what the regional production framework might look like, discussed their potential advantages and disadvantages and noted that one of the approaches may be a region that simply provides an incentive structure for private industry essentially to organize itself within the region.

Dr. Nakorn Prem Sri noted that a collective approach within ASEAN Member States is important and a major challenge is developing local production capacity, particularly by building the capacity of the human resources. North-South collaboration is also required for transfer of technology, and consensus-building is critical to address asymmetries.

Prof. Dr. Narendra Kumar Arora reiterated that a collaborative approach is important, with adequate governance to limit destructive competition. India transformed from a vaccine manufacturer to a research and development hub and manufacturing hub for vaccines and medical equipment, such as ventilators and PPE kits, by following a 3-pronged approach: i) engaging North- or South-based academics with industries; ii) investing heavily in infrastructure development; and iii) an effective local political environment.

Dr. Srinivas Tata, in his closing remarks, noted the key role played by countries from the South, especially during COVID-19, in providing vaccines for their populations. There has been great inequity, but a major role was played by countries from the global South. South-South cooperation can be further strengthened and actions and equity are needed to increase access, not just within the manufacturing sector, but within the health system in terms of research and development, as well as academic and scientific cooperation.

Good Practices highlighted by the panellists

Pandemic Influenza Preparedness (PIP) Framework

- The PIP Framework is a global approach for improving and strengthening the sharing of influenza viruses with human pandemic potential; and to increase the access of developing countries to vaccines via partnerships. It commits research institutions and manufacturers receiving biological materials from the global influenza, surveillance and response system to sharing future products for pandemic response in a predictable way.

Towards a Regional Approach to Ensuring Vaccine Access as part of Pandemic Preparedness and Response

- Professor Anthony So presented a synthesis paper, based on the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific-World Health Organization (ESCAP-WHO) Lab to Job project, showcasing how a regional approach to ensuring vaccine access might be supported through South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Such a regional approach must find value-added leverage, building upon ongoing efforts at the country level and drawing upon the existing global architecture for pandemic response. Countries in a region could decide strategically on the stages along the vaccine value chain in which to invest and collaborate. This could be in regional knowledge networks, technology transfer hubs, platforms for regulatory cooperation and harmonization, trade facilitating measures,

strategic pooled procurement of health commodity purchases, and/or financing facilities to ensure equitable allocation of vaccine products.

Regionalizing Pharmaceutical Production and Innovation

- Professor Frederick Abbott presented this paper and discussed conceptual approaches to regionalizing pharmaceutical production and innovation, including what they would look like from a regional organizational standpoint, and the potential advantages and disadvantages. These are:
 - (i) national and regional authorities establishing an incentive framework while allowing private sector “market” forces to determine the direction of investment and assume risks;
 - (ii) geographically concentrated regional hub(s);
 - (iii) distributing responsibility for stages of production along the supply chain to designated countries within the region;
 - (iv) global South collaboration in investment in research and development and production; and
 - (v) promoting regional champions that may trigger greater demand for products and processes throughout the region. Along with regional production, a regional approach to drug regulation would be complementary, although this would be a long-term process.

Key recommendation(s)

- Regional collective action calls for a “Coalition of the Willing” where countries are willing to be part of the regional solution. Countries could cooperate in this coalition and along the vaccine value chain depending on whether they are at greatest risk of limited vaccine access or possess significant domestic vaccine manufacturing capacity. At the same time, non-health factors, including considerations of economic dependency and motivations for assistance among neighbouring countries, must be considered.
- To make vaccines more like public goods, new strategies could be piloted, such as a compensatory liability regime to make vaccines less excludable, and local production-regional pooled procurement to make them less rivalrous.
- There is a need to build a compensatory liability regime (complementary to property regime) to make vaccines less excludable.
- There is a need to regionalize localization of research and development and production capacity to help improve local and regional equitable vaccine supply chains, drawing lessons from the global demand-supply mismatch and non-equitable distribution of vaccines.
- Capacity in human resources must be developed, which would require North-South, South-South, regional and subregional collaborations, especially in technology transfer.
- Destructive competition among countries must be avoided by enhancing governance at the beginning of collaboration.
- As one of the initial steps of a regional approach, the region could consider South-South academic and scientific collaboration, which would help breed trust and confidence at the government and political level and then translate to further collaboration at the manufacturing and industry level.
- Development of related capacities in national health systems is also very important to support manufacturing capacity for vaccines and therapeutics.

Thematic solutions forum 8

Building Multi-Stakeholder Alliances in the Global South to Build Back Better: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future in the World of Work

Organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO)

Context

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, embraces three dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental. Its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) put people and planet at its centre and give the international community a framework for tackling the many challenges confronting humanity, including those in the world of work. The subsequent drive to realize the 2030 Agenda has increased interest in multi-stakeholder partnerships as a means of accelerating essential transformations. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are formal/partially formal alliances of partners involving those from governments and government-driven institutions, UN and multilateral organizations, civil society, and the private sector. Thus, a multi-stakeholder approach is inclusive and participatory, involving actors with relevant knowledge, skills and resources.

The implementation of the SDGs, as well as other internationally agreed development goals, are opportunities for the ILO to further develop its multi-stakeholder approach to adapt to the new world of development cooperation. In this regard, South-South and triangular cooperation is an important means of promoting and implementing the Decent Work Agenda in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth, which aims to “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines decent work as “productive work for

women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity”. In general, work is considered decent when it pays a fair income and guarantees a secure form of employment and safe working conditions. BAPA+40 provided the opportunity to discuss the progress made on South-South and triangular cooperation since the adoption of BAPA and the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The central importance of decent work as both a means and an end to achieving the SDGs makes the ILO a key player in several multi-stakeholder partnerships (MSPs).

Given the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, as part of SDG 17 on Partnership for the Goals, this session highlighted successful multi-stakeholder partnerships from the global South, within the South-South and triangular cooperation framework. Topics included just transitions for youth, fragile-to-fragile cooperation, employment promotion, social protection and skills development. The panellists in this session deliberated on how South-South and triangular cooperation contributed to the work they are implementing, and discussed the comparative advantage of doing that work. The panellists also discussed how South-South cooperation is useful going forward and gave some valuable recommendations. All panellists highlighted the criticality of solidarity and the building of new alliances, through South-South and triangular cooperation, to bring additional resources, skills, and knowhow in order to achieve various development targets.

Moderator

Ms. Rie Vejs-Kjeldgaard, Director of the Department of Partnerships and Field Support. International Labour Organization (ILO)

Panelists:

- **Mr. Helder da Costa**, General Secretary of the g7+ Secretariat;
- **Mr. Anir Chowdhury**, Policy Advisor, Aspire to Innovate (a2i);
- **Mr. Yutong Liu**, Director and Coordinator of ILO-China South-South and triangular cooperation Project;
- **Mr. Santosh Mehrotra**, Visiting Professor, Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath;

Key messages

Mr. Helder da Costa stated that g7+ is the only platform for fragile and post-conflict-affected states to discuss issues among themselves. Its flagship programme, Fragile-to-Fragile (F2F) cooperation as a subset of South-South and triangular cooperation has made many strides in the past decade in addressing the challenges in the development-humanitarian-peace nexus. It is imperative for South-South and F2F cooperation to have constant confidence and trust with little interference from outside.

Mr. Anir Chowdhury highlighted the benefits of the South-South Network for Public Service Innovation (SSN4PSI) that came out of the Prime Minister's concept of technology and innovation as being an enabler for socioeconomic development. This digitalization saved citizens 12 billion work days, \$16 billion, 7.5 billion visits as over 1000 services were being delivered digitally. One of their focus areas is "future of work" with their matchmaking workshops where different countries present their best practices in leveraging innovation and technology to specific areas of socioeconomic transformation. A number of reports showcasing good practices have also been published, and Bangladesh is also one of the largest contributors of good practices to the South-South Galaxy platform.⁵⁰

Mr. Yutong Liu emphasized that skills development and South-South and triangular cooperation are the key objectives of the ILO-China South-South and triangular cooperation project. This project includes reskilling, upskilling and lifelong learning. The ILO-China partnership shares knowledge and modalities to help build networks, as networking is the real mechanism for skills development.

Mr. Santosh Mehrotra observed that between 2016 and 2021, forced labour, particularly child labour, increased, with 50 million people working as forced labour with one quarter being children forced into child labour. Furthermore, rising inequalities in the region, due to COVID-19, have also increased child labour and children have also been taken out of school, creating a newer challenge. Against this backdrop, South-South cooperation becomes critical because children have suffered a setback during COVID-19. Thus, regional knowledge-sharing and learning events have been conducted since before the pandemic. For example, Viet Nam hosted an event, which was attended by the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand.

Dr. Phudit Tejavivaddhana noted that in low income countries, 90 per cent of citizens lack financial protection against catastrophic health expenditures, with South-East Asia being the subregion with highest percentage of impoverished people with no health spending. He acknowledged that with the help of ILO, Thailand has been able to network with Viet Nam, Lao People's Democratic Republic, South Korea, and Myanmar, to achieve the singular vision of supporting impoverished people achieve universal health coverage and attaining SDG 1.3 (Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable) and 3.8 (Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all).

Good practices as highlighted by the panellists

Fragile-to-Fragile (F2F) Cooperation

- After the Coup d'état in Guinea Bissau, Timor-Leste and other fragile states stepped in to help normalize the situation and conduct elections, leading to the first democratically-elected government in 40 years in the country.
- In Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, around 28,000 internally displaced persons were staying at the airport. With only \$1 million aid from fragile countries, these displaced persons were repatriated back to their neighbourhoods.
- A delegation from Yemen visited Rwanda to learn from good practices in terms of e-governance, good governance and peace and reconciliation.

Bangladesh: Aspire 2 Innovate (South-South cooperation examples)

- Bangladesh to Somalia: a matchmaking platform for employers and employees, especially youth. Youth are trained by skills providers with right skill sets and are matched with prospective employers;
- Bangladesh and Türkiye: Bangladesh launched an e-commerce platform for handicraft producers and freelancers who can use this platform to obtain gainful employment. This was piloted for the Rohingya refugees and is now being used for the Syrian refugees in Türkiye;
- Bangladesh and Yemen: Bangladesh is being helped through an e-commerce platform;
- Singapore and Bangladesh: Singapore is helping Bangladesh with vocational and technical innovation, focusing on the fourth industrial revolution (artificial intelligence and big data);
- Through the International ICT Innovation Fund, Bangladesh will not only support other Southern countries with new technologies and innovations, but will fund some of them too.

⁵⁰ For more information, see <https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/home-page/>

ILO-China South-South and triangular cooperation project

- South-South Cooperation Network for Skills Development has 22 members, including Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and China. This network promotes peer-to-peer cooperation and one of its solutions is that schools are able to organize skills training and knowledge-sharing workshops and training programmes.
- An e-commerce training programme has been set up in Lao People's Democratic Republic, with China providing the curriculum and training materials. Over 500 people have been trained under this network.

ASEAN

- The ASEAN Roadmap on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2025. It was developed in consultation among 10 ASEAN members. It takes an intersectoral approach between the 10 countries who have developed a monitoring framework and indicators to monitor child labour. Regular workshops on child labour elimination are held and focus on topics such as child labour elimination and on technical issues such as child labour in agriculture, public procurement and data availability;
- South-Asia Regional Action Plan on Elimination of Child labour.

ILO-ASEAN Institute of Health Development (AIHD)

- Key area of cooperation is CONNECT, a network aiming to enhance abilities, develop strategic policies and the social health protection system of Asia-Pacific countries, through South-South and triangular cooperation, to support the achievement of universal health coverage. Common areas are capacity building, knowledge sharing and awareness raising to empower practitioners in low- and middle-income countries with tools to make meaningful progress toward universal health coverage and achieve social health protection goals;
- ILO partnered with Mahidol University and launched a specialized Master's programme to enhance the capacity of social health practitioners and advance social health protection in Asia. Candidates are from Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam.

Key recommendation(s)

- Political decision is needed to implement policymaking.
- Technical people are needed to enhance skills, share experience and transfer skills for key stakeholders and Member States.
- Breakthrough solutions need to be found. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, Bangladesh learnt from India how to deliver cash support in the form of digital money, using national identification.
- Open source technology needs to be made into digital public goods. The South-South Network for Public Service Innovation is a collaborative platform that allows countries to open up their technology as digital public goods to be used for universal benefits.
- The membership of the South-South Cooperation Network for Skills Development needs to be expanded and training and skills development needs to be increased.
- Curriculum development and online and in-person trainings need to be increased. Mobile applications need development to expand accessibility to training workshops and offer these in local languages.
- Employability must be promoted through an employment application so people can access information about jobs.
- There needs to be deeper involvement of intersectoral and inter-ministerial networks to address child labour, especially in agriculture.
- ILO can facilitate the adoption of the Regional Roadmap for Child Labour in the SAARC and Pacific region.
- With respect to SDG 8.7 (elimination of child labour) there are 26 pathfinder, leader countries addressing child labour, including Nepal, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam, Fiji, Samoa and the work being done in this space can be taken forward as well.
- Knowledge sharing and capacity building are important in the subregion, with solidarity and friendships between people and nations.
- CONNECT partnerships in the ASEAN and Asia-Pacific region must be expanded and enhanced.

Thematic solutions forum 9

Maximizing the Role of South-South Cooperation in Achieving Universal Health Coverage: Showcasing the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Syphilis (EMTCT)

Organized by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, South Africa and the Ibero-American General Secretariat.

Context

Forty years after the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation amongst Developing Countries, and some 30 years after the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), significant progress has been made in protecting the rights of children and improving their well-being. Through the General Assembly Resolution on "Universal Health Coverage: moving together to build a healthier world", Member States committed to take measures to reduce maternal, neonatal, infant and child mortality and morbidity and increase access to quality health-care services for newborns, infants and children, as well as all women before, during and after pregnancy and childbirth, (A/RES/74/2) High-Level Meeting (HLM) on Universal Health Coverage (UHC)/ Political declaration).

Ensuring the health and well-being of vulnerable populations is not only an obligation, but the foundation of sustainable development. Major achievements in many countries of the global South in ensuring universal health coverage, focusing on vulnerable populations and increasing access to quality maternal and child health services, as well as successfully eliminating the transmission of HIV and syphilis from mother to child, speak of the value of South-South and triangular cooperation as an indispensable development tool for achieving the SDGs, scaling up solutions and good practices, achieving universal health and fulfilling the rights of all children and young people. South-South and triangular cooperation is also a standing pillar of the technical cooperation implemented by UNICEF and PAHO/WHO.

Countries in the Caribbean have a history of engaging in technical cooperation with other countries to advance health priorities. One

such technical cooperation includes the elimination of mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and syphilis. In the late 1990 and early 2000s, together with PAHO/WHO, the Bahamas led the Caribbean in the implementation of services for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) and provided a learning environment for the transfer of knowledge and experience to other countries in the Caribbean. The process included the implementation of regional workshops/training and technical cooperation with other countries with the overall aim of establishing and implementing similar programmes based on their realities.

While there has been progress toward universal health coverage in Asia, Africa and Latin America and Caribbean countries,⁵¹ the COVID-19 pandemic has affected this progress, by increasing inequalities which call for the recovery of lost progress and acceleration of efforts on increasing coverage and access to health services, including preventive, curative and specialized services. Against this backdrop, the panellists in this session explored how a greater role for South-South and triangular cooperation can deliver on SDG 3 on good health and well-being, with a focus on universal health coverage (UHC) and the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis (EMTCT). They also explored how South-South cooperation could be maximized to facilitate greater regional and global sharing of experiences, increasing access to solutions, good practices and technical expertise in the areas of UHC and EMTCT, including the role of international organizations.

51 15 countries have been validated by WHO for EMTCT of HIV and/or Syphilis: Cuba, Thailand, Belarus, Moldova (syphilis only), Armenia (HIV only), Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Cayman Islands, Monserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Dominica.

Moderator

Dr. Jos Vandelaer, World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to Thailand.

Panelists

- **Dr. Godfrey Xuereb**, Head, Country and Subregional Coordination, Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO);
- **Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas**, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment of Antigua and Barbuda, and Chair of the Regional Validation Committee (RVC) for the Americas;
- **Ms. Mathilda Ntloana**, Deputy Director Prevention of Mother-to-Child transmission (PMTCT), National Department of Health, South Africa;
- **Ms. Shirley Mark Prabhu**, Health Specialist - Adolescent Health, Mental Health and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO).
- **Ms. Natalia Vargas**, Technical Officer South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Social Cohesion and South-South Cooperation, Ibero-American General Secretariat Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB).

Key messages

Dr. Godfrey Xuereb reflected on the challenges of health systems, which include inadequate human resources, fragmented delivery of health care, limited and inadequate health care financing, and inequitable access to medicine and health technologies. He highlighted the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in the Caribbean, as well as Cuba's successful efforts to share its good practices with other countries and mentor partners based on its experience as being the first country to be validated by the WHO.

Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas shared the EMTCT experience and some of the challenges faced in the Caribbean, and in Antigua and Barbuda for HIV and Syphilis, and described the validation process. She noted how South-South cooperation between countries of the Caribbean facilitated the success in EMTCT of HIV and Syphilis, as well as how triangular cooperation, through alliances with PAHO/WHO, other international organizations, the private sector and civil society, contributed to attaining the elimination targets.

Ms. Mathilda Ntloana described South Africa's prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) programme. She described South Africa's Thembisa model of tracking new paediatric HIV and explained the wide range of interventions implemented in prevention, treatment, strengthening health systems. The final

MTCT rates were found to be significantly reduced and there has been successful implementation of infant polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests at birth, with an uptake of 90 per cent.

Ms. Shirley Mark Prabhu highlighted the successful partnership between Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Public Health Thailand and UNICEF. With the support of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and WHO, EMTCT validation capacity-building workshops were held for several countries to share Thailand's experience on the validation of EMTCT of HIV and syphilis. She noted that political commitment and government investment are critical to achieving elimination.

Ms. Natalia Vargas presented the efforts of the Ibero-American countries in sharing information on South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and noted that, since 2007, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) has collected, reviewed and systematized data and information on South-South cooperation initiatives and shared knowledge through the reports produced by the Secretariat, providing analysis on initiatives of countries aimed at achieving the SDGs.

Good practices as highlighted by the panellists

Caribbean

- The Strategy and Plan of Action for EMTCT of HIV and Syphilis in the Caribbean was approved in 2010 with technical and programmatic support from PAHO/WHO and UNICEF.
- The PMTCT in Antigua and Barbuda began in 1999, and the "Road Map to support the Integration and Decentralization of Services for HIV/STI and TB in primary care" was developed.
- A Maternal and Child Health Committee, a National Validation Committee, and centralized national and regional pharmaceutical procurement have been re-established.
- Data collection and information recording have been revised to better track women, from antenatal care services to delivery.
- HIV and Syphilis primary prevention services have been integrated into MCH services and child health services.
- Public-private partnerships have improved.
- Procurement and supply chain management for medicines were enhanced to ensure the availability of antiretrovirals (ARV) and penicillin.

South Africa

- comprehensive programme structure at the national, provincial, district and sub-district level;
- engagement of multiple stakeholders, National Department of Health (NDOH), Centres for Disease Control (CDC), the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) and National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO), Southern African National Aids Council (SANAC) and community-based structures;
- Funding includes HIV conditional grants, and funding focus areas are drugs, laboratory services, human capacity development.

Thailand

- There have been successful South-South and triangular cooperation modalities where UNICEF supported match-making and coordination with TICA and the Ministry of Public Health, and provided technical assistance for design of curriculum. WHO and UNAIDS supported in capacity-building programmes and TICA hosted and provided financial support for the training programmes.
- Trainings have been put into practice and road maps prepared for EMTCT validation.

Ibero-American General Secretariat

- Data collection on South-South and triangular cooperation shows that from 2007 to 2020, 9,294 initiatives on South-South and triangular cooperation have been documented in the region of which one out of four were on health, most of them on social determinants and health promotion.
- Cuba, Brazil and Argentina stand out as the main South-South and triangular cooperation providers.
- There are 17 specific initiatives on HIV/syphilis and triangular cooperation between Argentina, Uruguay and the United Nations Systems for the prevention of HIV.
- Bilateral cooperation between El Salvador and Brazil has strengthened responses to the HIV-AIDS epidemic.

Key recommendation(s)

- Political commitment must be renewed and transformed into action.
- There is a need to strengthen governance of health systems and increase funding for health systems.
- Silo HIV programmes must be integrated into primary health care to remove stigmatization.
- Health care systems must be strengthened by building human capacity, improving information systems, data collection and data quality, and increasing access to essential medicines.
- EMTCT requires inter-programmatic work with a focus on strengthening Maternal and Child Health.
- Access to diagnoses, treatment and prevention interventions for the four diseases in prenatal care must be expanded.
- Functional information systems need to capture programmatic objectives.
- Human rights, gender equality and the perspective of community participation must be strengthened.
- Matchmaking is critical for reducing inequities and increasing impact by reaching the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, and must be context specific.
- The design of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives needs to take account of different modalities of delivering sustainable technical assistance.
- The New Global Alliance for Ending AIDS in Children by 2030, launched by the United Nations and community leaders in August 2022: Expanding South-South cooperation in EMTCT, will support to accelerate progress.
- There was a general call to action on collaboration for advancing SDG3 with a focus on universal health coverage (UHC) and the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis (EMTCT).

Thematic solutions forum 10

Local Transformative Finance is Development Finance: SDG Cities and Unlocking Subnational Finance for Sustainable Development and Transformation in the Global South

Organized by United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

“It’s the local governments which are the engines of change, the engines of the transformation”.

Mr. Paul Martin, Senior Regional Advisor for UNCDF, South Asia

Context

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic in an inclusive manner require localized approaches and structural transformation of towns and cities to become resilient and sustainable growth centres. This is particularly relevant for the least developed countries (LDCs) where the lack of productive, service-oriented infrastructure in urban and rural areas, as well as sustainable flows of capital, hamper local development and economic transformation.

The structural transformation necessary for sustainable development in developing countries around the globe is to address three overlapping transitions. The productive transition requires increasing productive capacities through a territorial approach to local economic development and the creation of value added urban/rural linkages leading to structural transformation. The green transition requires sustainable city planning and zoning, developing green urban food systems, land-use management, circular water management, and clean and smart energy solutions. The urban transition requires the implementation of the New Urban Agenda that transforms cities into inclusive, sustainable and resilient places with everyone benefitting from economic growth, access to transport, housing, water and sanitation and green spaces.

To this end, attention must be refocused toward subnational finance. However, cities have high unmet financing needs for addressing various developmental challenges. Plugging this financing gap requires the leveraging of a broad range of

financial resources towards sustainable outcomes, including the recovery from COVID-19. In this context, UNCDF, as the UN Hub for Subnational Finance, and UN-Habitat as the UN Agency for Cities, have joined forces through the SDG Cities Global Initiative to help cities reach their unmet financing needs for sustainable development, by deploying policy and technical expertise and a number of financing instruments including loans, guarantees, grants and municipal bonds, etc.⁵²

The panellists in this session shared good practices and solutions for accessing innovative finance and blended finance instruments to respond to development challenges and sustainable infrastructure needs. The session demonstrated how the various financing vehicles and results of this joint UNCDF/UN-Habitat offering have strengthened local revenue, improved public financial management, and improved creditworthiness and access to debt finance and blended capital for SDG impact projects. The session advocated for and raised awareness on the need for local governments to access capital markets, strengthen fiscal decentralization, public financial management and own-source revenue management to catalyse investments towards achieving the 2030 Agenda at the local level.

52 For more information, see <https://www.sdg-cities.org>

Moderator

Ms. Jenifer Bukokhe Wakhungu, Deputy Director of Local Transformative Finance, the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

Panelists

- **Mr. David Jackson**, Director of Local Transformative Finance, UNCDF;
- **Mr. Michael Agyemang**, Director of Planning, Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly, Ghana;
- **H.E. Dr. Sok Lu**, Governor of Battambang Province, Royal Government of Cambodia;
- **Ms. Noraine Roslan**, Mayor of Subang Jaya, President of Klang Municipal Council, Malaysia;
- **Mr. Maumar Vebry**, Programme Manager for Climate Change, European Union Delegation to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- **Mr. Paul Martin**, Senior Regional Advisor for UNCDF, South Asia

Closing remarks

Mr. Neil Kore, United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), in charge of SDG 11

Key messages

Mr. David Jackson, in his opening remarks, noted that the world is facing three transitions simultaneously: i) a productive transition where in order to lift people out of poverty, productivity needs to increase through job creation and local economic development; ii) a green transition where, due to the climate crises, a carbon-based approach to economic development is not possible; and iii) an urban transition in an increasingly urbanized world. Against this backdrop, local government finance is the most effective vehicle for achieving development objectives.

Mr. Michael Agyemang noted that as the second largest city in Ghana, Kumasi faces a number of urban mobility challenges, such as inadequate terminals and stopping places for commercial vehicles, lack of alternative parking lots for private vehicles, encroachment onto streets and walkways of hawkers and traders, traffic congestion, bad road conditions and air pollution. He described Kumasi's three-pronged approach and highlighted that UNCDF has the capacity, within the South-South cooperation framework, to support and leverage private investments and tap into capital markets to help cities close the huge infrastructure gaps and achieve meaningful impacts on the achievement of SDGs.

Dr. Sok Lu highlighted that Battambang province is well known for its rice production, and is a role model of government policy, reports and programmes, including smart city special planning, and also for public health, education and its climate change programme. He noted how the province is susceptible to the impacts of climate change, especially flooding and drought, and how the province has collaborated with UNCDF in a local and national programme titled Local Government Climate Change Programme, with nine districts benefitting from this collaboration. UNCDF, through South-South and triangular cooperation, has helped to bring private sector capital to provide service on operation and maintenance.

Ms. Noraine Roslan noted that city planning requires the integration of the national plan, the state-level plan and the local plan into a strategic plan for the city that is aligned with the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, such as their Integrated Coastal Management programme. She highlighted that good planning needs good data and data analysis, and there

is a lack of data and data integration in Malaysia. Finally, she noted that Malaysia depends on multilateral mechanisms for financing, with education, health and defence finance coming from the Federal Government, while the local authority mostly focuses on city management, cleanliness and urban services.

Mr. Muamar Vebry noted that a piecemeal approach is not viable. For transformative financing, scalability is essential. The costs of transactions in conducting South-South cooperation need to be reduced, and there is a need to ensure that private sector money can be leveraged and made profitable for the private sector as well. Knowledge exchange in the start-up ecosystems, especially between Bangkok and Jakarta, can be expanded. There is a need to learn from other urban investment success stories in infrastructure development and new ways of breaking out of the classical approach need to be developed to promote breakthrough urban investments, such as utilization of blockchain tech for asset localization.

Mr. Paul Martin emphasized that local government finance is actually development finance and a systems-based development approach, or a whole-of-government approach, is being used to create and change the financing architecture for local governments. Such structural change is being seen in the form of agglomerations around cities, such as Bangkok, where automotive has been an agglomeration industry. National governments cannot transform a country; local governments are doing that.

Mr. Neil Kore, in his closing remarks, noted that finding financing or capital is not for the sake of making profit, rather it is about city management, sustainability and improving lives for citizens in cities. The first premise is to look for innovative ways to find financing to help with identifying, not just bankable projects, but sustainable projects. Having a one-stop centre, a place where all these issues can be brought together in order to facilitate actions, is also important. A key ingredient for the success of any projects in any investments is local financing and that all of these things must be translated into action. He reiterated that UN-Habitat and UNCDF stand ready to support city development.

Good practices as highlighted by the panellists

Kumasi, Ghana: Transport infrastructure supported by UNCDF

- The approach is three-pronged: i) introduce a Bus Rapid Transport system; ii) develop a 2,500 capacity multi-story car park; iii) redevelop satellite markets.
- A proposal has been submitted to the International Municipal Investment Fund (IMIF), established by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), UNCDF. The fund makes direct funding available to local authorities.
- The city applied for support under the Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) implemented by UNCDF. UNCDF is currently supporting the city of Kumasi to go to the bond market to raise funds for the delivery of the projects and to secure investors through PPA arrangements.

Battambang Province, Cambodia: Local Government Climate Change Programme with UNCDF

- The Local Government Climate Change Programme has helped to repair roads, elevating them to protect against flooding.
- There have been trainings and knowledge sharing on the environment, and learning about agricultural techniques for people living in remote areas. The education system is being structured to promote local agricultural production.
- The main canal has been restored and enlarged.
- A new adaptation project has been launched in a remote area, with South Korea and UNCDF, to improve water supply by providing the locals with clean, affordable, safe water.

European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) and UNCDF

- A 5-year project has been implemented with eight ASEAN countries, providing technical assistance, promoting technology and piloting projects in ASEAN Member States within the South-South cooperation framework.

UNCDF

- In Cambodia, UNCDF is working closely with the national Government to create more physical space by optimizing the budget allocations. Work is also being done in the domestic capital markets with different actors, including the regulators, and with different financiers and financial sectors of not only the domestic financial markets, but also the regional markets to try to form groups of investors and solutions and coalitions to drive this new architecture forward.
- UNCDF is working on the regulatory base with the national governments to make sure there is harmonization of regulation, especially around city investments and local government investments.
- ASEAN projects are being implemented on behalf of the European Union in the three transitions: productive; green; and urban transitions.

Key recommendation(s)

Five elements of the global financial ecosystem need to be reformed:

- Inter-governmental fiscal transfers should be within countries, and move from central to local governments.
- Domestic capital market development is needed to recycle domestic savings into local infrastructure. This does not increase the national debt burden, because there is no borrowing from abroad.
- Own source revenue needs to be mobilized to use and capitalize the growing tax base of cities. Central governments need to free up cities to creatively collect as much revenue as they can.
- City-friendly investment funds need to understand cities and support cities in developing financeable projects that can repay the financing stream and so are sustainable and transformative.
- There is a need to find city-friendly guarantee facilities by defraying any sovereign liability, unlocking domestic banks, and issuing domestic bonds on domestic stock exchanges.
 - Revenues must be diversified and businesses and development permits must be managed diligently so that they become the revenue source.
 - For an inclusive, safe and resilient society, small capacity-building and community empowerment programmes are more effective than larger programmes and dialogues in broad-based platforms.

Thematic solutions forum 11

The role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Strengthening Social Protection Systems and Access to Child Allowances Especially in the Context of COVID-19 Recovery

Organized by the Governments of Thailand, Brazil and South Africa in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Context

The COVID-19 pandemic has had devastating impacts on marginalized groups, particularly children. Even before the pandemic, children were twice as likely to live in poverty as adults, and a staggering 385 million children, or one in five, are struggling to survive on less than \$1.90 a day. Furthermore, poverty cannot solely be measured in terms of income: over 660 million children are estimated to be living in multidimensionally poor households, again with poverty rates consistently higher than adults.

Social protection is crucial in protecting and empowering children living in poverty. Nevertheless, millions of children globally are not covered by social protection, with only one in three receiving some form of child or family benefits. While challenges remain, important advancements are being secured. Efforts to tackle child poverty and address the policy imbalance in social protection over the last two decades have included the adoption of cash transfers across low- and middle-income countries as central elements of their poverty reduction and social protection strategies. Elsewhere, established child benefits, including Universal Child benefits (UCBs), are a cornerstone of national welfare systems. Child benefits are one

of the most widely used social protection programmes for children and provide direct financial relief for families in the form of cash or tax transfers and have been proved able to drive down poverty rates and help children flourish.

Out of 180 countries for which information is available, 108 (60 per cent) have some type of child or family benefit anchored in national legislation. These trends have been accompanied by a growing body of evidence on the effectiveness of social protection in promoting children's and wider social outcomes. Recent cash transfer reviews underscore how – if appropriately designed and as part of wider social policy – they can significantly impact both children's intermediate outcomes, such as expenditure on children's goods, school attendance and access to health care, and final outcomes, such as cognitive development and health.

In this session, the panellists from Thailand, South Africa and Brazil shared experiences from their countries where comprehensive social protection programmes that benefit children and their families have been successfully implemented.

Opening remarks

Mr. Cheevindh Nathalang, Deputy Director-General, Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA).

Panelists

- **Ms. Kyungsun Kim**, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Thailand Representative;
- **Andrés Franco**, Deputy Director, Multilateral Partnerships, UNICEF;
- **Ms. Jatuporn Rojanaparnich**, Director-General of the Department of Children and Youth, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand;
- **Mr. Linton Mchunu**, Director-General, National Department of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, South Africa;
- **Mr. Khethani Hlongwa**, Director of Social Policy, National Department of Social Development, Ministry of Social Development, South Africa
- **Ms. Teresa Amélia Arruda Barroso**, General Coordinator of Public Facilities, Ministry of Citizenship Brazil.

Closing remarks

Ambassador Ms. Maria Luiza Lopes da Silva, Deputy Director, Brazilian Cooperation Agency.

Key messages

Mr. Cheevindh Nathalang noted that TICA has leveraged South-South and triangular cooperation to turn the COVID-19 crises into an active achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by addressing four security dimensions: food; health; jobs; and energy and environmental security. He highlighted that youth deserve fundamental rights to grow and reach their full potential, therefore child protection and universal child benefits are priority areas that need to be put high on the development agenda in every country.

Ms. Kyungsun Kim gave a comprehensive overview of how COVID-19 affected children, with more than 140 million children falling back into poverty, and an estimated 1.3 billion children not being covered by social protection. With the concentration of poverty in children being a consistent and concerning global phenomenon, she noted that social protection is critical as a key stabilizer in times of crises and a long-term solution to ensure sustainable and inclusive recovery.

Ms. Jatuporn Rojanaparnich described Thailand's Child Support Grant (CSG), and noted that CSG mothers have vulnerabilities including unemployment, single or teenage mothers, lack of housing and limitation in communication. She reiterated Thailand's commitment to initiate social protection for children and families so that it is more appropriate in terms of age and context. She hoped to strengthen cooperation and increased investment in early childhood was a key mission of the Government in long-term

sustainable development.

Mr. Linton Mchunu noted that 6 out of 10 children aged from 0 to 17 years are multidimensionally poor and South Africa suffers from high structural inequalities, and high vulnerabilities to diseases, especially HIV and AIDS. Thus, the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP) are to eradicate absolute poverty, reduce unemployment and reduce inequality. The NDP includes the care dependency grant and the foster child grant in addition to the child support grant.

Ms. Teresa Amélia Arruda Barroso noted that the emergency aid provided during COVID-19 was the largest income transfer implemented, with \$59 billion going to 68 million beneficiaries. Some of the biggest challenges were allocating the extraordinary amount of resources, identifying the millions of informal workers through intensive use of technology, and the closure of social assistance centres due to social isolation measures.

Ms. Maria Luiza Lopes da Silva stated that solutions must be prepared for a longer term, and in an effort to protect children, we must address a wider scope of issues, such as child violence and abuse. For example, Brazil shared a bilateral project with São Tomé and Príncipe to address such violence and abuse, where Brazil shared its legislation and other measures to protect child victims.

Good practices as highlighted by the panellists

Thailand: Child Support Grant (CSG)

- This is a non-contributory and non-conditional programme targeting children up to 6 years of age.
- Over time there has been an increase in the annual income threshold, cash transfers, parent skills trainings and monitoring for child development.
- There has been an improvement in infant nutrition status and access to vital medical and social services for beneficiary families.
- Through this programme, women have been empowered with potential longer-term productive gains.
- CSG workflows have been digitalized for easy accessibility.
- Multisector cooperation and management information systems have been developed with the technical and financial support of UNICEF.

South Africa: Child Support Grant Programme

- This is the largest grant system in the country with \$4.6 billion in the 2022/2023 financial year, with 13 million beneficiaries.
- Children under the age of 18 are eligible. Children must not be under the care of a state institution, they must live with their primary caregiver and up to 6 children are supported if they are not living with their biological parents.

- CSG involves a wide-ranging spectrum of social and economic impacts which start with reducing poverty, improving social cohesion, increasing livelihood, risk management, building economic resilience, increasing human capital and achieving economic growth.

Brazil: Auxilio Brasil Programme and Early Childhood Programme

- Auxilio Brasil has 23.5 million children (from 0 to 17 years of age) beneficiaries. It supports families to find a way out of the programme through social and productive inclusion benefits, such as school sports aid, junior scientific initiation scholarship, child care support for working parents of children aged from 0 to 4 years, and urban and rural productive inclusion.
- The Early Childhood Programme provides care for child development applied via in-person visits by social assistance workers to Single Registry families. Since 2017, 70 million household visits have been conducted to 1.5 million families.

Key recommendation(s)

- Political will is essential.
 - Recovery efforts must take a long-term view for providing social protection with new ways of thinking and financing to scale up the high impact interventions and ensure the effective use of resources.
 - There is a need to strengthen the linkages of the CSG data with other databases related to children and families.
 - There is a need to build knowledge and understanding and raise public awareness about their rights continuously and through many channels.
 - The universal child support grant must be expanded.
- There is a need to increase investments through grants as they actually work, even if results are seen later.
 - Empirical evidence has proved that the impact of grants is developmental and does not create dependency.
 - Integration of approaches across sectors works, as it leads to multiple benefits and investment in digital technology is key to ensuring that integration happens.
 - UNICEF and other agencies can initiate other projects, incentivize countries to work together by sharing information in international forums, but also work actively in more direct projects, through training and study visits.

Side Events

07

Side event

Harnessing the Power of the Atom: South-South and Triangular Cooperation and the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Science and Technology

Organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Vichai Puripunyanich presentation on South-South cooperation and food security

Tran Bich Ngoc presentation on triangular cooperation as an IAEA Collaborating Centre

Francisco Arias Isalza presentation on microplastics in Latin America

Shaukat Abdulrazak presentation on human health in Africa

Vinesh Kumar presentation on South-South cooperation and Small Island Developing States

Adnan Aliani presentation on energy security in Asia and the Pacific

Xiaojun Grace Wang presentation on good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation

Welcome remarks

Jane Gerardo Abaya, Director, Division for Asia and the Pacific, Department of Technical Cooperation, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Opening remarks

- **Hua Liu**, Deputy Director-General, Head of the Department of Technical Cooperation, IAEA;
- **Thani Thongphakdi**, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Thailand.

Panelists

- **Vichai Puripunyanich**, Expert (Nuclear Science), Nuclear Technology Research and Development Center, Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology of Thailand;
- **Tran Bich Ngoc**, Executive Deputy Director-General, Viet Nam Atomic Energy Agency, Ministry of Science and Technology, Viet Nam;
- **Francisco Arias Isalza**, Director-General of Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR), Colombia;
- **Shaukat Abdulrazak**, Director, Division for Africa, Department of Technical Cooperation, IAEA;
- **Vinesh Kumar**, Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji;
- **Adnan Aliani**, Director, Strategy and Programme Management Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);
- **Xiaojun Grace Wang**, Head of Delegation, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

Closing remarks

Jane Gerardo Abaya, Director, Division for Asia and the Pacific, Department of Technical Cooperation, IAEA

Side event

Overcoming Challenges and Exploring Opportunities for Sustainable Energy Transition Through South-South Cooperation

Organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE); the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Context

The COVID-19 pandemic has created new development challenges for the global South. The war in Ukraine has added a new dimension to these challenges. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition (lower and upper middle-income countries) have been hit hard by these compounded crises. In addition to the food and finance sectors, the issue of energy pricing and security is among the most serious challenges in the current context. There are several threats emerging from the protracted COVID-19 crisis and continuing geopolitical crisis.

Disruptions in energy supplies are hitting the most vulnerable populations in the global South. The issue of energy security has come to the fore of energy policies in many countries. Reduced energy demand during the COVID-19 pandemic led to reduced investments in the energy sector, which are proving difficult to bring back to pre-COVID-19 levels. Many governments see increasing the share of fossil fuels as an immediate response to the energy crisis, which jeopardizes the overarching long-term objectives of mitigating climate change and achieving the targets of SDG7 – affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.

However, following the COVID-19 pandemic, many developing countries and countries with economies in transition are facing common challenges to problems created by the pandemic. They need to restart economic growth while ensuring that progress towards sustainability and climate goals remain on track. Their experience in confronting these challenges can be valuable for many countries in the South and can serve as good examples of South-South cooperation. For example, many countries and subnational jurisdictions have developed SDG 7 Road Maps, with the support of UNESCAP. This work is now being expanded and replicated in other countries across South-East Asia, the Caucasus and Central Asia through a joint project undertaken by UNESCAP and UNECE. It is critical that these Road Maps include strategies to manage the current crises unfolding.

Among other solutions being developed are efforts to strengthen the capacity and resilience of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in developing countries and economies in transition to mitigate the economic and social impact of the global COVID-19 crisis. The work that started needs to continue to alleviate current problems to bring the Sustainable Development Agenda back on track. Sustainable energy transition is critical for this. Countries of the global South need assistance in strengthening their energy policies build back better from COVID-19 and may benefit from exchange of existing experience in other countries. They may also benefit from exchange of experiences in overcoming the consequences of rising energy and fuel prices, problems with access to energy sources, pathways to achieving SDG 7 and in finding lasting and sustainable solutions for energy transition.

In this session, the key question for discussion between the panellists related to the COVID-19 crisis and recovery was: what are the challenges encountered, and practical solutions identified during the Covid-19 pandemic that can be used widely in countries of the South with respect to improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy? How have countries managed to align the economic recovery process with sustainable development, particularly by tapping into the economic growth and job creation potential of sustainable energy? What role for South-South cooperation exists, given the potential to build on available expertise within the subregion(s) to overcome these challenges and exchange experience in solutions that can be utilized and scaled up?



Moderator

Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser, Sustainable Energy Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

Opening remarks

- **Mr. Kaveh Zahedi**, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), Deputy Executive Secretary;
- **Mr. Mounir Tabet**, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), Deputy Executive Secretary;
- **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin**, UNECE Deputy Executive Secretary.

Panelists

- **Ms. Margalita Arabidze**, Head of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Policy and Sustainable Development Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia;
- **Ms. Shada El-Sharif**, Investment Priority Lead, Prime Minister's Delivery Unit, Jordan;
- **Mr. Hussein Mogaibel**, Global Lead Energy Specialist, Economic and Social Infrastructure Development, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB);
- **Ms. Tatiana Vedeneva**, President, Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development (CREEED), Kyrgyzstan;
- **Mr. Vitaly Bekker**, Senior Energy Expert, UNECE and UNESCAP;
- **Ms. Radia Sedaoui**, Chief, Energy Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, ESCWA;

Closing remarks

Mr. Hongpeng Liu, Director, Energy Division, ESCAP.

Opening remarks

Mr. Kaveh Zahedi

- The energy transition is one of the most important shifts that humanity must make, since the exploitation of fossil fuels is pushing the global climate system past its safe limits and closer to disastrous climate tipping points.
- The fossil fuel crises has brought unpredictability of supply, increase in costs and economic instability; to respond to the crises, the transition to clean emissions, and free, efficient, universally accessible and affordable energy, must be accelerated.
- The pathway out of the crises is through clean energy and the Asia-Pacific region must play a decisive role in the energy transition, as it is a major population centre of the world and is responsible for half of the global energy consumed annually and nearly 60 per cent of fuel-related carbon emissions.
- Many countries in the Asia-Pacific region, from India to Viet Nam, have shown how they can scale up clean energy and unlock its benefits, not only to address climate change but to create new jobs and economic growth, while bolstering energy security.
- Many Asia-Pacific countries have set targets to reach net zero emissions, and promising developments have been seen in areas like green hydrogen, electric mobility, and cross-border renewable energy megaprojects. However, collectively the region is not on track to reach the SDG 7 targets of energy, efficiency of renewable energy or clean cooking.
- If the targets are to be met then countries must equip each other with the technologies, knowhow, policies and finance needed across the region.
- ESCAP's work rests on three pillars: research and analysis; inter-governmental coordination and in-country, technical assistance and capacity-building, and for these efforts South-South cooperation is indispensable. In order to scale up successes and avoid some of the policy pitfalls, it is essential to tap into experiences and lessons learnt from developing countries facing similar challenges.
- The Committee on Energy and the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum that is supported by ESCAP, enables developing countries to work together towards a regional sustainable energy agenda on priorities such as closing the gap on SDG 7, and agreeing on a long-term plan to connect the region's power grids to integrate more renewable energy and electricity.

Mr. Mounir Tabet

- The COVID-19 pandemic slowed the progress of the Arab region's energy transition just as it had begun to gather momentum. This led to a GDP loss estimated at \$150 billion and drove millions into poverty. Furthermore, the war in Ukraine exacerbated the Arab region's fragility, particularly in terms of energy and food security, and for the vulnerable and least protected.
- Many governments in the Arab region, especially net energy importing countries, put short-term energy security ahead of sustainability and the crisis forced public debt in the Arab

region to climb to a historic high of \$1.4 trillion.

- Thus, cooperation amongst the global South is even more pertinent and necessary for mobilizing financing and sharing solutions and resources. To this end, ESCWA has partnered with Member States, development agencies and the private sector to optimize synergy, coherence and cooperation in promoting the sustainable energy transition as part of its larger collective objective of achieving the SDGs and 2030 Agenda and ensuring that no one is left behind.
- With Swedish support, ESCWA has also been promoting and implementing solar energy field projects with the aim of helping to reduce the cost of energy, while developing skills and knowledge relating to income-generating activities among the beneficiaries and supporting entrepreneurial development while advancing women's empowerment.
- Most of ESCWA efforts are focused on advising Arab countries on available instruments for financing the sustainable energy transition and building the capacity of Member States to secure funding for upscaling, energy efficiency tracking and monitoring SDG 7, as well as integrating the implementation of related energy projects and energy efficiency projects. This has led to the launch of a toolkit that provides financing instruments for building energy efficiency which can be used to guide the development of specific instruments in the Arab region.
- To facilitate cooperation, ESCWA has launched a climate SDG debt swap donor nexus initiative. This is an innovative financing mechanism to deliver on the SDGs and the Paris Agreement commitments, and to advance North-South and triangular cooperation.

Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin

- The issue of access to affordable and modern energy is a priority for all countries, not only in the global South, but also in the developed countries in Europe, North America, and other parts of the world. Thus, the main question is how to solve the immediate challenges of availability of sufficient energy resources and remain on track for a longer-term goal of mitigating climate change and achieving the SDG 7 targets.
- In this regard, cooperation on energy issues among the three sister regional commissions, that co-organized this session (ESCAP, ESCWA and UNECE), has a long and productive history. While the circumstances and needs of countries in the three regions may be significantly different, the exchange of ideas, knowledge, expertise and best practices has proved valuable for all.
- An example of UNECE work in this area is the implementation of a recently completed project, "Global Initiative towards post-COVID-19 resurgence of the MSME sector". Under this project, guidelines and best practices were developed for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in areas such as resilience and progress towards a circular economy in sustainable resource management; critical raw material (CRM) supply chain solutions; delivering energy efficient products and services; and providing renewable energy equipment. The important feature of this work was developing nationally

customized guidelines and best practices based on the regional report, while taking national conditions into account. Officials and experts from different countries also had an opportunity to learn from each other through the training workshops and seminars that were organized.

- South-South and global cooperation is needed to produce a sustainable critical raw materials dashboard to inform policymakers and civil society and provide guidelines for the involvement of MSMEs and other stakeholders in the critical raw material supply chain.

- The UNECE is developing the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) which has been pilot-tested for CRM applications. It serves as a global framework for CRM supply, increasing circularity in the use of critical raw materials and increasing the social contract on sustainability.
- UNECE is also an implementing partner of a recently started project, “Strengthening energy policies of Countries with Special Needs to build back better from COVID-19”, which is led by ESCAP, which has extensive and valuable experience in developing SDG 7 road maps.

Key messages

Ms. Margalita Arabidze

- In 2020, ESCAP published the report “Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda: SDG 7 Roadmap for Georgia”, which proposed that Georgia’s energy efficiency needs to be boosted and through the proposed improvements, Georgia’s energy security can be further strengthened as the measures will reduce its reliance on natural gas imports. The report proposed that:
 - The levelized cost of electricity from renewable power technologies has experienced a steep decline, becoming economically more competitive than the conventional fossil-fuel-based technologies. Georgia may leverage its abundant renewable energy potential, specifically hydropower, to provide clean electricity for its neighbouring countries.
 - Georgia’s emission trajectories in the current policy scenario appear promising, although they fail to achieve the unconditional Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) target by a small margin. Nevertheless, the adoption of energy efficiency measures and increasing the renewable power share will not only increase the renewable energy share in Total Final Energy Consumption (TFEC), but also reduce emissions to close to the level needed to achieve the conditional NDC target. Indirectly, Georgia would strengthen its energy security by reducing natural gas imports.
 - Georgia may leverage its huge renewable energy resources for clean electricity exports.
 - The proposed energy transition presents opportunities for reducing economic risks, both for public and private investment, and identifies areas for financial savings in the energy sector that can support the recovery of other critical sectors, such as the health sector.
- Another important report was published by UNECE, “Guidelines and best practices for micro, small and medium enterprises in Georgia in delivering energy efficiency products in providing renewable energy equipment”. The report proposed a few recommendations:
 - The Government should prepare clear guidance for companies on the available support provided, such as how to access various financial instruments, whom to contact for questions, who are the national bodies involved in funds disbursement, what is the role of commercial banks and what are their obligations, etc

- The Government should introduce temporary tax waivers for MSMEs at national, regional or local level to free businesses from any tax obligations for a temporary period.
- The Government should include renewable energy (RE) and energy efficiency (EE) enterprises in existing national programmes to support MSMEs through grants, loans, and loan guarantees;
- The Government should support the establishment of EE and RE MSME Clusters. For small and start-up businesses, being in a cluster near competitors and related industries may provide opportunities for faster growth, recognition, and status within the market, establishment of supply chain networks, better access to information, increased possibilities for addressing common problems and joint development of strategy and plans on how to overcome them.
- Explore and start an immediate process of association/ clustering in order to increase competitiveness and become more attractive for the end-users of EE and RE products and services.
- Develop a socially-oriented financial strategy for the crisis and post-crisis period that guarantees long-term sustainability of the business operation and also leverages company profit and allocates some additional funds to the employees.

Ms. Shada El-Sharif

- Jordan imports around 89 per cent of its energy and, as of 2020 and with the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of accelerating energy security became a priority for the country. The pandemic also presented some unanticipated opportunities, such as the reduced dependency on individual modes of transportation which resulted in energy efficiency in the transportation sector.
- Jordan had recently issued its volunteer national review that included a stock-take of progress on relevant SDGs, including SDG 7, and it is important to note that Jordan’s water and energy sectors are inextricably linked; water pumping takes up about 15 per cent of power needs in Jordan. So the increased needs for water during COVID-19 translated to increased energy use.
- A key pillar of Jordan’s energy strategy is self-sufficiency,

which means diversification of energy sources, specifically natural gas and renewable energy, as a strategic driver so that Jordan is not dependent on a single source of energy. The aim is to increase the share of local resources by 2030 to reach around 48 per cent energy efficiency.

- Jordan is in the process of updating its National Energy Action Plan and regional interconnection forms an important aspect of Jordan's energy project.
- Jordan is also undertaking policy development work under the climate change and green economy agenda. The Green Growth Action Plan has energy as one of the 16 sectors with a focus on policy and investment projects. In the lead-up to COP 26, Jordan accelerated climate action and raised its ambition from 14 to 31 per cent reduction, with the caveat that 26 per cent of this is conditional on international support.
- Jordan has two frameworks that guide its economic recovery: short- and long-term.
 - The short-term framework came out shortly after COVID-19 and is called the Government Economic Priorities Programme. One of the outcomes of the plan was Jordan's restructuring of the electricity tariff with the aim of reducing the burden on vulnerable and low-income groups and better distributing the load of the energy cost across the population.
 - The long-term framework is the Economic Modernization Vision, which highlights the importance of energy efficiency, sustainability, security, and reliability. One of the main drivers in this framework is the green economy growth driver which is based on the crucial assumption that delivery is going to be based on partnerships and investments from the private sector. This is not a purely government-owned plan, rather the Government is partnering with the private sector, with the aim that non-governmental organizations will deliver a very ambitious target of \$41 billion in investments by 2030 and 1,000,000 jobs.
 - There has been a shift of the green agenda to the centre of government planning tools, supported by a number of regulatory frameworks, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency law, the climate change by-law, the PPP law, the solid waste management framework law. This framework operates in all the six sectors: water, energy, agriculture, tourism, transport and waste, but access to finance is a key challenge.
 - An Energy Efficiency Tool has been developed with ESCWA.
 - Jordan's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Fund has already funded thousands of institutions, homes, schools, hospitals, hotels with these systems and is expanding its programmes.
 - Through a collaboration with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the Green Climate Fund, a green economy financing facility was launched in Jordan.
 - In terms of South-South cooperation, regional interconnection projects remain very strategic for Jordan and the countries of the region. They improve stability and the ability of countries to expand the renewable energy. Related to the water-energy-food nexus concept,

countries with space to produce clean energy, such as Jordan, can collaborate with countries with more abundant water resources to complement one another - and strengthen each other's security.

Mr. Hussein Mogaibel

- One of the main challenges for energy transition is the development of energy. While some countries have sector policies, strategies on implementation, and have skills, expertise and capacities, other countries do not. So countries need the support of each other.
- Another challenge for transition is related to the involvement of the private sector. Energy transition is a high investment sector so there is a need to have the proper regulations and policies that will allow and attract foreign investment and the private sector. South-South cooperation is needed to attract foreign investment in countries that lack the proper investment environment and to help them promote proper regulations and strategies.
- It is also important to prepare bankable projects that will promote the private sectors to invest.
- Technical financial support is also required, so there is a need to develop a new financing mechanism. IsDB and countries in the global South have experience of issuing green bonds, and this experience must be shared to help other countries to mobilize the investment and resources.
- IsDB believes that South-South cooperation has proved very effective as a development tool to mitigate the impact of the energy crisis and for sustainable development.
- The Reverse Linkage modality is a technical cooperation mechanism enabled by IsDB, that has three main players: the service providers, which are countries that have high expertise and help those who are lacking; the service recipients; and IsDB, which plays the role of moderator in linking these countries by analysing the strength, skills and capacity available in the global South to identify the gaps and the needed country in this specific area. As the moderator in this linkage, IsDB also covers the cost related to the logistics, conducting training programmes, travelling, printing materials.
- IsDB is working on a programme called Renewable Energy Cooperation Programme in Africa. Still at an early stage and not yet launched, this is a \$1 billion programme, targeting \$100 million from private sector investments.

Ms. Tatiana Vedeneva

- Kyrgyzstan is a small country which shares borders with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and China. A lot of the supply for renewable energy comes from China.
- Kyrgyzstan has benefited from two projects: "Guidelines and best practices for enterprises working in renewable energy and energy efficiency" and the ESCAP G7 Road Map.
 - With regard to the renewable energy market, the lockdowns due to COVID-19 exhausted the resources of all enterprises, and medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs), in particular women, were affected the hardest. First because they were not able to work due to the closure

of schools and the high unemployment of women who were working in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector. The sector of small and medium-sized enterprises contributes about 40 per cent of GDP, but due to COVID-19, GDP decreased by about 10 per cent overall in 2020.

- The Government provided some anti-crisis measures, such as, extension of reporting deadlines, eliminating penalties for non-payment of taxes, postponed payment of taxes, and suspension of inspection by state regulatory bodies, as well as some financial assistance.
- One recommendation that the Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Development (CREED) provided to the MSMEs is to build associations to create ways to reach the Government to provide them with their views on the kind of measures they need.
- CREED recommended that the Government establish clear guidelines for how to access not just governmental help but also from international organizations, either electronically or in other forms.
- CREED also recommended that the Government concentrate on creating an enabling environment for start-ups, especially women's start-ups, and specifically in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- The *SDG 7 Road Map*, supported by ESCAP, has given the Ministry of Energy and the Government a blueprint for creating a strategy to be able to set goals in renewable energy and green development.
- The Road Map gives good recommendations on addressing priority areas of clean cooking and clean heating, and transport, which are some of the largest CO₂ emitters in Kyrgyzstan.
- South-South cooperation is very helpful, especially the exchange of expertise, and Kyrgyzstan is looking for new partners in different countries from which to import renewable energy.

Mr. Vitaly Bekker

- The report "Guidelines and best practices for micro-, small and medium enterprises in delivering energy-efficient products

Concluding Remarks

The discussions at this side event can be summarized in the following important points:

- Regulatory and policy development is important to support energy transition, because it involves transferring from an existing to a new energy system, which is renewable, clean, decentralized and decarbonized.
- Development tools are required for energy transition and low carbon development. For example, tools to support technologies for renewable energy, and laws and regulations which also focus on different technologies.
- Investments are also required to finance the transition, with support from international financing institutions, commercial

and in providing renewable energy equipment" assesses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the functionality of MSMEs. It presents examples of best practices in energy efficiency and renewable energy related to crises response and post-crisis recovery, and offers practical measures to help businesses access markets, financing and advanced technologies. The report also provides recommendations for policy guidelines to help countries move beyond the crises. Some recommendations include:

- Companies should manage their visibility, that is by showing that they are doing something to withstand the pandemic, to improve their options or move toward providing online services to support their customers.
- Companies should try to get additional funding by submitting proposals for their development according to the changed requirements, and the markets and the products, through adaptation of their manufacturing facilities to shift their production to other possibilities.
- Companies should try to access easy markets and also shift the production line from high standards to more general use for a wider range of consumers, and employ various new technologies while relying on existing human resources.
- The National Expert SDG Tool for Energy Planning (NEXSTEP) is being developed by ESCAP to support the development of national SDG 7 road maps. The tool is focused on three methodologies:
 - Energy modelling estimates the share of different energy resources and identifies the technological interventions needed to achieve those shares.
 - Economic analysis identifies the economically feasible options, and the interventions.
 - Scenario analysis determines/identifies the policies that are feasible for implementation in the national context according to the requirements of SDG 7.
- In 2021, this tool mostly focused on the South-East Asia region, and since 2022, UNECE has started work on dissemination of the tool in Armenia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

banks, and particularly the private sector, which has money and technology.

- Involve the small and medium-sized enterprises and support them for energy transition. The large enterprises have their own capacity for transition, but the small and medium sized enterprises do not have the technology or the money. Involve the private sector to support SMEs to transfer from the current energy dependency on fossil fuels to renewable energy and clean energy. In this regard, South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation will be the keys to such an energy transition.

Side Event

The Role of Science and Technology in the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus

Organized by the Mekong Institute (MI), the Office of the National Water Resources (ONWR) of Thailand, the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STPI) of the Republic of Korea, and UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Context

The Mekong River is the longest river in South-East Asia. It runs approximately 4,900 km from the Tibetan Plateau in China to the South China Sea in southern Viet Nam. The Mekong region consists of Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Viet Nam, Thailand and some Chinese provinces, namely Yunnan and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Geographically, the region is divided into the Upper Mekong Basin (Myanmar and China) and the Lower Mekong Basin (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam). Approximately 72 million people live and derive their livelihoods in the Mekong basin area.

The Mekong basin, "a basin of one of the world's greatest rivers", is facing unprecedented challenges including loss of wetlands, reduced sediment nourishment and rising salinity that is increasingly impeding rice cultivation. These adverse impacts have combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, climate change and human activities that are creating hardship for millions of vulnerable fishing and farming families.

In September 2021, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT), and the Mekong River Commission (MRC) launched a project entitled "Triangular Cooperation on Sustainable Development in the Lower Mekong Basin based on the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus". The project is also known as the "ROK-UNOSSC Facility Phase 3" and P-LINK. It is intended to strengthen access to water, food and energy for vulnerable communities living in the Lower Mekong Basin by strengthening development approaches and management in these sectors. It will take integrative and multi-sectoral approaches in the application of high-demand technologies to water, energy and food to improve the livelihoods of the people, based on South-South and triangular cooperation modalities.

The Republic of Korea is a strong advocate of South-South and triangular cooperation. The country promotes technical transfer and knowledge sharing in various modalities with other developing countries, such as the Knowledge-Sharing Programme (KSP),

Fellowship Programmes and other capacity-building projects on various thematic topics. These initiatives are implemented by different stakeholders from the Republic of Korea ranging from line ministries and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) in partnership with other countries or together with international organizations.

The "Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus" concept has emerged as an integrated approach to respond to climate and socioeconomic changes in recognition of the interdependence of the natural environment and human livelihoods. First introduced at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2011, the approach describes the interlinkages between the three sectors (water, energy and food), with the ultimate goal of identifying potential synergies and minimizing trade-offs between them.⁵³ The modality is intended to facilitate a more balanced process entailing cost-effective policymaking, planning, implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation related to the cross-cutting WEF Nexus, while promoting active multi-stakeholder dialogue and engagement.

The UN Secretary-General has underscored the vital role of technology in closing the digital divide and called for concerted actions based on "science, solidarity, and smart policies to fight a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic"⁵⁴ and driven by "science, technology and innovation critical to food security, economic growth and the environment"⁵⁵ to tackle the devastating social, economic and environmental emergencies. Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) can be harnessed to combat pressing environmental and development challenges and reduce socioeconomic discrepancies. Already many existing and emerging technologies in early warning, irrigation, agro-processing, renewable energy and climate-smart solutions have proved able to contribute to improving people's livelihoods.

In the context of the WEF Nexus, STI serves as a catalyst in bringing together multi-stakeholders to collaborate and create synergies in the management of water, energy and food in an efficient and effective manner. The STI component is usually embedded in many

53 Hoff, H., 2011. *Background paper for the Bonn 2011 Nexus Conference: The Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus*. Stockholm Environment Institute, Stock.

54 Guterres, António. 2020. *All Hands on Deck to Fight a Once-in-a-Lifetime Pandemic*. New York: UN, 2020. COVID-19 Response.

55 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). 2022. *UN Ocean Conference opens with call for urgent action to tackle ocean emergency*.

WEF Nexus projects at the global, regional and national levels. Some examples are, SIM4NEXUS, Urban Nexus, Water and Energy for Food (WE4F) and P-LINK.

In particular, the discussions in this session focused on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action)

Moderator

Ms. Yejin Kim, P-LINK Project Manager, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

Welcome Remarks

- **Mr. Denis Nkala**, Chief, Intergovernmental and UN Systems Affairs, UNOSSC;
- **Mr. Chumlarp Tejasen**, Director of Foreign Affairs Division, Office of the National Water Resources (ONWR).

Congratulatory Remarks

Mr. Joyoung Jeon, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of Korea (RoK) in Thailand.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Mi Ock Mun, President, Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEP), RoK.

Keynote Sessions

- **Dr. Hwanil Park**, Chief Director, Division of Global Innovation Strategy Research, Science & Technology Policy Institute (STEP) - The implication of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Nexus approach in the Mekong region and suggested role of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI);
- **Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn**, Executive Director, Mekong Institute (MI) - WEF Nexus in the Context of COVID-19 Recovery, South-South and triangular cooperation and the implications for the Lower Mekong Basin.

Panel Discussions

Moderator

Mr. Kyungkoo Philip Kang, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Urban Development Section, Environment and Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).

Panellists

- **Dr. Wisnu Utomo**, Director, of Foreign Policy and International Development Cooperation, Ministry of National Development Planning of the Republic of Indonesia (BAPPENAS) - Integrated Village Development in Sukabumi, Indonesia (RoK-UNOSSC Facility Phase 2);
- **Mr. Youngwoo Kim**, Environment Advisor, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - WEF Nexus related initiatives in the Republic of Korea;
- **Mr. Ole Henriksen**, Project Director, German Agency for International Cooperation GmbH (GIZ) - Thai Rice NAMA (Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action);
- **Mr. Radasiri Wachirapunyanont**, South and Southeast Asia, Regional Innovation Hub Manager -Water and Energy for Food (WE4F);

Good practices as highlighted by panellists

Integrated Village Development in Sukabumi, Indonesia (RoK-UNOSSC Facility Phase 2)

- The Government of Indonesia, in partnership with UNOSSC, enlisted the support of institutions from the Republic of Korea to use the Republic of Korea's experience in village development to pilot and enhance village-led development in 2016-2021. The integrated project focused on sustainable agriculture, school and community health, renewable energy, access to clean water and sanitation for schools, supporting women businesses via ICT and entrepreneurship training. The project was not intentionally designed to cover the WEF Nexus elements. Nevertheless, it demonstrates "unavoidable" interlinkages between the three sectors and how critical they are in community livelihoods. For the Sukabumi initiative, South-South and triangular partnership platforms

promote sharing of experiences and technical knowhow among engaged academia, innovators, communities and government stakeholders.

WEF Nexus initiatives in the Republic of Korea

- The Government of the Republic of Korea has invested in science, technology and innovation solutions for integrated disaster risk and resources management over the past decade, recognizing the interlinkages across water, energy and food sectors. Some examples include the integrated water management system, smart farming, multi-purpose use of hydropower dams, and floating photovoltaic solar power. There are specific regulations in place to monitor and control water quality, wastewater, sewage and livestock manure.

Thai Rice Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA)

- This is a joint project partnered between the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives, the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, and funded by the NAMA Facility in collaboration with the Thai Government, with the objective of enabling Thailand to effectively transform the Thai rice sector to low-emission rice production. It consists of the following interventions:
 - Intervention Strategy 1 – Low-Emission Rice Production Technology: the project will train farmers to implement mitigation technologies and sustainable best practices in rice production, and encourage them to switch practices based on the establishment of a Revolving Fund to cover start-up costs for mitigation service provision. This will generate more income by applying appropriate technologies and effective management for agricultural inputs (saving water used and energy for pumping water, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.), and facilitating the sale of low-emission rice to the growing market for sustainable rice.
 - Intervention Strategy 2 – Mitigation Technology Services: support will be provided for business development by leveraging a national green credit programme for capital investment to provide mitigation technology services to farmers such as laser land levelling, alternate wetting and drying, site-specific nutrient management, and straw/stubble management.

→ Intervention Strategy 3 – Policy Formulation and Supporting Measures: Support will be provided for project implementation, with the development of a model and expansion strategy, a Sustainable Rice Practice standard based on the Sustainable Rice Platform (SRP) Standard, and integration of the project in the Thai Government's workplan, projects and budget at all levels.

- For more information see https://www.thai-german-cooperation.info/en_US/thai-rice-nama-nationally-appropriate-mitigation-action/

Water and Energy for Food (WE4F)

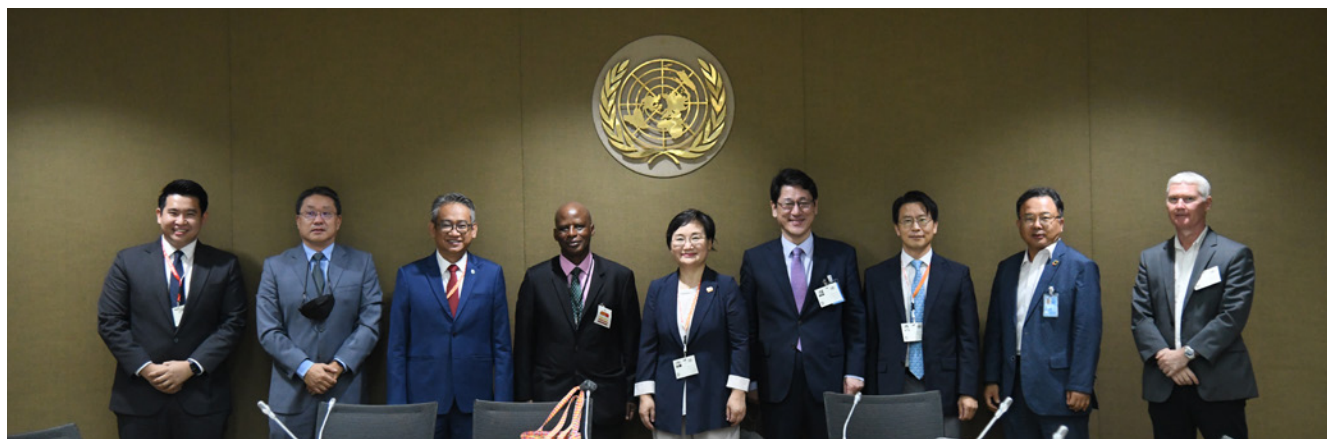
→ WE4F focuses on environmentally sustainable innovations aiming to improve energy and water efficiency in the agricultural sector by working with promising innovations. It supports the scaling up of climate-friendly and environmentally sustainable energy and/or water-efficient innovations in the water-energy-food (WE4F) nexus across the region in 15 countries through "local start-ups/entrepreneurs" (grants). The innovative approaches to their work include new technologies, business and finance models as well as new modes of cooperation. For WE4F, South-South and triangular partnership platforms promote sharing of experiences and technical knowhow among engaged academia, innovators, communities and government stakeholders. See <https://we4f.org/who-we-are>

Key recommendation(s)

- Demand-driven initiatives should focus on building the technical capacities of local communities (farmers, fishermen, entrepreneurs, etc.) to tackle ongoing development challenges through synergizing water, energy and food.
- Science and technology should serve as mechanisms to find innovative solutions tailored to the local context based on solidarity and national/local ownership.
- Multi-stakeholders (government, academia, private sector, development cooperation agencies, International Offices) must be encouraged to collaborate in finding practical

approaches to address common development challenges, such as food security, climate change.

- People-to-people exchanges need to be facilitated, including technical transfer, sharing of knowledge and experiences to promote South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Stakeholders need to be motivated and inspired to leapfrog through innovative solutions and best practices adaptable to their local needs.



Side event

Promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a Crisis Response Mechanism

Organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Context

Existing and emerging crises are threatening progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As highlighted in the 2022 report on the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI), the consequences of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic, compounded by the impact of the war in Ukraine, have led to major setbacks in global food security. Current projections indicate that 670 million people will still be facing hunger in 2030, representing 8 per cent of the global population - the same figure as when the SDGs were adopted in 2015.

In response, the global community is increasing its partnership and coordination efforts to address gaps in policy, knowledge, funds and technology to tackle these new and existing threats. Of particular relevance is South-South and triangular cooperation, a partnership approach which has been playing a key role in helping developing countries share and adopt the policies, solutions and resources that best suit their needs and contexts. Over the past years, this collaboration modality has evolved and is now supporting joint interventions targeting post-crisis recovery.

South-South and triangular cooperation provides a space for developing countries to highlight the challenges they face, to jointly access and identify knowledge and solutions, and to incubate joint business opportunities. With the key characteristic of being country-driven, and based on mutual benefit, South-South and triangular cooperation can leverage the best available and most relevant solutions, expertise, and partnership arrangements for the effective resolution of the fall-out from new crises.

South-South and triangular cooperation can contribute to the recovery and resilience process of local communities and vulnerable households by promoting documented good practices that have proved effective in crisis situations. For example, in 2020, IFAD, in response to the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 launched the Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF). The RPSF provided additional funding for IFAD projects to enable quick actions to mitigate some of the constraints faced by vulnerable communities, such as restricted access to markets. The many solutions piloted through these projects are equally valid interventions for other crises and can be shared through South-South and triangular cooperation.

Another concrete illustration of how South-South and triangular cooperation helps in responding to crises can be found in the China-IFAD South-South and triangular cooperation Facility. Already funding 13 projects, the Facility dedicated its third call in 2021 to projects aimed at supporting vulnerable populations to boost global post-COVID recovery. Accordingly, projects were selected to pilot the latest agricultural innovations, including digital platforms and tools.

However, South-South and triangular cooperation formulation and implementation during times of crisis can be challenging. Partnership-building, usually involving in-person meetings, are often disrupted; the lack of dedicated institutions or communication channels can block the exchange of needs and supplies; new initiatives take time to take shape and be ready for implementation; quick responses can lose sight of long-term resilience and sustainability.

To this end, IFAD's side event explored the opportunities offered by South-South and triangular cooperation to respond to new crises and shocks. It discussed the need to adopt national/institutional frameworks that can facilitate and accelerate its operationalization, particularly when there is a need for urgent action to address new global threats. The event highlighted some of the concrete solutions that have been, and are being, implemented by IFAD and other development partners as part of the immediate global response and long-term recovery process to the COVID pandemic.

Moderator

Ama Brandford-Arthur, Senior Partnership Officer, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) – Global Engagement, Partnerships and Resource Mobilization Division.

Opening remarks

- **Mrs. Ureerat Chareontoh**, Director-General, Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA);
- **Dr. Francisco Javier Pichón**, Country Director, Vietnam, and Hub Head Cambodia, Lao Democratic People's Republic and Thailand, IFAD.

Panellists

- **Ms. Ashley Davidson**, Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) Coordinator, IFAD;
- **Dr. Jochen Weikert**, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ);
- **Mr. Abdelhakim Yessouf**, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB);
- **Mr. Guilherme Dantas Nogueira**, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC).

Closing remarks

Dr. Francisco Javier Pichón, Country Director, Vietnam, and Hub Head Cambodia, Lao Democratic People's Republic and Thailand, IFAD.

Key messages

The Director-General of the Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA) delivered the opening remarks highlighting the increased role of regional cooperative structures in responding to crises and facing new shocks.

The panellists first noted the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to global development, independent

of a crisis situation, pointing out the support South-South and triangular cooperation has provided to Southern countries on their pathway to sustainable development. They highlighted that the solutions and knowledge shared in the framework of South-South and triangular cooperation improved livelihoods and food security, thus supporting resilience in the global South.

Good practices as highlighted by the panellists

Thailand International Development Cooperation Agency (TICA)

- Thailand-Chile quinoa research and development project which builds on the successful research on quinoa cultivation in Thailand to share knowledge and experience with ASEAN Member States and other Asian countries such as Bhutan;
- Training Programme on Rice Production Technologies for Food Security and Sustainability which aims to develop and disseminate rice cultivation techniques in Africa, promoting new rice varieties, sharing knowledge on rice supply chain improvements and increasing farmers capacities to better access rice markets;
- Parabola Dome Dryer Technology which enabled farmers and producers to significantly reduce their post-harvest losses of perishable agricultural products, resulting in better product quality and higher incomes;
- Promoting Climate Resilience in the Farming Communities of Cambodia which shares best practices and climate-smart agricultural technology from Thailand to increase environmentally-friendly fruit and vegetable crop production.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

- The Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF) is a rapid response mechanism established to ensure that smallholder farmers could promptly access inputs, information, markets and cash during the pandemic. It was able to achieve impact by leveraging existing results and building on prior experience effectively demonstrating the importance of knowledge documentation and sharing. The activities of the RPSF are articulated around four pillars:
 - providing inputs and basic assets for production of crops, livestock and fisheries;
 - facilitating access to markets to support small-scale farmers in selling their products in conditions where market functions are restricted;
 - targeting funds for rural financial services to ensure sufficient liquidity and to ease repayment requirements so as to maintain services, markets and jobs;
 - promoting the use of digital services to deliver key information on production, weather, finance and markets.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

- The current crisis is dangerously uncontrollable in nature because of multiplying and interlinked challenges, such as COVID-19, global food insecurity and climate change.
- Collaborations are needed and triangular cooperation is an investment in the global cooperation culture that is urgently required in order to tackle the very urgent challenges that lie ahead.

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

- For effective implementation of South-South and triangular cooperation, there is a need for a supportive national ecosystem. The following are among the pillars for an enabling environment:
 - The political will at the highest levels of states to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation in relevant legislative and regulatory instruments;

- A national strategy for South-South and triangular cooperation to guide and identify priority areas as well as potential gaps or developmental needs;
- The establishment of a national body for South-South and triangular cooperation to facilitate coordination among national stakeholders, as well as cooperation with other countries;
- The actualization of financing mechanisms at national level to bring in more resources and domestic contributions for South-South and triangular cooperation activities;
- Coordinator mechanisms and performance management systems for South-South and triangular cooperation.

Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC)

- The Government of Brazil continues to share the expertise it has developed over the years with partners through mutually beneficial arrangements such as South-South and triangular cooperation.

Key recommendation(s)

- South-South and triangular cooperation effectiveness will depend on the adoption and improvement of national institutional frameworks for its deployment.
- Development organizations could increase their actions in favour of South-South and triangular cooperation implementation by promoting policy dialogues for the improvement of national cooperation mechanisms across the global South.
- South-South and triangular cooperation must be demand-driven, and its mutual benefits can be harnessed to support global resilience.

Side Event

Promoting Urban Economic Resilience in Cities Globally, During and After COVID-19, Through Building Knowledge Base and Interregional Cooperation

Organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Context

Cities and urban areas have been at the epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has drastically impacted the urban economy, including public services, employment, transportation and infrastructure, among others. Whilst the pandemic affected the entire population of any city, it was the informal workers and other vulnerable and marginalized groups that were impacted the most. To support cities to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build resilience, the UN Regional Economic Commissions, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) implemented the project “Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19”, during 2020-2022. The project supported the efforts of city governments in 16 cities globally to analyse the impact of the pandemic on the economies of the pilot cities, and assist them in developing their economic recovery and resilience plans, including identifying possible funding sources for economic development and infrastructure projects supporting the urban economic recovery.

The project pilot countries/cities included: Albania (Tirana); Cameroon (Yaoundé); Ecuador (Guayaquil); Egypt (Alexandria); Fiji (Suva); Ghana (Accra); India (Pune); Kuwait (Kuwait City); Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek); Lebanon (Beirut); Malaysia (Subang Jaya); Peru (Lima); Dominican Republic (Santo Domingo); Ukraine (Kharkiv); Viet Nam (Hoi An); and Zimbabwe (Harare).

For each of the 16 pilot cities, the following activities were implemented:

- An assessment of the city government’s capacity to address the negative consequences of the COVID- 19 pandemic using the Urban Economic Recovery and Resilience Diagnostic and Planning Tool. The Diagnostic and Planning Tool aimed to help the city’s governments to understand the strengths and weaknesses of its institutional and operating arrangements from the perspective of economic recovery and resilience-building and to formulate recommendations for the design and implementation of recovery plans/strategies.

- Based on the assessment, an economic resilience building plan was developed.
- Local trainings were held to build capacity for the implementation of the action plans.
- Regional and global forums were organized to promote exchange of experiences.
- A global compendium of best practices on promoting urban economic resilience and five regional policy briefs were elaborated and published.
- A global online training programme on urban economic resilience was developed.

This side event focused on the experience of the implementation of the above global project; the approaches of the pilot cities in promoting urban economic resilience; and the tools developed within the project - the diagnostic analysis and the online training programme.

An online training programme on urban economic resilience was developed within the project and was launched during this side event.

The side event focused on the following SDGs:

- SDG 11** - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, including all its targets;
- SDG 8** - Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all;
- SDG 10** – Reduce inequality within and among countries;
- SDG 17** - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



Moderator

Omar Siddique, Head of Unit, Sustainable Urban Development Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Panelists

- **Mr. Sangmin Nam**, Director of the Environment and Development Division, ESCAP;
- **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin**, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE);
- **Datuk Johary Anuar**, Mayor, Subang Jaya City Council, Malaysia;
- **Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski**, Regional Advisor, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE;
- **Miss Sukaina Al Nasri**, social affairs officer United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, ESCWA;
- **Mr. Dimitri Pozhidaev**, Regional Technical Advisor, United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF);
- **Esteban Leon**, Head, City of Resilience Global programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

Presentation

- **Claudia Sarante**, Head, Technical Secretariat of the San Domingo City Council, San Domingo, the Dominican Republic;
- **Almazbek Usenbekov**, Director, Agency for Urban Development and Investment Promotion, City Government of Bishkek, Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic;
- **Yusra Sidani Balaa**, Beirut Municipality Council Member, City of Beirut, Lebanon;
- **Jackson Murimi**, Principal Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, City of Harare, Zimbabwe.

Opening remarks

Mr. Sangmin Nam

- Transformation can be described in three keywords: digitalization; innovation; and low- and zero-carbon transformation.
 - The digital transformation will require major investment to expand high-quality IT infrastructure and to boost IT skills across generations.

- The innovation transformation calls to build resilience in future crises for which cities must have a more diversified, more inclusive, innovative economy. The innovation divide has widened in recent years and to reverse the growing polarization between cities, a critical mass of actors needs to be brought together at the right territorial level. Players from the formal economy and formal economic operators need to be leveraged.

- Low- and zero-carbon transformation entails the rapid transition from fossil fuels and the shift to a low carbon, climate neutral and circular economy requires open groups. Such a transformation will only work if it is designed and implemented with regional and local stakeholders. It also requires institutional changes across different areas, through changes in multi-level governance, cooperation between different administrative levels and public-private community partnership.
- The project “Building urban economic resilience during and after COVID-19” featuring South-South Solutions to address global challenges in urban areas from 16 cities worldwide, and a new e-learning course, will be launched.

Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin

- The pandemic has been a real test of the ability of governments around the world to manage complexity in the face of uncertainty, and cities were at the forefront of this challenge.

- Three insights from UNECE’s project:
 - Resilience is about understanding the complexity of the system of the urban infrastructure, urban services or the city government systems and helping the city evolve in a way that is fit-for-purpose and building the ecosystems that nurture start-ups.
 - Ability to learn and the ability to share experiences. The project “Building urban economic resilience during and after COVID-19” created a network of very different cities around the world and they were able to learn from each other. So learning across regions and across levels of government is important.
 - Investments are important as they follow good development models and that is where real change happens. Hence, it is important to leverage investment ecosystems, both public and private, and to work with the international financial institutions systemically, and plug into the impact investment ecosystems.
 - Mr. Mariyasin called for increased collaboration with UN-Habitat and others on the investment-friendly Urban Development paradigm.

Key messages

Experiences from Subang Jaya, Malaysia

- Subang Jaya has been working with ESCAP and Urbanise Malaysia to develop the baseline and recovery strategy. Through the diagnostic assessment of the “Building urban economic resilience during and after COVID-19” project, there were some substantial positive and negative findings, with some future action plans.
 - Positive findings include: high public engagement; and advanced use of digital technologies for city services, amongst others.
 - Negative findings include: increasing digital divide; inadequate access to public health and social care facilities; and insufficient revenue collection, amongst others.
 - Future action plans include: integrating the 2030 Agenda into the City Council agenda. Other action plans include: Safe City Action Plan; the Green City Action Plan; Well-being Action Plan; Health City Action Plan; and the Smart City and Woman-Friendly Action Programme.
- The four main strategies for economic recovery are focussing on governance, mobility, business and job opportunities, and resilience and climate change.
- The aim is to create a resilient and sustainable city within the framework of a safe, green, healthy, prosperous, smart and woman-friendly environment.

Experiences from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

- One challenge was access to the community, and it was resolved through the involvement of Neighbourhood Association and community leaders.

- Another challenge was how to manage the spread of the pandemic to protect the community. This was resolved through the municipal COVID-19 management manual, an initiative of the Mayor’s office.
- Limited information was another challenge because the information was not published, or not updated or not collected periodically, or simply not collected at a local, regional or even national level.

Experiences from Bishkek, the Kyrgyz Republic

- Due to the lockdowns and suspension of economic activity, the service sector was the most vulnerable and the growth rate of GNP decreased by 8.8 per cent, resulting in a significant impact on economic growth.
- Bishkek city headquarters were established to minimize the negative consequences and an action plan was developed. In order to quickly solve the problems of the business environment, the Bishkek Mayor’s office created an online chat between representatives of business communities and the Bishkek Mayor’s office. This was a platform where the questions and problems of entrepreneurs were solved and addressed.
- The Bishkek Mayor’s office and business representatives provided humanitarian aid in the form of a set of products to needy families. For cash funding to residents living in informal settlements of the city, the Mayor’s office, in collaboration with the National Bank of the Kyrgyz Republic, organized field cash desks of commercial banks in which citizens got access to cash withdrawal operation, receiving pensions, benefits and wages.

Experiences from Beirut, Lebanon

- Lebanon has always been in a state of conflict among regional powers. It has suffered an economic crisis, that was exacerbated in October 2019 because of bad planning, corruption and the pandemic.
- The tourist, education, and medical sectors have suffered the most.
- GDP fell by 15 per cent and poverty increased by over 50 per cent, with an estimate of over 75 per cent currently.

Experiences from Harare, Zimbabwe

- The pandemic crippled service delivery due to the lockdowns. A task force was set up during the pandemic to look into human resources, health, and monetary valuation, and to see how effective the city initiatives were in dealing with the pandemic.
- Disaster preparedness is key and resources must be set aside to prepare.

Key recommendation(s)

UNECE

- Governments need to build local capacities to address the long-term strategic needs of the inhabitants of the cities and to ensure that the activities of the local governments contribute to overcoming the global challenges, in particular climate change.
- Strengthened vertical coordination of the development implementation of policies and programmes between local, national and international governance levels. Urban planning is multisectoral and as such requires horizontal coordination between the different city departments and municipalities, with a whole-of-government approach.
- The UNECE convened the Forum of Mayors, which became an important platform for promoting new multilateralism, the exchange of best practices and mutual learning among the cities in the UNECE region, as well as strengthening cooperation between local and national governments.
- People-oriented governance is needed. Local governments need to establish dynamic people-oriented planning processes focused on improving transparency, ensuring broad-based participation and attracting bright, energetic, visionary people to public service. Many cities have adopted effective mechanisms to disseminate up-to-date information on the spread of the virus, as well as on health protection and emergency support measures.
- Best practice guidelines and training programmes need to be developed to help cities establish and maintain such planning processes.

ESCWA

- Enhancing resilience is of vital importance to achieving the SDGs.
- Some of the good practices of the project were engagement of multi-stakeholders, the data collected during validation, and the development of the recovery plan for city etc.; and increased collaboration and coordination from the UN global cooperation perspective.
- Knowledge and experience-sharing between UN entities, and countries and regions is important.

- There is a need to manage resources, foster public-private partnerships and to strengthen the capacities of local authorities for monitoring of SDG localization and implementation.
- An investment ecosystem focused on cities needs to be leveraged, in order to develop inclusive policies and encourage a whole-of-society approach to achieving sustainable urban development.
- There is a need to plan for smart and sustainable cities while ensuring digital rights for all.

UNCDF

- Urban economic resilience requires a holistic and comprehensive approach, and this was achieved by applying a diagnostic tool based on five components of urban resilience.
- Successful resilience-building requires multiple partnerships, such as regional partnerships, and continuous South-South exchange of experiences and good practices.
- There is a need for a collaborative approach between the national government and the city governments.
- The project demonstrated very limited fiscal space for cities, which limits their capacity to rearrange their budgets to raise additional funding in the context of the COVID-19 response.
- The Malaga Global Coalition for Municipal Finance includes a number of organizations and development partners, including United Citizen, global governments, UN-Habitat, UNCDF, etc., with the objective of building a financial ecosystem that would properly serve the cities around the world. It focuses on five reform agendas:
 - fiscal transfers to local governments as an effective instrument of national development, particularly for the deployment of climate finance;
 - enhanced scope for local government taxation fees and asset management to boost local fiscal space;
 - expanded domestic capital markets for long-term debt.
 - city-friendly equity finance to provide stability and see different partnerships;
 - global guarantees, finance and funds for cities to defray sovereign liability on subnational finance and open space and opportunities for partner cities around the world to get access to affordable equity and capital.

Launch: e-learning course

Introduction to Urban Economic Resilience Diagnostics and Action Planning in the context of COVID-19

- created with the expertise and experience of 16 cities and 7 UN agencies as part of an interagency rapid response project to the COVID-19 crisis;
- self-paced, online and free;
- imparts knowledge derived from the joint UN project on “Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19”;
- serves as an introductory training course for municipalities implementing the Urban Economic Resilience Diagnostic and Planning Tool (DPT);
- builds capacities of a wider audience by bringing together project resources in an accessible manner.
- <https://www.cityresiliencetraining.com/course/enrol/index.php?id=2>
- <https://urbaneconomicresilience.org>

Side Event

Measuring South-South Cooperation Through the United Nations Global Voluntary Framework

Organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Context

On 12 September 1978 in Buenos Aires, delegations from 138 States adopted by consensus a Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC).⁵⁶ The Plan of Action noted that “TCDC is a multidimensional process, which can be bilateral or multilateral in scope, and subregional, regional or interregional in character”. It also noted that TCDC should be “organized by and between governments which can promote, for this purpose, the participation of public organizations and, within the framework of the policies laid down by Governments, that of private organizations and individuals”. “The importance of cooperation among developing countries in general, and of technical cooperation in particular, was also recognized in a g139 series of declarations, resolutions and decisions of the United Nations General Assembly and other bodies”.

The High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi in 2009, recognized and committed to strengthening and further invigorating South-South cooperation. It also noted that many developing countries continue to face serious development challenges, that many of them are not on track to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, and stressed that South-South cooperation was an important element of international cooperation for development, offering viable opportunities for developing countries in their individual and collective pursuit of sustained economic growth and sustainable development (A/64/L.37).

Recognizing the need to further strengthen and invigorate South-South cooperation, the General Assembly decided to convene the second high-level United Nations conference on South-South cooperation on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among developing countries (BAPA+40) (resolution 71/244 of 2 February 2017). The Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2019.⁵⁷

The Buenos Aires Action Plan and the High-level UN Conferences on South-South Cooperation, in 2009 and 2019, all emphasized that

South-South Cooperation was a vital force. BAPA+40 recognized the need for evidence on the impacts of South-South and triangular cooperation and encouraged initiatives for information and data collection in this area at the request of developing countries. In this regard, the UN Global voluntary framework was developed to measure South-South and triangular cooperation. The need for data on South-South cooperation is increasing in order to quantify the mutual support by countries of the South, to consider it alongside official development assistance, particularly to enhance evidence-based policymaking, and ascertain whether South-South cooperation actually works. This new statistical framework will populate the data for the new Sustainable Development Goals indicator 17.3.1 on additional financial resources mobilized for developing countries from multiple sources, adopted by the Global Secretariat at its fifty-third session in March 2022.

In this regard, Member States asked UNCTAD to be the custodian of the new indicator and to support further work on the measurement of South-South cooperation, including on global reporting and capacity building. UNCTAD will represent developing countries to put this voluntary framework into practice, and refine it technically so that it can be applied flexibly by all countries wishing to do so.

The three objectives of this side event were:

- to discuss the framework, share insights on future prospects, especially regarding the technical refinement of the implementation and testing of the framework, and to present various initiatives of pioneering countries and multilateral institutions in measuring South-South cooperation and how they articulate within the framework;
- to raise awareness about hurdles ahead before being able to report data on the SDGs as requested by the Addis Ababa Action agenda;
- to create new collaborations and new synergies, by organizing events and the GSSD Expo, providing a unique opportunity to reach out to multiple stakeholders at the national regional and global levels.

⁵⁶ For more information, see <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/> and <https://unsouthsouth.org/bapa40/documents/buenos-aires-plan-of-action/>

⁵⁷ For more information, see <https://unsouthsouth.org/bapa40/about/>

Opening remarks

Ms. Anu Peltola, Acting Director, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Statistics, on behalf of Rebeca Grynspan, UNCTAD Secretary General.

Panelists

- **Mr. Stefan Schweinfest**, Director of Statistics Division, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA);
- **Mr. Sukhbir Singh**, co-chair of development group, India;
- **Mr. Aminuddin Mat Ariff**, Senior Coordinator of Regional Cooperation, Islamic Development Bank;
- **H.E. Mr. Bernardo Córdova Tello**, Ambassador of Mexico to Thailand;
- **Ms. Viviana Manrique**, Director-General, Agencia Presidencial de Cooperación Internacional, Colombia;
- **Ms. Andreia Rigueira**, Coordinator for Planning and Communications, Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC);
- **Mr. William Maundu Munyoli**, Senior Economist, State Department for Planning, Kenya.

Opening remarks

- Due to the lack of data, the tremendous potential of South-South and triangular cooperation is often underestimated or overlooked in the international development narrative. This statistical framework developed by countries of the South will pave the way for redefining the standards of International Development Aid, to take account of the experience and the needs of both Southern providers and recipients.
- UNCTAD is firmly committed to strengthening national capacities to measure cooperation in a country-led process and to ensuring that SDG indicator 17.3.1 be informed with data measured by the global South.
- In 2023, UNCTAD will launch a global capacity development programme with the UN Regional Commissions to test the initial framework with the countries, in collaboration with the UN Statistics Division. It will provide training and study tours for peer learning and share experience and tools for data collection among countries of the South.
- The UNCTAD Secretary-General has asked for the creation of an Advisory Board, led by and consisting of Southern countries for capacity and methodology development to ensure country ownership of their data.
- UNCTAD will also develop and set up a global data reporting platform for the countries of the South who are interested in reporting data on the SDG indicators.

Key messages

Mr. Stefan Schweinfest: new SDG indicator – central for progress towards the SDGs

- For two years the countries of the global South have participated in the working group on measuring development support, and work in its subgroup on South-South cooperation to develop this initial framework.
- The SDG indicator 17.3.1. fills an important gap in the global SDG indicator framework and the global information on development support. It captures the mutual understanding and support that countries of the global South provide to each other and offers a more complete view of development support as it is based on a measurement framework developed and owned by countries of the global South.
- The development of the initial conceptual framework has gained wide recognition and praise within the United Nations. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development called it a breakthrough for the measurement of South-South cooperation. It noted that South-South cooperation continues to expand in scope, volume and geographical reach, and that Southern providers should continue further work on its measurement, development and conceptual framework.

Mr. Sukhbir Singh: Development of a conceptual framework on South-South cooperation

- A working group was established, in May 2020, to measure development support and find an indicator for SDG target 17.3. Four sources were found to measure development support to developing countries from multiple sources:
 - North-South cooperation;
 - other official fund transfers;
 - private finance;
 - South-South cooperation.
- Sub-groups were established, in October 2020, and three areas were identified to delve deeper into the issues:
 - South-South cooperation;
 - mobilization of private finance;
 - international public goods.
- India was the Chair of the South-South cooperation subgroup. A metric was created to measure South-South cooperation, with Brazil and Mexico taking the lead in preparing it. A consensus was reached on the criteria for how it should be informed. Four criteria were identified to measure the particular methodology:

- Measurement will be for sustainable development purposes only, that is, transferred funds should be for sustainable development purposes.
- The funds should be concessional in nature.
- The funds should be provided through official channels.
- Reporting should be voluntary.
- Measuring financial modalities include six items: loans; credit operations; interest-free loans; non-refundable grants; contributions to international organizations and development banks and funds; and direct cash transfers.
- Measuring modalities like technical cooperation include measuring the number of hours worked; hours provided for trainings; individuals directly benefited; volunteers dispatched; disaster relief personnel dispatched; number of foreign students trained; or scholarships granted.

Mr. Aminuddin Mat Ariff: National mechanisms for South-South cooperation

- The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is a multilateral development bank that was established in 1975 to support socioeconomic development in 57 member countries and the bank has a long-standing experience in South-South Cooperation.
- Two lessons learned:
 - The global South has knowledge and expertise regardless of the level of development of the countries.
 - Many countries are ahead in terms of engagement in South-South cooperation compared to others because of political commitment and institutional arrangement.

- So IsDB encourages country-specific concepts of national ecosystem for South-South and triangular cooperation.
- The national ecosystem is a collection of interlinked pillars and institutional arrangements that form an enabling environment for South-South and triangular cooperation. The 7 pillars identified are:
 - political will: having committed leadership setting a vision and realistic targets;
 - national strategy: to align South-South and triangular cooperation with national development plans;
 - information basis: share and provide data and information on achievements of South-South and triangular cooperation;
 - connected actors: engagement between government ministries and other stakeholders;
 - South-South and triangular cooperation agency: create a focal point or an agency for orchestrating South-South and triangular cooperation ecosystem;
 - financing mechanism: have an annual budget for South-South and triangular cooperation and move from a single source financing to cost sharing;
 - performance management: provide feedback loops across the whole system to monitor the implementation and volume of transactions, the geographical and sector distribution, and decide resource allocation.
- IsDB is helping Tunisia and Palestine to develop the capacities of their existing technical cooperation agencies, and helping Pakistan to establish a South-South cooperation agency in the country.

Country experiences in the measurement of South-South cooperation

Mexico: H.E. Mr. Bernardo Cordoba Telo

- Mexico's international development cooperation is a joint effort of governments supported by the dynamism of other development actors to promote actions that contribute to sustainable development.
- The globally agreed voluntary conceptual framework to measure South-South cooperation developed by the UN Inter-Agency Expert Group and the South-South cooperation group is a historic accomplishment that represents the possibility of positioning the importance of South-South cooperation for the achievement of the 2030 agenda.
- The Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation coordinates international development cooperation actions and generates the necessary tools for planning, monitoring and evaluating.
- Mexico is engaged in multiple modalities of international cooperation, particularly through South-South and triangular cooperation development projects, especially in Latin America, with a focus on Central America and the Caribbean.
- Mexico's development cooperation mechanism includes enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships, with actors such as civil society, the private sector, academia, local governments and international organizations.

- In 2011, the Law of International Cooperation for Development established the creation of a national registry of international cooperation for development to serve as a database and develop a methodology to account for the human, financial and technical resources used. Around 40 Mexican institutions annually register their financial and human efforts in the context of international cooperation activities and projects according to a common measurement methodology.
- In 2018 Mexico and Brazil began to discuss a suitable methodology for measuring the South-South cooperation of Latin America and the Caribbean in a politically consensual and internationally comparable way.

Colombia: Ms. Viviana Manrique

- Developing and strengthening tools to assess the quality and impact of Colombia's South-South and triangular cooperation programme has been a central objective.
- Colombia has worked with the Economic Commissions for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to strengthen national capacities for managing administrative records, developing an interchange with best practices between the national statistical Institutes of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile Colombia and Peru.

- The framework for national coordination has been established between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the National Statistical Office and APC-Colombia which recognizes the importance of establishing dialogues that seek to promote the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation for the implementation of national and global agendas.
- A pilot project with seven countries has been implemented, with development cooperation from Bangladesh, El Salvador, Cabo Verde, Indonesia, Kenya and Mexico to measure the effectiveness of South-South and triangular cooperation.
- A key issue is addressing the importance of strengthening the natural statistical ecosystems in order to have evidence-based policymaking.
- Encourage multi-stakeholder dialogue and measurement and quantification of South-South and triangular cooperation through the Observatory of International Development Cooperation (OICD).
- A virtual course was recently published in OICD which organizes knowledge exchange and community action plans between regions of Colombia following the traditions of South-South cooperation and the importance of fostering communities of exchange. Countries can use this methodology and adapt it to their specific context.

Brazil: Ms. Andreia Rigueira

- There is growing interest from governments, academic and civil society to expand access to data on South-South cooperation. In the case of Brazil, this is mandated by law. Data is a fundamental aspect of management and management is a fundamental aspect of South-South cooperation.
- There is a need to preserve the narrative of development which is at the core of South-South cooperation, which is why the conceptual framework for measurement encompasses different modalities of the exchanges between developing countries.

Key recommendation(s)

- The framework has a language and a common classification of items to be measured. Over time the various compilation methodologies, the data sources and estimation methods will be refined, and eventually the comparability of data between countries will increase.
- The national statistical offices do not have to produce all of the information but should be instrumental in helping to get the country's information, which requires cooperation between the different agencies such as Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance etc.

- Brazil is committed to testing this conceptual framework. Brazil and Mexico prepared a South-South cooperation measurement metric, which was presented to the members of the working group in 2021. The metric was refined and a glossary of terms was prepared. With China's contribution and support, the metric was further adjusted.
- Brazil believes that some institutional and technical prerequisites should be in place to achieve effective results in measuring South-South cooperation, such as a national focal point mandated to coordinate the whole cycle of measurements; the application of the methodology to measure South-South cooperation should be reflected in national public regulations; availability of databases and management; IT systems; human resources to prepare and manage the whole cycle of data collection, processing and dissemination.

Kenya: Mr. William Maundu Munyoli

- Financing for development remains central in fuelling recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and for restoring countries to a sustainable path towards achieving the SDGs.
- South-South cooperation is an essential means of bridging the financing gap, driving recovery and restoring the economies of developing countries to sustained growth.
- Kenya accelerated its engagement in South-South and triangular cooperation after hosting the UN Conference on South-South cooperation in 2009. Kenya has attempted to track South-South and triangular cooperation through institutional profiles that capture cooperation from the perspective of both provider and recipient on a quarterly basis in each financial year.
- Challenges faced are the lack of solid institutional arrangements for managing South-South and triangular cooperation.

- National Statistical Offices must play a leading role but that would require access to relevant national administrative records.
- Documenting national practices all around the globe is critical.

Side Event

Triangular Cooperation: A modality for the Asian Century

Organized by the Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on Effective Triangular Cooperation, and the German Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Asia by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)*.

Context

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the phrase “Asian Century” spread. Long-term forecasts of the Asian Development Bank predicted that the region will likely generate more than 50 per cent of the world’s GDP by 2040, and account for 40 per cent of world consumption. The analysis concluded that in order to sustain Asia’s growth trajectory while contributing to sustainable development, action is needed on three levels: the national action agendas; regional cooperation and collaboration; and the global agenda.

However, the current decade started with unprecedented global challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic was a severe setback in progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The economic recovery from the pandemic is now imperilled by the direct and indirect consequences of the war in Ukraine. The challenges are enormous, and the resources available for sustainable development to either developed and developing countries are under stress. Therefore, there is a pressing need to harness new forms of partnership for knowledge sharing and innovative thinking on global development. And due to their strong economic development in the early twenty-first century, some of the most important partners for global development hail from Asia.

Triangular cooperation is a relatively new modality promoting horizontal cooperation for sustainable development, and it sparks much interest and debate in this context. It fosters capacity building and joint learning, realizes complementarities, intensifies coordination and boosts synergy in the allocation of resources. The modality is on the rise globally, and GPI members use it more strategically to engage with partners across the globe to drive sustainable development. Finding it adaptable and flexible, the

development community engages in triangular cooperation across all regions, with the fastest growth in Africa and Asia, according to OECD data.

These trends call for a discussion about how triangular cooperation can be a practical tool for Asian providers of South-South cooperation in furthering the achievement of the SDGs. The Asian region hosts pioneers of triangular cooperation, such as Japan, India, Indonesia and Thailand, who worked in triangular partnerships long before the modality gained global popularity. Topics addressed include climate change mitigation, governance and institutional capacity, tackling inequalities, competition for finite natural resources, and fostering trade cooperation between countries and subregions in Asia. There is, therefore, a wealth of experience in Asia on triangular cooperation ready to be shared.

Data from the OECD repository of triangular cooperation projects indicate that 13 per cent of projects are in Asia and the Pacific, and almost half of the multi-regional projects involve an Asian partner. Since 2021, the German Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Asia has sought to foster innovative triangular cooperation initiatives among Asian partners through projects, capacity development and policy dialogue.

This side event aimed to reflect on triangular cooperation against the background of Asia’s development, once home to classic drivers of growth but increasingly generating new drivers of transformation in a time of global challenges. The goal was to provide a space for policy dialogue and exchange on how triangular partnerships can be a tool for fostering sustainable development in the “Asian Century”.

Moderator

Ms. Geovana Zoccal, Focal Point, Global Partnership Initiative (GPI) on Effective triangular cooperation.

Opening remarks

Mr. Wattanawit Gajeseni, Deputy Director-General, Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA);

Keynote speaker

Ms. Anthea Mulakala, Senior Director for International Development Cooperation, the Asia Foundation.

Panellists:

- **Mr. Jochen Weikert**, Head of the German Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Asia – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany;
- **Ms. Jia Yu**, Director of International Development and Cooperation Department of the Institute of New Structural Economics, Peking University, China;
- **Mr. Yulius Purwadi Hermawan**, Lecturer, Researcher and Consultant, International Development Cooperation and Foreign Policy – Parahyangan Catholic University, Bandung Indonesia;
- **Ms. Natalia Vargas Talero**, Social Cohesion and South-South Cooperation – Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB);
- **Mr. Eiji Wakamatsu**, Director Office for Global Issues and Development Partnership – the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan

Key messages

Mr. Wattanawit Gajeseni

- South-South and triangular cooperation has become the main driver of international development cooperation modalities in the last century, and particularly against the unprecedented socioeconomic challenges faced globally.
- Thailand has benefitted from technical assistance and has accumulated experience and expertise and now, as an emerging development partner, TICA is sharing its practices through South-South and triangular cooperation.
- For Thailand, international development cooperation focuses on four dimensions of security: food; health; employment; and energy and environment security.
- The concept of a global partnership for development builds on solidarity, not only between developing countries, but also with developed countries.
- Triangular cooperation is a great modality to complement North-South and South-South cooperation for a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future.

Ms. Anthea Mulakala

- The world is currently facing times of intense geopolitical competition and great power rivalry spills over into the field of development cooperation. This trend shrinks the potential for development cooperation and makes implementing cooperation projects more difficult.
- Currently, the 2030 Agenda is off track, and shared spaces of collaborative approaches for human-centred development are urgently needed. Development cooperation must serve the needs of developing countries instead of serving as a soft power instrument.
- Middle power diplomacy should be encouraged to forge a peaceful bridge of power to break the geopolitical gridlock; examples of such middle powers are, India, Japan, South Africa, Brazil, Indonesia, etc.

- Regional and multilateral architecture should be leveraged to allow smaller states to shape their terms of engagement on infrastructure and connectivity.
- Geo-politicizing of development cooperation must not be taken to be inevitable. Partner countries should demand actions and behaviour. Numerous resources and initiatives offer opportunities for partner countries to use the resources and engage in regional forums to shape their own narrative, rather than other countries shaping narratives for them.
- More convergences than divergences: there is space for more triangular cooperation, inviting participants to discuss the ways to reclaim it.

Jochen Weikert

- There is a need to broaden cooperation spaces amidst geopolitical contestation, and suggested focusing on the technical sphere of cooperation.
- Practitioners should aim to deliver tangible results in triangular cooperation to feed back into the political process.
- Two recently published strategy papers, “Shaping the Future Together – Strategic Cooperation with Global Partners”, and “Triangular Cooperation in German Development Cooperation”, will guide German contributions to triangular cooperation. Germany perceives triangular cooperation as a crucial investment for global development structures, which creates trust among partners while jointly developing solutions for global development challenges.

Ms. Jia Yu

- Building balanced and inclusive global industrial frameworks combining comparative advantages of all partners. The Sino-French-African cooperation serves as an example: African countries with natural resources demand a shift to renewable energy production, for which China provides the essential

technology production capacity, while France shares its government networks to support these countries.

- Countries involved in South-South and triangular cooperation are at different stages of socioeconomic development and they can combine their strengths to make up for their developmental differences to find an optimal path.
- As a country with great experience in scaling up industrialization but which still faces some development challenges, China can bridge partner countries at different economic and social development stages. Rules for long-term development partnerships are needed. In this regard, China has already signed Joint Declarations of Interest with 22 countries on triangular cooperation.

Mr. Yulius Paradis Hermawan

- Mr. Yulius Purwadi Hermawan advocated involvement of non-state stakeholders (academia, civil society organizations, private sector) in South-South and triangular cooperation and the sustainable development framework. The government must welcome the contribution of non-state actors in establishing Indonesian Aid and South-South and triangular cooperation.
- The Indonesia National Coordinating Team on South-South cooperation began a series of workshops in 2016, and through Indonesia Aid has developed models to facilitate the integration of different stakeholders.
- Indonesia's academia is a prominent example of providing social services by providing trainings to the private sector, e.g. by training farmers in Timor-Leste and in other developing countries.

Ms. Natalia Vargas Talero

- There has been a larger number of initiatives and a progressive shift from isolated projects to projects of larger scope.
- South-South cooperation has strengthened agricultural and environmental sectors in Ibero-America.
- Collecting and systematizing data could contribute to

evidence-based monitoring and evaluation of triangular cooperation.

- Technical and political dialogues among stakeholders are essential to reach consensus on methodological and conceptual definitions.
- Regional and global networks can strengthen this by endorsing capacity development and knowledge sharing through trainings. SEIGB registers and systematizes data on a platform, the Ibero-American Integrated Data System, to make it feasible and accessible for everyone.
- A data platform has been developed to help identify shortcomings and improve metrics for horizontal partnerships. They also engaged in data reports in Africa, and are open to supporting Asia.

Mr. Eiji Wakamatsu

- Japan has provided official development assistance for the last 60 years when it began its first triangular cooperation with the Government of Thailand.
- Japan focuses on supporting the capacity development of partners to enable them to set up, implement and promote their own South-South cooperation projects, under the guiding principles of respect for country ownership, equal partnership and mutual benefits.
- This incorporates a flagship programme to find more ways to involve the private sector and civil service organizations. For example, JICA supported Malaysia in trade promotion with African countries, which resulted in numerous business-to-business partnerships.
- The Asia-Pacific Development Centre on Disability project in Thailand aims to empower people with disabilities. More than 180 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from 32 countries were involved in providing training to people with disabilities.
- JICA supported the Third Country Training Programme and supported 77 countries to build capacities regardless of their economic development status.

Key recommendation(s)

- Moving from country-to-country exchanges to inter- and intra-regional models can broaden global networks and scale-up triangular cooperation projects, on climate change for example. Including Southern partner countries early on is of utmost importance.
- Tried and tested principles need to be adapted to diverse country contexts and sectors. There is a large potential for exploring triangular cooperation on addressing global challenges, such as food security.
- The capacity of shared knowledge and experience with other developing regions in terms of data collection, registration and systemization needs to be developed. There is a need to explore and make progress on global comparative metrics on triangular cooperation and build it horizontally to address needs of all development actors.
- Multilateral and regional institutions, such as the leadership of Southern countries in the G20 in upcoming years is a big opportunity to promote South-South and triangular cooperation. India will hold the next G20 presidency and must therefore set the agenda for South-South and triangular cooperation early, including new funding policy strategies. This agenda should also be carried forward by Brazil, which will hold the G20 presidency after India.
- Multilateral and regional institutions are important as facilitators of future exchanges. UNOSSC, UNDP and EU were referred to as partners and potential agenda-setters.
- It is crucial to link the discussions and advocacy dialogue on triangular cooperation with different stakeholders and find new synergies to enlarge the network. When reflecting on "best bets" for the future of triangular cooperation with Asia,

participants emphasized climate change, debt sustainability and food security as promising sectors.

- Triangular cooperation needs to be explored at a level below the government, for example, think tanks and NGOs, because they tend to be more nimble and less political.
- Triangular cooperation needs to have support from high-level organizations like the G20, and continuity of Southern-led leadership is an opportunity to carry forward an agenda over more than a year.

- Costa Rica expressed the need to strengthen capacities for triangular cooperation. In some cases, emerging donors are still in the process of setting up an international division or development agency. Still, there is political will and interest in strengthening its role as pivotal in triangular cooperation initiatives and sharing technical expertise with other countries.

Side event

CoWIN: A Digital Revolution Winning Over COVID-19

Organized by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) of India, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Context

In late 2020, the Government of India launched one of the world's largest digital vaccination programmes, in terms of target population, human resources, management and logistics. The digitized COVID-19 vaccination drive, COVID-19 Vaccine Intelligence Network (CoWIN). It involves an end-to-end workflow from the manufacturer through to the final vaccine, and serves as an end-to-end solution that begins with registrations and appointment scheduling, to vaccinations and issuance of vaccination certifications for all community members. As a result, over the past 20 months, India has been able to deliver over 2 billion COVID-19 vaccinations through CoWIN, which has become a catalytic force in meeting the unprecedented needs of the COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

Bringing in a new age of digital infrastructure and innovation, particularly in the health sector, the CoWIN platform has been able to address the following SDGs:

SDG 3: Good health and well-being

SDG 5: Gender Equality

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

SDG 10: Reducing Inequalities.

The Co-WIN platform is freely available to other countries as a global good in the fight against COVID-19. The Government of India will provide a detailed CoWIN demonstration and address any specific requirements prior to the establishment of a bilateral Memorandum

of Understanding covering the possible areas of focused support, including:

Technology transfer:

- transfer of the CoWIN software as a free utility;
- customization in accordance with national contexts and needs;
- data security and sovereign autonomy retention by the country seeking support.

Knowledge transfer and implementation support:

- comprehensive training/capacity-building and support materials;
- training of "Master Trainers" as required;
- support for development and launch of the national implementation plan;
- local support by the UNDP Country office teams for detailed adoption and implementation.

Furthermore, the Government of India is leveraging learnings for CoWIN for the final-stage data digitization of U-WIN for the enhancement of features of CoWIN for routine immunization. This will help for the delivery of routine immunization services and facilitate special intervention for reaching zero-dose children, left-outs and missed communities.

Key messages

Mr. Govind Jaiswal: CoWIN: Tech backbone of India's COVID-19 vaccination programme

- Through CoWIN, as vaccines became available, first the health care and frontline workers were targeted and then the elderly, and those with co-morbidities, then those aged 18+. Eventually, the vaccinations became free to everyone in 2021.

- CoWIN is completely technology-driven, through a digital platform. This platform ensures:
 - digital acknowledgement: every vaccine is traceable and verifiable;
 - dose intervals: minimum intervals between doses;
 - consistent vaccine schedules: same vaccine is administered; and
 - verification and tracking: vaccine administered to an identifiable individual to prevent pilfering.

- CoWIN is based on the following guiding principles:
 - equitable and inclusive: available and accessible to all;
 - single source of truth: unbiased distribution through single source of data;
 - able to evolve and adapt: dynamic architecture to accommodate changes; and
 - feedback and analysis: data helps form data-driven public health policy.
- Architecture of CoWIN includes:
 - registration and scheduling module;
 - vaccination facility module;
 - vaccination module;
 - certification module.
- CoWIN offers interoperability that enables innovation and facilitates wide outreach to all stakeholders.
- The platform provides advantages to citizens, such as online and off-line registrations, vaccine schedules with simplified access and minimal data input.
- The platform provides advantages to managers through uniform access across private and public sectors, together with vaccine stock management, and a real-time dashboard.
- For policymakers, the dashboard provides live vaccination centres, number of citizens registers and doses administered.
- The strategic features of CoWIN allow for inclusion despite geographical location, multiple registration on one mobile number. There is also a responsive grievance redressal either online or through a call centre.
- More than 2 billion doses have been administered, covering more than 70 per cent of the population at 425,000 vaccination centres.

Mrs. Alpana Dubey: Lessons learnt from the design or implementation of CoWIN

- The main challenges included the identification of the eligible population, working with the State Government to ensure free and equitable distribution and address vaccine hesitancy.
- Government engagement and strong government ownership led to strengthening of the immunization supply chain system through the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) and digitizing COVID-19 vaccination through CoWIN. CoWIN software solutions are designed with current and future functionalities in mind to be more effective and sustainable, and to be able to expand to other programmes.
- The catalytic support of UNDP is important as part of the broader coordination effort between the government and key development partners, engaging the private sector, NGOs, Civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs) in the development and rapid scale-up of CoWIN.
- Systematic planning of the COVID-19 vaccination drive through software testing through multiple dry runs on real field situations before launching, and flexibility to accommodate the features suited to ground-level requirements for smooth implementation of the vaccination drive through a paperless mode.
- The highest level of political and administrative ownership, sustained commitment, and support for the successful implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine. Multilevel

governance mechanisms with the establishment of the NEGVAC (National Expert group on vaccination administration for COVID-19), at national level, played a key role in guiding on all aspects of the COVID-19 vaccine introduction in India. Similar governance structures at state, district and subdistrict levels acted as a continuous steering force for successful implementation, review, and corrective measures from time to time.

- Systematic scaling up and expansion of eVIN and launch of CoWIN helped to overcome some of the non-functional elements, plugging of any infrastructural gap, and setting up cold chain points wherever required. This pre-existing eVIN system helped in the quicker launch of CoWIN in the shortest possible time.
- Digitization should be approached from a health system strengthening perspective, with solutions that are replicable, expandable and adaptable to the local context to bring efficiency gains.
- Combination of a user-friendly technology and trained human resources with a well-defined supportive supervision plan and standardized procedures results in high adoption rates and high data quality.
- eVIN and CoWIN – A single source of truth - The role of data generated through eVIN and CoWIN in informing programmatic direction cannot be over-emphasized. Data-driven policymaking and evidence-based decisions at central, state and district levels.
- Software-related lessons: well-defined guidelines on ownership and security of the software and data are critical features. Software must be open-source, inclusive, flexible, convenient, and transparent, able to support anytime and anywhere vaccination (near to home COVID-19 vaccination centres), vulnerable persons/groups (persons with disabilities, persons having no identity card, or living in remote tribal areas etc.), digitally verifiable and QR code-based digital certification.
- Empowering government staff locally at every level led to better adoption of technology in the final stage.
- Inter-ministerial and inter-departmental convergence with strong coordination, cooperation, and collaboration, with more than 19 ministries, including the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, and with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as the lead.
- CoWIN and eVIN have involved bringing improvements in logistical planning for training sessions, capacity-building, engaging government counterparts, programme presentation, the call centre, and the back-end support system.

Mr. Abhimanyu Saxena: Functionalities and scope of CoWIN- (winning over COVID)

- easy-to-use citizen interface to schedule and obtain the vaccine;
- flexible administrator module to provide and administer vaccines;
- vaccinators empowered with mobile application; online and off-line registration services are available;
- globally acceptable QR code-based vaccination certificate based on WHO guidelines;

- single source of truth for private and government health centres, manufactures;
- robust and substantial database which can allow 1.2 billion hits, has tracked 2 billion doses and have database for more than 1.1 billion population.

Dr. Suhas Dhandore: Leveraging CoWIN learnings for routine immunization and development of UIP Module of CoWIN (Universal Immunization Programme Module of CoWIN)

- After eVin (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network) and CoWIN, there was expansion to Universal Immunization Programme (UIP). The beneficiaries are pregnant women and children;
- electronic immunization registries are tools to facilitate monitoring of individualized vaccine schedules and were designed by Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Americas;

- UIP, like CoWIN will be a single source of truth, with common database, digital vaccination record and easy citizen interface;
- There were 1.1 billion beneficiaries, with 530 million women, and more than 250,000 registered vaccinators.

Indonesia

- A success story of knowledge transformation and cross-country sharing is Indonesia's "SMILE" which is a vaccine and logistics management tool built on the learnings and features adapted from eVIN in India. In particular, Indonesia was keen to visit India on a study trip to learn about CoWIN from field experience. The discussions are at the advanced stage with UNDP India and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Government of India to facilitate the visit.

The role of South-South or triangular cooperation employed in the initiative

- The Government of India has been a willing participant in technology transfer to other countries, offering CoWIN as a digital public good which has proved to be an enabler for effectively tackling COVID-19 through vaccination campaigns.
- The technology is open-source to ensure that the solution is readily replicable, customizable, adaptable, and able to be hosted in accordance with local contexts and applicable guidelines.
- Knowledge transfer is available through sharing of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and reference material for implementing large scale IT-driven solutions.
- The creation of regional and global platforms, by UNDP, facilitates knowledge and technology transfer to other countries through the sharing of experience and knowhow and the mobilization of technical experts. This includes providing support with respect to advisory, quality assurance, preparation of terms of reference (TORs), implementation strategy, communications material and capacity building through in-house thematic experts and master trainers.

Feedback from panels/audience in relation to the case presented

Were facilitators of future exchanges identified, UN Agencies, private sector, other partners?

The Ministry of External affairs, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Government of India and UNDP are the facilitators of future exchanges to promote CoWIN as a digital public good for other countries to adopt. Engagement with other development and technical partners, donors and governments will be actively explored, based on demand from countries.

What follow-up is planned to quantify (quantitative or qualitatively) the results of future adaptation of the solution?

- The quantification of the results will be based on the some of the following quick assessment indicators:
- number of countries expressing interest versus number of countries adapting the solution;
 - number of countries taking the complete solution or partially by adopting some modules of the whole CoWIN package;

- number of countries taking CoWIN demo after expression of interest and reaching out to Government of India and/or UNDP India.

The follow-up will be jointly facilitated by UNDP and the Government of India with the countries showcasing interest, supporting them by hosting technical and consultative meetings to assist the countries in obtaining a customized and context-specific intervention through India's diverse experience acquired over the two and half years of CoWin implementation.

If it is not in South-South Galaxy, would owners of the solution like to link or upload the solution to the South-South Galaxy?

Yes, the owners of the solution showed interest in uploading the solution or link to South-South Galaxy.

Side event

South-South Dialogues and Learnings in Africa: Powerful Strategy and Tools to Improve Food Security and Nutrition

Organized by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM), Côte D'Ivoire

Context

Africa has a plethora of best practices that have generated good results in addressing food insecurity and malnutrition. Unfortunately, little systematic effort has been made to promote them. Making good practices readily accessible for their replication and/or upscaling on the continent could have a greater impact on food security and nutrition.

As a facilitator of South-South cooperation and innovative partnership between WFP and Côte D'Ivoire, the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) has a two-fold service offering to support African countries to advance SDGs, especially SDG2 and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union: the promotion of good practices and the facilitation of capacity strengthening. To deliver the two-fold service, CERFAM has developed strategies and tools to support the capacity strengthening of national institutions and development partners and to facilitate access to and implementation of good practices on food security and malnutrition.

CERFAM has developed an innovative digital knowledge exchange platform (KEPT), which promotes knowledge exchange and the mobilization of expertise on key thematic areas. The platform enables the submission, documentation, validation or certification and dissemination of good practices through a rigorous methodology. By partnering with CERFAM and using KEPT, stakeholders in food security and nutrition will contribute to the expansion of a robust body of evidence-based, programme-integrated, risk-informed good practices available to governments and partners to make informed decisions to leverage investments in matters relating to hunger and malnutrition.

Apart from its work on good practice documentation, CERFAM focuses on capturing experiences to assist partners in capitalizing on the lessons learnt from their programmes and projects. By adopting a holistic and inclusive approach and through extensive consultations with main stakeholders, including interviews with key informants, focus group discussions, and on-site observations, this method fosters peer learning, networks and communities of practice. Occasional knowledge products may be generated in the

form of publications to support more systematic use of experience capitalization to inform policy decision-making and investments.

The year 2022 has been declared by the African Union (AU) as the Year of Nutrition. A few priority areas have been identified to strengthen resilience in nutrition and food security on the African continent. One of these areas is "Data management, information systems, knowledge generation and dissemination to inform decision-making". CERFAM can play a key role in this area to support African countries through its services, including good practice dissemination and South-South learning, to achieve nutrition security.

As one of CERFAM's key partners in knowledge management, the knowledge-sharing platform on Emergencies and Resilience of FAO (KORE) is actively engaged in knowledge sharing and capitalization of good practices to support resilience building for agriculture-based livelihoods. Joint actions between CERFAM and KORE, including two webinars on the documentation, dissemination and replication of good practices, have been undertaken to foster knowledge management among key stakeholders in food security and nutrition on the continent. The collaboration of two entities can create more synergies and complementarities to better support the priority area of AU on knowledge and data generation and dissemination.

Specific objectives for the session include:

- showcasing the strategy and tools developed by CERFAM for South-South learning;
- presenting the CERFAM digital knowledge exchange platform (KEPT), which facilitates the documentation of good practices online, access to validated/certified good practices, exchanges among technical experts and other users and the request for technical assistance to replicate good practices;
- advocacy for a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach of knowledge management with partnering organizations engaged in leveraging the documentation on good practices and their replication/scale-up;

- presentation of a country's experience on South-South and triangular cooperation benefits in the field.

Concrete outcomes expected from the session:

The side event is expected to increase awareness about the benefits and importance of South-South exchange, especially through the documentation and dissemination of good practices. Participants will be introduced to CERFAM initiatives and tools on good practice documentation as well as initiatives implemented by one of its partner organizations. Other exchange modalities, namely knowledge products and South-South study visits, will also be explored in the session.

Specific outcomes include:

- The modalities of South-South exchange (good practice documentation through digital knowledge exchange platform, knowledge products and South-South study visits) are shared with countries and partners.
- The digital knowledge exchange platform of CERFAM and its methodology of good practice documentation are presented.
- There is increased awareness on the benefits of these exchanges and dialogue for better programmes and policies.
- Partnership opportunities are identified for future collaboration on South-South exchanges, especially on knowledge management.

Moderator

Ms. Christiani Buani, Chargée des Operations, Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM).

Panellists

- **Mr. Patrick Teixeira**, Director a.i of CERFAM World Food Programme;
- **Dr. Patricia N'Goran**, Special Advisor to the Government of Cote d'Ivoire for CERFAM;
- **Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang**, Head of Delegation, UNOSSC;
- **Ms. Lauren Landis**, Representative and Country Director, World Food Programme, Kenya Country Office;
- **DR. Margaret Agama-Anyetei**, Director for Health and Humanitarian Affairs, Director for Health and Humanitarian Affairs;
- **Mr. David Kaatrud, Global Director**, Programme and Policy, Humanitarian and Development Division, World Food Programme, Rome.

Side Event

Partnership for Development

Organized by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD)

Context

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by all Member States of the United Nations in 2015, are aimed at assessing and unlocking existing capacities to reach peace and prosperity for the future of the world. Each country, developed and developing, has a role to play in the achievement of these goals both individually and collectively.

SDG 4 focuses on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the global learning crisis. 147 million children missed over half of in-person instruction in 2020-2021, with 24 million learners (pre-primary to university level) who may never return to school. Indeed, education is a lifeline for children in crises. SDG 17 centres around partnership for the goals and focuses on the

spirit of collaboration to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. There is a need for greater cohesion amongst resources, skills, and governing bodies of different countries to address global development challenges and help developing states reach their development outcomes. The effectiveness of international, regional, and national efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals can only be enhanced through collective action.

The collaboration between the Saudi Fund for Development, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID), brings together SDG 4 and SDG 17 for the Solar Schools Project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan.

Good practices as highlighted by the panellists

- In Pakistan, a lack of basic facilities in state schools contributes to low enrolment and high dropout rates – a problem that is especially severe in remote areas.
- On 13 February 2018, the three organizations signed an agreement to implement a project that will use solar energy to improve education.
- The objective is to use solar energy to create a conducive learning environment and make schools more child-friendly, with the aim of creating educated and peaceful communities in the seven southern districts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.
- As part of the project, 1240 state schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province will be fitted with off-grid solar power systems that will provide a renewable, sustainable source of electricity. 6000 teachers have been hired and 135,000 students.
- The project will target schools in seven of the province's most underserved districts: Bannu, Dera Ismail Khan, Hangu, Karak, Kohat, Lakki Marwat and Tank.
- With about \$8.5 million of joint support from the Department for International Development (DFID) and SFD, UNOPS will implement the project in partnership with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Department.
- The project is one of the Kingdom's most important projects, and it contributes to the achievement of SDG 4 and SDG 7, related to quality education and the provision of clean energy.
- The project is an affirmation of the Kingdom's commitment to boosting solidarity and cooperation with Pakistan, strengthening bilateral relations and raising the standard of living of the Pakistani people.

Moderator

Ms. Samaher Alshelali, Policy and Partnerships Director, Saudi Fund for Development.

Panellists:

- **Mr. Abdulrahman Alzamil**, Head of Sustainability External Engagement and Secretary General for the Sustainable Development Steering Committee - Saudi Ministry of Economy and Planning;
- **Eng. Mohammed Almasoud**, Director of Central and West Asia Operations - Saudi Fund for Development;
- **Eng. Sajid Ullah Khan**, Deputy Project Manager – United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS);
- **Mr. Farrukh Iqbal Khan**, General Manager of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Economic Diplomacy Administration - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan.

Side Event

Exploring the Nexus Between Civil Society, Government, Non-Governmental Organizations and the Private Sector in Promoting Economic Inclusion, Digitization, and Education to Ensure that No One is Left Behind

Organized by Global One and the Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation (ANCSSC)

Context

An integral part of South-South and triangular cooperation modalities is to develop multi-stakeholder partnerships and capacity building of civil society. In today's world the global landscape has significantly changed. Along with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is also facing a triple planetary crisis: climate change; biodiversity loss; and pollution. This means that we have to work smarter and more effectively by sharing best practices, innovation and local solutions. The aim of this event is to focus on how civil society is working across the global South to ensure that no one is left behind.

It has now been over two years since COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic by WHO. The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over. The danger of new variants of concern arising remains high due to the virus's intense transmission and inadequate vaccination levels in many parts of the world. This raises the prospect of new outbreaks of catastrophic disease, mortality, and societal and economic disruption. In 2021, WHO established a global goal of vaccinating 70 per cent of the population in all countries in order to end and recover from the pandemic. Only 52 nations have attained the target, while 69 countries have yet to fulfil the interim milestone of 40 per cent coverage. Significant inequalities in COVID-19 vaccine coverage threaten to disrupt long-term economic recovery, particularly in low-coverage countries. Ultimately, progress within the COVID-19 sphere must not be seen as separate from that of progress within health security as a whole.

Civil society organizations and NGOs throughout the global South stepped up by playing a key role in supporting vulnerable communities during the COVID-19 outbreak through food pack distributions, supplying personal protective equipment, giving trauma and mental health support, and supporting bereaved families with burial arrangements etc. NGOs, grassroots organizations, and civil society have been at the frontlines of this

pandemic. They often face critical challenges, such as threats, attacks, funding cuts and disproportionate restrictions. These are just some of the challenges civil society organizations face in the global South, and the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened their working conditions. It is therefore important to promote the sharing of best practices and experiences relating to implementing sustainable developments and sharing of experiences.

To secure supply chains, protect communities, and ensure no one is left behind, the tools of cooperation, advocacy, and action are indispensable. This event served to highlight existing initiatives and future avenues for the role of civil society within education, economic inclusion, and digitization.

The pandemic is only unique in scale - it is not unique in cause, harm or societal impact. We ought to continually place importance on health globally to future proof all developmental efforts and this event highlighted how education, digitization, and economic inclusivity could play leading roles.

This side event provided an opportunity for NGOs and CSOs to share their experiences, best practices and challenges in this post-COVID-19 world. It explored the ways in which governments and the private sector can work with civil society to address economic inclusion, digitization and education; it offered an opportunity for multi-stakeholder engagement and a chance to showcase best practices in these areas. It also provided the opportunity to reflect on and discuss how all stakeholders are building on existing interventions on the SDGs and inequality through capacity building, strengthened partnerships and better governance within states and territories. South-South and triangular cooperation highlights the value of partnerships for inclusive growth. The ANCSSC aims to promote locally-led and coordinated approaches to advocacy, humanitarian and developmental issues and this will be highlighted

in this event through the contribution of the ANCSSC members to the discussion.

Cross-cutting themes

Leaving No One Behind: Refugees and migration in the context of South-South cooperation

At the end of 2021, as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, or events seriously disturbing public order, 89.3 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced. Another 53.2 million people have also been internally displaced, meaning they have not yet crossed a border to find safety and instead are either trapped within a conflict or are prevented from leaving for other reasons. As a result, analysts estimate one in eighty eight people globally have been forced to flee from their homes. Therefore, we have to realize that contemporary efficient responses, which maintain good practices, require us to work together and communicate effectively. And so, this event will venture forward and detail just how cooperation in digitization, education, and economic programmes could be just one way of spearheading positive change in today's world.

Gender equality and gender justice within South-South cooperation

Research from McKinsey found that women's jobs during COVID-19 were up to 1.9 times more likely to be vulnerable. Although women comprise 39 per cent of total global employment they accounted for just over 54 per cent of total job losses.

Simultaneously, we also see positive data globally that recognizes private industries which maintain a higher level of gender and ethnic diversity and achieve greater levels of economic performance. Hence, given all the risks that have arisen from the pandemic there is a danger that diversity will recede and with it the potential for recovery. It seems downgrading diversity in times of crisis will surely thwart long-term recovery.

Therefore, all stakeholders must realize that the maintenance and acceleration of gender equality globally is tremendously desirable - and a key to recovery. Now, within civil society, we need to find ways to better tap into that potential and this event will intend to do so whilst relating gender to parallel discourses within education, economic inclusivity, and digitization. If no one is to be left behind we must understand our responsibilities also through a gender inclusive lens.

Showcasing ANCSSC App

ANCSSC has developed a capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and networking app in collaboration with the Computer Science Department of University College London (UCL). This systems integration project aimed to create a web application for ANCSSC member NGOs operating under UN guidelines. The goal of the application is to provide a digital platform for the member organizations to share knowledge and resources easily, as well as to connect and form partnerships in order to facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Through the app, the ANCSSC's aim is to highlight best practices in supporting impoverished communities through a number of ways such as infrastructure, training, equipment and creating opportunities for a better life.

Importance of economic inclusion for South-South cooperation

This side event highlighted the importance of economic inclusion in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the ANCSSC Fund which has been recently formed.

Economic inclusion can help boost the income and assets of the world's poorest individuals and households with a "big push" of coordinated interventions. Through economic inclusion, global South countries are able to demonstrate the strong potential to improve livelihoods as part of integrated policy responses focused on containing the pandemic, ensuring food security and supporting medium-term recovery. It is therefore crucial to highlight the importance of funding and economic inclusion for the global South.

Organizational background: ANCSSC

The Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation (ANCSSC) strives to enhance civil society's understanding of the value of South-South and triangular cooperation in developmental, humanitarian and related spheres. It encourages the sharing of knowledge, expertise and contextually appropriate technologies and assets among NGOs and CSOs, particularly those that have been developed in their respective organizational and operational experiences in developing countries. The Alliance liaises with governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, to promote South-South cooperation policies and disseminate best practices across its work.

The activities of the ANCSSC are aimed at popularizing South-South and triangular cooperation modalities and approaches in the work of NGOs and CSOs in developing countries, wherever these are deemed more appropriate and cost-effective in undertaking specific tasks. Towards this goal, it seeks to strengthen the capacities of NGOs and CSOs when and where needed, through partnerships with other NGOs and CSOs capable of providing such services.

The outcomes of the side event were the following:

- understand the important role of civil society within triangular cooperation, South-South initiatives, and continual post-COVID-19 recovery efforts;
- focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by the interplay between digitization efforts and the COVID-19 pandemic to address the digital divide;
- create greater visibility for South-South developmental initiatives and capacity-building efforts;
- acknowledge the importance of leaving no one behind within our recovery efforts, particularly in economic inclusivity projects, digitization, and education; and
- enhance capabilities for creating strong resilient communities between ANCSSC members.

This side event addressed the following SDGs:

- SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- SDG 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all.
- SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development
 - 17.6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance

- knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.
- 17.7: Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.

Moderator

Dr. Husna Ahmad, Global Coordinator Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation (ANCSSC).

Panellists

- **Mr. Denis Nkala**, Chief, Intergovernmental and UN System Affairs;
- **Mr. Tarikhul Kabir**, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), BSRM Ltd;
- **Professor Dean Mohammedally**, University College London;
- **Honorary Ahmed Nadhir Omar**, County Minister for Education and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the County Government of Garissa in Kenya;
- **Mr. Mustafa Ali**, Secretary General Global Network of Religions for Children;
- **Mr. Raihan Kadery Mahmood**, Head of International Programmes, Global One;
- **Dr. Meera Tiwari**, Co-Director the Centre for Social Change and Justice, University of East London (UEL);

Key messages

The main message of this side event relating to South-South cooperation was the importance of multistakeholder partnerships and of economic inclusion for South-South cooperation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In recent years, there has been an increasing global push to promote inclusive economic development and “Leave No One Behind”. Addressing this challenge through equitable and sustainable growth is a critical action under the SDG agenda (SDG 8). Economic inclusion initiatives that aim to achieve this have the ability to expand on pre-existing national efforts to strengthen social protection systems and job strategies around the world. By empowering NGOs and CSOs and increasing their capacity, a stronger structure is established, allowing services to continue in

the event of further challenges linked with development initiatives. In order to increase capacity and sustain NGOs and CSOs, the collaboration of multi-stakeholders is crucial to achieving these goals. Funding NGOs and CSOs in the global South will bring social change and generate empowerment directly to where it is needed most.

This message relates to South-South cooperation’s objectives of strengthening the capacity of developing countries to identify and analyse together their main development issues and formulate the requisite strategies to address them and to increase the quantity and enhance the quality of international development cooperation by pooling capacities to improve the effectiveness of the resources devoted to such cooperation.

Good practices as highlighted by panellists

Mr. Tarikhul Kabir

- Mr. Kabir acknowledged the importance of leaving no one behind within recovery efforts, particularly in economic inclusivity and education projects.
- He highlighted the work done by BSRM Ltd. contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Bangladeshi Government's business policies of investing a significant amount of its profit in the welfare of vulnerable communities. BSRM commits resources to the extent it can reasonably afford to do so, not in one-off philanthropic projects, rather in a set of strategically planned efforts consistent with BSRM's own corporate strengths and complementary to programmes offered by the Government, to sustain and improve a healthy and prosperous environment, and improve the quality of life of people living in poverty.
- BSRM has multistakeholder partnerships with NGOs, government organizations (GOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and UN bodies and international agencies in the areas of education, health, sanitation and environment, such as UNDP, UNICEF, Handicap International, Global One, Conference Room Paper (CRP), National Development Plan (NDP) which enables them to support education, environment protection, building self-reliant communities, health, and women empowerment initiatives. BSRM is committed to the SDGs through South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives.

Raihan Kadery Mahmood

- Mr. Mahmood shared his experience on how NGOs and CSOs are playing vital roles to ensure that "no one is left behind" through the nexus between the government and the private sector.

- Refugee camps in Bangladesh can be one of the best examples of a multi-stakeholder setting. They are home to nearly 1.3 million refugees and are places where different humanitarian sectors work together, including the education, food security; nutrition; health; protection, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), site management, logistics, shelter and non-food items (NFI) sectors.
- Each of these sectors is comprised of different stakeholders from the Government of Bangladesh, UN agencies, international and local NGOs and CSOs, local government representatives, representatives of the local Bangladeshi host communities, representatives of Rohingya refugees, local businesses and suppliers. Stakeholder engagement in the Rohingya refugee operations in Bangladesh is extremely diverse, so it is not easy to coordinate with all stakeholders. However, once this coordination can be ensured, the outcomes and impact of the projects and interventions become highly effective and sustainable.
- Global One runs a health clinic in Rohingya refugee camp-17 which serves 10,000 adjacent Rohingya refugees. One of the tasks of this health post is to provide health education to refugees. The health post conducts 15 health education sessions per month. When the content of these health education sessions is prepared and updated, these have to be strictly aligned with the refugees' health agendas and with the priorities set by the Government and the health sector, which involves many stakeholders. The content has to be regularly updated, sometimes giving special priority to family planning or early marriage; at other times the priority is child immunization or special hygiene guidelines addressing the rise of COVID-19 or other diseases such as hepatitis and skin diseases. In order to set these priorities in the health education context, highly effective multi-stakeholder coordination must be in place.

Moving forward

- The Director-General of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific requested greater visibility for South-South developmental initiatives and capacity-building efforts. He asked the Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation to support their initiative of launching "UN World Rural Development Day" on 6 July. His request was to connect with partners at different levels, including CSOs and NGOs, and to mobilize a movement.
- The Alliance of NGOs and CSOs for South-South Cooperation will be connecting with the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific to hear about their initiative of launching "UN World Rural Development Day" and to support the initiative.

Side event

Matchmaking Workshop on Public Service Innovation: Effective Matchmaking for Public Service Innovations Through the South-South Network

Organized by the Government of Bangladesh, South-South Network for Public Service Innovation (SSN4PSI) and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Context

The South-South Network for Public Service Innovation (SSN4PSI) was launched at the Global South-South Development Expo, on 27 November 2017 in Antalya, Türkiye, to harness innovations, particularly in public service delivery, to help governments and society make progress in the achievement of SDGs and other development agendas. SSN4PSI is a collaborative platform where governments, private sector organizations, experts and academics exchange knowledge, experiences and expertise on public service innovation. One of the most important methods employed by SSN4PSI is “matchmaking”. Matchmaking ensures that countries that have successfully tackled public service challenges in the past can effectively share solutions with countries that need them the most.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the vulnerabilities of health systems and people, and exacerbated the digital divide. One of the challenges for government posed by COVID-19 was public service delivery, which needed to be reviewed methodically to address people’s changing needs. Governments had to continuously innovate to figure out how to serve citizens more effectively and efficiently during the pandemic and ensure the sustainability of these innovations in order to continue to build a smart and resilient future.

The pandemic not only showed how vulnerable countries, especially developing countries, can unexpectedly face unprecedented realities, but also revealed the significance of solidarity and cooperation in addressing development challenges. In this regard, the core approach of South-South cooperation is essential. The need for partnerships among Southern countries has now become increasingly vital as the world moves forward toward the post-pandemic reality and recovery and focuses on achieving the SDGs by 2030.

Against this backdrop, and as of August 2022, the SSN4PSI has 44 members consisting of 30 countries in the global South and 14 global organizations. The main objective of this side event was to identify more novel innovations for scaling-up public service innovation with a special focus on sustainable COVID-19 recovery, more specifically to:

- facilitate matchmaking among participating countries and other relevant stakeholders;
- facilitate an inclusive understanding of the kind of service delivery innovations that create sustainable impact and process of creating that impact;
- exhibit proven pathways from innovation prototyping to upscaling;
- explore more broadly the role of public service innovations in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals in the COVID-19 reality.

Moderator

Mr. Rabbi Miah, Joint Secretary, UN Wing, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Opening Remarks and Launching of the Workshop:

- **Mr. Denis Nkala**, Chief, Intergovernmental and UN Systems Affairs United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC);
- **Mr. Masud Bin Momen**, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Moderator

Mr. Anir Chowdhury, Policy Advisor, a2i – Innovate for All, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Panellists

- **Ms. Nigar Khalilli**, Senior consultant, Department of e-Government and Digital Innovations, State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- **Ms. Araks Avetyan**, Head of Program Management Department, -Governance Infrastructure Implementation Unit (EKENG) CJSC, Armenia;
- **Engr Mr. Md. Harun Or Rosid**, Programmer, Department of Information and Communication Technology, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division, Bangladesh;
- **Mr. Adam Manik**, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resources and Agriculture, Maldives;
- **Mr. Irakli Kotetishvili**, Policy Specialist, Anti-Corruption and Public Administration, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Istanbul Regional Hub;
- **Mr. Abdullah Lingga**, Chief of the Information Systems and Technology Management Division, Ministry of the Interior and Local Government (MILG), Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Philippines;
- **Ms. Tahrira Khan**, Senior Programme Officer, Partners in Population and Development (PPD);
- **Mr. Bongani Matomela**, Programme Manager, Governance, UNDP South Africa;
- **Ms. Sudha Gooty**, Programme Manager, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) regional initiative titled Catalyzing Women's Entrepreneurship;
- **Mr. Irakli KOTETISHVILI**, Policy Specialist, Anti-Corruption and Public Administration, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub;
- **Mr. Moshe Kao**, Programme Management Officer, UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries (online).

Closing Remarks:

- **Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang**, Head of Delegation, UNOSSC
- **Ms. Kate Sutton**, Head of Innovation Centre, UNDP Bangkok Regional Centre;
- **Ms. Zeynep Orhun Girard**, Chief, Capacity Development and Partnerships, ESCAP.

Opening remarks

Mr. Denis Nkala

- Many countries from the South have been transforming their public sector delivery systems through digitalization, embracing the innovative solutions and looking to advance their public delivery to overcome development challenges, harness ICT, reduce the digital divide and strengthen technical cooperation in order to leave no one behind.
- SSN4PSI is an example of the follow-up required for the BAPA+40 recommendations for inclusive multi-stakeholder participation in South-South cooperation. This is a situation where all stakeholders can benefit, as the public sector can leverage financing from the private sector through public-private partnerships where citizens reap positive benefits.

Mr. Masud Bin Momen

- It is time for the state architectures of the global South to evolve into a reservoir of knowledge.
- SSN4PSI is an inclusive, collaborative and co-creative platform where governments, private sector organizations, experts and academics exchange knowledge, experiences and expertise

on public service innovation.

- The Government of Bangladesh has been invited to missions in the Philippines, Somalia, Fiji, Jordan, Türkiye and Yemen.
- Memorandums of Understanding have also been signed with the Government of Maldives.
- Bhutan and Peru plan to replicate a number of Bangladeshi best practices.
- Some examples of cooperative exchange are:
 - Somalia: the National Intelligence for Skills, Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship (NISE) platform from Bangladesh was adapted in Somalia under the name "Shaqo Abuur". Jordan has adapted NISE as "Digi Maharath".
 - Yemen: the first e-commerce platform "Yemeni Dukkan" was adapted from Bangladesh's e-commerce platform "ekShop", and Türkiye's "Dukkan", is an adaptation of the ekShop.
 - Fiji: has adapted Bangladesh's Start to Finish Service Delivery Tracker, while Peru is in the process of starting a similar adaptation of the SDG Tracker.
 - Bangladesh: took fourth industrial revolution (4IR)-related knowledge support from Singapore.

- Bangladesh: replicated the social safety nets from Togo.
- In 2022, SSN4PSI will also launch the third volume of the South-South Matchmaker (best practices 2021-22) which contains 15 case studies covering governance, health care, education and e-commerce, with an emphasis on COVID 19 response and recovery.
- Best practices featured in the publication on South-South and triangular cooperation include:
 - Bangladesh's COVID-19 Vaccine Management System and digital system to manage the COVID-19 vaccination programme;
 - MuktoPaaath: an e-learning platform to train health care

- professionals in a crisis;
- Dukkan replicating e-commerce innovation in Bangladesh to assist Syrian refugees in Türkiye;
- MyGov platform that aggregates all government services for easy accessibility for citizens.
- Bangladesh is planning to set up a knowledge and innovation centre for countries, which would provide the platform to co-create solutions to address challenges in advancing technology transformation, particularly by sharing innovative practices and identifying experiences which could be transferred, replicated and scaled up.

Good practices as highlighted by the panellists

Bangladesh: SSN4PSI

- For public service innovation, six areas of work are focused on: future of work and skills; future of finance; future of commerce; future of public service delivery; future of the civil service; and future of data innovation.
- SSN4PSI has been a unique and innovative approach to matching demand with supply. So far, 19 workshops have been delivered in Bangkok, Dhaka, Rome, Geneva, New York, Manila, Astana and Fiji.
- Through SSN4PSI, public service delivery, health care, education, and skills and development have been transformed.
- New innovations are analysed through a number of dimensions: leadership; capacity development; institutional transformation; technology; strategic policy; legal reform and political and cultural dimensions.
- Over 200 innovations have been presented and over 16 innovations have crossed national boundaries.

Azerbaijan: ASAN Appeal Information System (AMIS)

- AMIS is a citizen-oriented project where citizens can send applications related to public infrastructure, road and transport problems, repair and infrastructure cleaning, through a mobile app. These applications are recorded on an electronic map and sent to relevant government agencies immediately. Citizens are involved in the decision-making process.
- The process of responding to these applications is monitored by the user through the system.

Maldives: Sustainable fishing

- The sustainable fishing initiative avoids over-exploitation of marine resources, minimizes damage to aquatic habitats and promotes social inclusion. The country has a ban on the use of nets for commercial fishing and actively promotes one-by-one fisheries that have less impact on the marine ecosystem.
- Some new practices introduced through this initiative are:

- Anchored fishing aggregating devices (FADs) were deployed in good fishing locations for tuna and recreational fishing.
- Vessel location devices and electronic monitoring were installed to demonstrate compliance.
- Modified bait holds/tanks were installed in fishing vessels.
- Fish finders and bird radars were introduced.
- Catch certification systems were implemented.
- Seawater sprayer systems are used as they are more effective in attracting tuna instead of fishing with pole and line.
- More youth are interested in joining the sector.
- Coastal countries can develop their own fishing fleet and processing sector for economic growth.
- The initiative is financed by government funds, donor-funded projects implemented by FAO, World Bank (WB), IFAD, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and NGOs and financial assistance from foreign governments.

Armenia: Seamless communication with the State

- During the COVID-19 lockdowns, citizens faced difficulties in communicating with the State, thus creating a requirement for online communication, instead of face-to-face contact.
- The platform allows for citizens to send an application or request or complaint. Citizens can track their case, its progress and results, and book a visit to meet higher officials.
- Citizens benefit from transparent communication with the State.
- The Government knows exactly who it engages and can manage cases without additional office work.
- The chances of losing documents are reduced.

Bangladesh: Surokkha: Covid-19 vaccine management system

- The Government is using the Surokkha platform to implement the overall management of vaccination activities.
- The main stakeholders in Surokkha are the citizens, Government and various ministries, such as the Ministries of Health, Foreign Affairs, Education, and Social Welfare.
- The objectives are: inclusion of the citizen through self-registration for the COVID-19 vaccine; improving government

services; ensuring transparency and accountability through the use of information technology; reducing dependence on foreign technology; and creating a transparent database for vaccine recipients.

- Ninety million vaccinations have been administered and there have been 104 million registrations.
- Eight and a half million people were vaccinated in a single day, and the platform had 60 million visits in a day.
- Vaccinated informal workers and garment workers were able to resume work and migrant workers were able to join work overseas.
- Future work includes child vaccination, establishing a universal health database and application programming interface (API) integrations.

Montenegro (UNDP): “Be Safe” mobile helpline application for women

- With the lockdowns imposed due to COVID-19, there was an approximate 30 per cent increase in violence against women, and civil society organizations were flooded with requests for help.
- UNDP collaborated with partners, such as government, police, and the judiciary to make this application.
- The “Be Safe” application enables victims of gender-based violence to obtain help with one click through this digital one-stop shop. Once the message is sent, the phone number and geolocation are received by the national SOS helpline for victims and the request for help is sent to the relevant department.
- The “Be Safe” application can be downloaded from Playstore and Appstore and operates at a lower level of data exchange for benefit of the user.
- A chat feature is available.
- It has been replicated in the Republic of North Macedonia, and as “Sound of Soul” in Serbia.

Uzbekistan: Information system for the automation of licensing and permits – “License” platform

- The challenge was that to receive licences and permits, citizens had to go in person to the public service agency. This was time-consuming and inefficient. Thus, all licensing and permits procedures were transferred to digital format.
- The approach was “simplify first, digitize after”. That is, operations related to the issuance of licences and permits were simplified.
- The efficiency of transactions between the authorities and citizens increased.
- Transparency of information is ensured.
- 21 online trainings have been delivered to 513 participants from the Ministry of Justice, Public Services Centres and five Ministries.
- 30952 applications were completed from January 2021 to June 2022.

Philippines (UNDP): Digital Bangsamoro Portal

- The Digital Bangsamoro Portal was inspired by the “myGov” platform of Bangladesh. e-governance and digitalization are the second top priority agenda for the Bangsamoro Government, and the Government is therefore looking for ways and innovations to improve public service delivery and make government services accessible to its constituents.
- Digital Bangsamoro Portal is an online one-stop shop for all government services that be accessed through a website, or by visiting the Digital Centres located in municipal halls.
- Through this platform, there has been development of e-Services with new technologies.
- The programme has been institutionalized at all levels of the Government.
- Advantages are a reduction in time, cost and in-person visits of citizens as they can apply for multiple services online.
- The portal has been funded and implemented in partnership with UNDP Philippines, which manages funds and project implementation, and there are partnerships with other ministries and local government units.

Bangladesh: Maternal Death Free Kapasia Model

- The “Maternal Death Free Kapasia Model” aims to facilitate safe pregnancy and childbirth for women in Kapasia Upazila area and to ensure effective childcare guidelines.
- The objectives are to reduce maternal and child mortality; raise awareness among pregnant mothers about prenatal and postnatal health care, nutrition and family planning; and to supply information and simplify services.
- A database programme, “Gorbobotir Aina”, has been created to implement the Kapasia model. Health-care workers enter patient information into the database and doctor’s appointments are made in the fourth, sixth, eighth and ninth months of pregnancy.
- The “Gorbobotir Goina” is a manual that contains health-related information and illustrations and is given to women to raise awareness.
- The Kapasia model involves service delivery support, such as ambulance services, and donations for poor pregnant women from the Humanity Fund. It also includes local administrative support through donations from all government officials from their monthly salary, engages community level support through blood donations, and engages students and community leaders.
- Maternal deaths have reduced from eight deaths in 2016-2017 to zero deaths in 2019-2020, and newborn deaths reduced from 12 deaths in 2016 to 3 deaths in 2020.
- PPD is an inter-governmental organization of 27 developing countries and the Kapasia model has been selected by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to be highlighted in 27 different countries for best practices in population and reproductive health.

South Africa (UNDP): domestic observer digital app

- This is a project of the UNDP, Elections Commission and Domestic Observers Network.
- The challenge faced by the Independent Elections Commission was a lack of real-time data, analysis and reporting during elections.
- The app provides a transparent, efficient and secure tool for election observation, and avoids tedious reporting. It operates on the Cloud and provides a secured and verifiable centrally-managed election observation process.
- The Manual Data and Observation process was digitized and automated to enable data capture and multiple reporting capabilities.
- There is no storage of the data of any of the Observer Users, and each user can create their own profile.
- Data auditing has also been automated through this app, with real-time tracking that is accessible to all stakeholders, and to the Elections Commission.

Bhutan: Hear, Listen, and Speak Programme

- This is a public-private partnership model with funds from the UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, and support from UNRCO, UNICEF, and Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Commission.
- The programme addresses hearing loss for all children in Bhutan, with a target of 110,000 children over a period of three years from 2022 to 2025. The programme started in 2022, and so far 4000 children have been screened.
- Screening in schools was previously performed for sight and dental health. However screening is now being conducted for hearing loss. The aim is to enhance capacity development by helping to diagnose conditions and measure the prevalence of paediatric hearing loss, increase collaboration between local and international stakeholders, develop technology and infrastructure, and involve all levels of governments.
- The technology is being developed in India and imported to Bhutan.
- The programme seeks to be sustainable by improving the in-house capabilities and capacities of Bhutanese doctors and technicians to address issues locally.

ESCAP: Catalysing Women's Entrepreneurship (CWE) in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Viet Nam, Samoa, and Nepal

- In the past two years, the existing challenges faced by women entrepreneurs across the region have escalated with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, illustrating the need for business preparedness and improved resilience to ensure continuity during crises.
- The CWE programme quickly mobilized its assets and partners to support entrepreneurs impacted by the pandemic.
- To date the programme has:
 - supported 43,291 women entrepreneurs to access financing and business support services;
 - unlocked \$64.9 million to support women entrepreneurs with the programme and supporting 14 innovative financing start-ups;
 - established partnerships with five SME Ministries and two Women's Ministries to foster strong policy and institutional environment;
 - revised different policies and laws to provide targeted policies for women entrepreneurs;
 - established institutional mechanisms for collaboration across stakeholders impacting women entrepreneurs;
 - improved the business registration process to help women in the formal sector to register their businesses;
 - developed capacities to design systems that collect information and track the progress of policy reforms for women entrepreneurs;
 - developed a policymakers' toolkit jointly with the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on MSMEs which will help scale up this approach in 10 ASEAN countries.
- CWE is committed to working with partners to build an inclusive ecosystem, where women can have confidence that the tools, financing and resources are available for them to start or grow a business.
- Three interconnected pillars address barriers: policy; digital entrepreneur skills and trainings; and access to finance.
- In all six countries, the Ministry of Industry leads the project with representatives from the central bank and women's ministries and other relevant agencies.
- Coordination mechanisms led by SME Ministries have been established and are effective and agile.
- More information is available at www.unescap.org/projects/cwe.

Virtual side event

Launch of Report: Accelerating COVID-19 Recovery Through Ushikamano wa Pan-Africa

Organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Context

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 promotes horizontal knowledge exchanges between two developing countries at similar levels of development, while triangular cooperation, which involves a third triangular cooperation 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 socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic on countries, South-South and triangular cooperation 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 South-South and triangular cooperation, including the scaling up of national-led efforts to institutionalize South-South and triangular cooperation; 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 BAPA+40, UNDP supports these South-South and triangular cooperation efforts as a knowledge broker, partnership facilitator, and a capacity development supporter for South-South and triangular cooperation.

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 South-South and triangular cooperation 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 is available at:

<https://www.undp.org/africa/publications/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 South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships, illustrating the strength of Africa's resilience through mutual sharing and powerful Pan-African solidarity, as the Swahili word *Ushikamano* suggests. It captures ongoing South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives in Africa and articulates the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation for addressing the impact of COVID-19 and other development challenges beyond the pandemic.

Objectives

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

Opening remarks

Ms. Ayodele Odusola

Following acknowledgments of the plethora of challenges emerging from COVID-19, partnerships were identified as critical in the context of dwindling 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 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 in facilitating learning, sharing knowledge, and developing partnerships.

Additionally, in the light of this 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

Moderator

Ms. Orria Goni Ms. Orria Goni, SDG Finance and South-South Cooperation Regional Advisor, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Africa Sustainable Finance Hub.

Opening Remarks

- **Mr. Ayodele Odusola**, UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub Manager;
- **Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang**, Head of Delegation, UNOSSC

Panellists

- **Ms. Amanda Lucey**, South-South Cooperation Consultant, UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub;
- Discussion: South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Africa during COVID-19 and Beyond
Facilitator: **Mr. Frederick Mugisha**, Regional SDG Integration Advisor, Regional Service Centre for Africa;
- Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development, Cameroon;
- Rwanda Cooperation Initiative (RCI);
- Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA);
- China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA);
- **Ms. Nadine Piefer-Söyler**, Foresight, Outreach and Policy Reform Unit, Development Co-operation Directorate, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD);
- **Mr. Tormod Nuland**, Senior Adviser, Communication and Outreach, Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec).

of South-South and triangular cooperation to achieve inclusive, resilient and sustainable development on the African continent with a Pan-African and global solidarity vision.

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

Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang

Solidarity has been the key to overcoming challenges faced today. It is in the DNA of South-South cooperation. Even when the expressions may vary across countries, the spirit is the same. The power of South-South cooperation comes through the sharing of knowledge, exchange of expertise, and transfer of technology. During the response to the pandemic, African solutions were abundant and represented active efforts to promote South-South solidarity and leave no one behind.

Key remarks on the launch of the report: Accelerating COVID-19 recovery through Ushikamano wa Pan-Africa

Ankun Liu

- The Pandemic highlighted different types of road blocks to South-South and triangular cooperation 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 South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives played a role in enhancing Africa's response to the pandemic, thereby reinforcing the need for South-South and triangular cooperation 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 subregional levels.
- At subregional level, different Regional Economic Communities coordinated their Member States to formulate collective health responses, including but not limited to, establishment of a subregional surveillance and control

- centre, coordination committee and reporting statistics, the development of response strategies and plans, medical procurement and deployment, and health care training.
- From a survey that informed the report, it was noted that a number of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives were undertaken in Africa in response to COVID-19. Key emerging actors in those initiatives included Brazil, Cuba, China, Morocco, Türkiye and Japan, playing important roles in supporting African COVID-19 responses. Typical support included the provision of medical equipment and supplies, technical training, sharing of good practices and deployment of doctors and nurses.
- The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA) 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 developing the Pharmaceutical Initiative, and in the long term by facilitating the re-shaping of regional value chains and boosting 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 in their 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 peoples' voices, offer professional services and knowledge, and be the watchdog to ensure accountability and transparency.

Rosine Urujeni

- Following COVID-19, Rwanda embraced and integrated digitalization in various programme areas. These included enhancing operational tools, reforming business models through virtual study visits, and launching innovations like "Rwandapedia" where key knowledge exchange programmes are available for reference and benchmarking and serve as opportunities for cooperation both nationally and globally.
- Rwanda continues to reinforce the need for South-South and triangular cooperation, and integrated such cooperation in its vision 2050, National Development Plan and in the ST11 where it has identified three pillars: economic and transformation; social transformation; and transformational governance.

Emmanuel Lao

- The flexibility and adaptability of South-South and triangular cooperation has allowed Cameroon to face health, social and economic shocks following the pandemic with resilience. Through regional cooperation and with triangular support, the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) established a regional plan to respond to COVID-19, economic and financial responses were adopted at regional level through triangular support from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and development partners such as China, Morocco, EU and the Islamic development bank, among others.
- One major challenge raised for South-South and triangular cooperation was lack of a common framework across the continent, and the need for one in building a collective vision.

Wen'an Wang

- 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 the post-COVID recovery within the continent.
- China aims to continue supporting post-COVID-19 recovery through various initiatives like focus on China-Africa cooperation through the BRICS Summit (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), and the Belt and Road Initiative.

For example, through the Belt and Road Initiative, China has committed to developing infrastructure that strengthens trade from East to West and transforms the global economy.

Nadine Piefer-Söyler,

- As an institution with multiple triangular projects globally, OECD leverages a model comprising three roles in triangular cooperation to support facilitation across the 243 multiregional projects supported, of which 15 per cent 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 OECD 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 recommendations included leveraging triangular cooperation to support more circular innovations, addressing development megatrends, supporting capacities and ecosystems for cooperation, research and learning among others.

Dr. Ulrich Mueller

- 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. Nobody has the right way and the best solution for our way forward, so we are wise to work together knowing that the best ideas often come where they have been least expected. Triangular cooperation is a cooperation form that allows such collaboration.
- Germany has long-standing experience in triangular cooperation, especially with partners from Latin America and the Caribbean, but increasingly also in other parts of the world, in some cases partnering with multilateral organizations. 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 more closely with bilateral engagements and to increase triangular cooperation partnerships with the private sector, CSOs and academia, as well as multilateral organizations such as UNDP. Some practice cases already show the effects on post-pandemic recovery achievable in that way.

Key recommendation(s)

- Cross-cutting stakeholder mobilization and inclusion to support 2030 Agenda: the private sector was identified as a key player in supporting post-COVID-19 economic growth recovery. Civil society and academia can support South-South and triangular cooperation 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 is needed to address some of the challenges countries faced at regional level hindering South-South cooperation, such as 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 a need to diversify 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 Development Finance Assessment (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 South-South and triangular cooperation.
- Digitalization as a catalyser is 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 impact of COVID-19 in Africa shared good practices and provided nine 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 a need for more research reporting and knowledge management on South-South and triangular cooperation to make good use of the full potential of South-South and triangular cooperation in Africa.
- The OECD database shows that the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region accounts for up 42 per cent of all triangular cooperation projects world-wide where projects include different stakeholders and diverse expertise. As an established region, there is a lot that the African continent can learn from in efforts to identify how to build a South-South cooperation model that caters to its needs and interests.

Virtual side event

Responsible Business at the Forefront of South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Organized by the UN Global Compact

Context

The United Nations Global Compact - the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative, through its local networks, has been supporting companies to navigate the sustainability challenges magnified by COVID-19. Moreover, the UN General Assembly, through its Resolution 73/291 adopted on 15 April 2019, which endorsed the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, recognizes the expansion of the number of relevant actors in development, such as the private sector. It also takes note of the inclusive and diverse nature of triangular cooperation that supports partnerships where each partner can contribute according to its own capacities and means. The Resolution also calls for the establishment and promotion of innovative development solutions and partnerships, involving various stakeholders at different levels, including local and regional authorities, civil society, the private sector, academia, research centres and non-governmental organizations.

This side event showcased concrete examples and lessons between the Global Compact, its local networks and participants, particularly at regional level, on building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The event showcased the inclusive and diverse nature of South-South and triangular cooperation that supports partnerships where each partner can contribute according to its own capacities and means, notably in the private sector.

As South-South cooperation expands in scale and scope, there is increasing recognition that multi-stakeholder partnerships are critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. One of the most prevalent stakeholders in these multi-stakeholder partnerships is the private sector. Responsible business can play a critical role in the fight to end poverty, through the creation of sustainable jobs, fostering economic activity through their supply chains, and contributing tax revenues for basic services and infrastructure, particularly in the quest to build back better from the pandemic.

Objectives

- showcase how the UN Global Compact and its local networks can play a central role in driving South-South and triangular cooperation;
- exchange views on how the private sector can further enhance government efforts in South-South and triangular cooperation in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; and
- promote future collaboration opportunities with Global Compact Local Networks, UN Resident Coordinators, and governments.

Opening Remarks

Ms. Olajobi Makinwa, Chief of Intergovernmental Affairs and Africa of the UN Global Compact.

Panellists

Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Assistant Secretary-General and CEO of the UN Global Compact Leadership Dialogue on The Role of Responsible Business at the Forefront of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Closing Remarks:

Ms. Olajobi Makinwa, Chief of Inter-governmental Relations and Africa UN Global Compact..

Virtual side event

Building South-South Cooperation on Data: Republic of Moldova – India Experience

Organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Context

This side event aimed to present the development of the South-South cooperation experience of the Republic of Moldova, National Bureau of Statistics, in the field of data, and the Government of India.

In 2019, UNFPA Moldova, jointly with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) began implementing the project, “Improve the availability of administrative data for tracking the progress of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) agenda in the context of SDGs” with the support of India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

The National Bureau of Statistics was unfamiliar with the use of administrative data for statistical purposes and did not have any experience of setting up statistical systems based on administrative data. At the same time, Eurostat recommends the use of administrative data sources to improve the availability and accuracy of statistical data as part of the Adapted Global Assessment (AGA) of the national system of official statistics of the Republic of Moldova.⁵⁸

In order to familiarize the National Bureau of Statistics with the use of administrative data in official statistics, UNFPA Moldova organized five online knowledge-sharing sessions with statistical offices in the European region with experience in the development of statistical population registers and their use in register-based censuses.

The knowledge-sharing sessions resulted in the development of two main documents for the development of the informational system: “The Concept of the Statistical Population Register”, and “The Technical Specifications Document” for the development of the software for the informational system. “The Concept of the Statistical Population Register” represents the vision of the NBS Moldova on the role of the statistical population register in the statistical system and expresses the willingness of NBS to access available registers belonging to other national data holders and to use their data in the official statistics.

The next steps envisaged the integration of the IS into the Population and Migration Statistics system and into the Social

and Demographic Statistics information system. This integration would connect additional administrative data sources (for example, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, National Social and Health insurance registers, etc.) to cover the needs of the demographic and social statistics areas (including employment and living statistics, social services and justice statistics). Additionally, the integrated Social and Demographic Statistics information system will also integrate the data collected in the 2014 Population and Housing Census as well as data planned for collection in the 2020 Census round. The next Population and Housing Census in the Republic of Moldova is planned for 2024 and will be carried out through a combined method (traditional enumeration via self-enumeration and interviews along with use of registers).

In order to strengthen the knowledge of NBS staff in this area, a learning exchange visit was organized with the Government of India, to learn good practices from Indian counterparts managing the production of the official statistics and their collaboration on addressing topics, such as:

- the national data quality assurance framework available and applied in India by the members of the national statistical system, including the national statistical authority and other data producers;
- the use of administrative data for the purpose of official statistics and their data quality management;
- the use of administrative data and geospatial technologies for preparing, conducting and disseminating the population census in India;
- personal data protection and security for processing administrative and statistical data for the purpose of official statistics;
- use of statistical data for the budgetary framework for population development planning and advocacy around financing of development programmes through South-South and triangular cooperation.

The overall purpose of the side event is to share the experience of knowledge transfer on the use of administrative data sources in the national statistical experience, with a focus on the exchange between Republic of Moldova and India.

⁵⁸ Adapted Global Assessment of the National Statistical System of the Republic of Moldova http://www.statistica.md/public/files/despre/evaluare_opinii/AGA_Report_Moldova.pdf

Session: using the experience of other countries in building the information system on population and migration in Moldova through presentations of the outcomes of the online knowledge-sharing sessions and the study visit to learn the experience of India

in the use of modern tools and statistics for national programmes implementation, and the India data quality framework.

Moderator

Mr. Eduard Mihalas, Programme Analyst on Population and Development, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Moldova.

Opening Remarks

- **Dr. Nigina Abaszada**, UNFPA Moldova Representative;
- **Mr. Oleg Cara**, Director-General of the National Bureau of Statistics;
- **H.E. Rahul Shrivastava**, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Moldova;
- **Ms. Andrea M. Wojnar**, UNFPA India Representative.

Panellists

Presentation: Knowledge exchange experience in the development of the Population and Migration Statistics Information System
By **Ms. Aurelia Spataru**, Deputy Director-General, National Bureau of Statistics

Presentation: Exploring future possibilities of knowledge exchange in the framework of South-South cooperation with India for the Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) Region

By **Mr. Jaydeep Biswas**, Chief, Policy and Partnerships, UNFPA India;

By **Dr. Sanjay Kumar**, population dynamics and research Specialist, UNFPA India

Key messages

Ms. Aurelia Spataru: South-South experience in the development of the “Population and Migration Statistics” Information System

- The project aims to improve the availability of administrative data for tracking the progress of the ICPD agenda in the framework of the SDGs through policy frameworks, which include:
 - new laws on Official statistics;
 - strategy for development of National Statistical System and its operating plan;
 - National Development Strategy and Government Action Plan 2020-2023;
 - annual programme of Statistical Activities.
- Knowledge sharing with five countries:
 - National Statistical Offices of Spain, Estonia, Netherlands, Finland and Slovenia;
 - discussions of topics such as the type of registries used, how data quality is assessed, the technologies used for data exchange.
- The International Technical Advisory Board meeting aimed to inform its members and national counterparts on the inception experience available, current status and pathways towards building a multi-register-based information system and to collect feedback from its members based on their international experience.
- Data sources include statistical surveys, population censuses, and administrative data is the backbone of the Population and Migration Statistics.
- 3 study visits to India:
 - Ministry of Home Affairs of India, at the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, to prepare the population and housing census in India, learn census

methodology used, data collection in different languages, train staff, and use GIS technologies for the population and housing census;

- National Statistical Systems Training Academy of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation of India, to learn about the organization and development of the national statistical system, to use statistical data for budgetary framework, and learn about regulations and procedures for personal data protection, privacy;
- Indian Council of Medical Research for Data Quality Assurance Framework.

Mr. Jaydeep Biswas and Dr. Sanjay Kumar: Exploring future possibilities for knowledge exchange in the framework of South-South cooperation with India for the EECA Region

- Several countries benefitted in the past and gained knowledge on various aspects of Census Operations in India, such as Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Moldova.
- A pool of experts in census operations provided needs-based technical assistance to other countries, such as Myanmar, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- A Statistics Korea (KOSTAT)-UNFPA Workshop on “Strengthening Statistical Capacity on Census Methodology in the Asia and Pacific Region” was organized in 2019 in New Delhi. 50 officials from 23 countries participated.
- United Nations joint support was provided for the 2011 Census to be shared with 23 Western African Countries.
- NSB officials from Moldova learned good practices on national data quality assurance framework, use of administrative data, economic statistics, mapping of migration data and uses of digital technology in census.

- The institutional knowledge and the pool of experts are being tapped only when a request is received from another country; a more structured platform to promote South-South and triangular cooperation is required.
 - Opportunities have been missed by other countries whose needs are similar to the ones that attended the training programme.
 - Multi-country training would have provided economies of scale and led to cross-pollination of learnings.
 - Systems for measuring the results of knowledge exchange and its effectiveness need to be designed, tested and institutionalized.
- India is actively leading South-South collaboration in solving global problems.
 - First, India's expertise is in data and statistical systems; second, India has phenomenal digital capabilities, especially at low cost; and thirdly, India is creating innovations for solving global problems, in climate and renewable energy, COVID-19, technical education for young people, and health.

Virtual side event

Metaverse Mindset via Transformative Business Exposure: SDG and NFT

Organized by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN) Kenya

Context

Based on the recent research of Dr. Shirley Yeung, Convener, this side event is about a survey on transformative servant leadership in business management that was conducted from September 2021 to January 2022. Subjects included people working in business management and students studying business management (a total of 310 responses are collected). Self-management with Team Work and Empowerment of Others to Serve Society was the key element for Transformative Servant Business Leaders.

The theme of this side event on Metaverse Mindset and Transformative Business Exposure is to develop feasible solutions with an immersive experience to reconnect and co-create platforms to learn, unlearn and relearn

Opening Remarks

Dr. Shirley Yeung, Director, Centre for Business/ Social Sustainability and Innovation (BSSI)/ Head, School of Business, Gratia Christian College, United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (UNPRME) Advanced Signatory Institute, Hong Kong.

Keynote Speech on Humanistic Robotics, AI and Blockchain to Empower Women and Children, and All People

— **Dr. David Hanson**, CEO, Founder, Hanson Robotics.

Presentation on Social Inclusion and non-fungible tokens (NFT) for Transformations

Mr. Sam Ngan, CEO, Poppable NFT.

How NFT and Web 3.0 integrate into service/product design to enhance self-management and teamwork for serving society, e.g. decent jobs in developing countries?

— **Mr. Anson Tang**, Blockchain Solution Architect and Trainer;

— **Mr. Eric Fongoh**, Co-founder – International Center for Environmental Education & Community Development (ICENECDEV) Global Compact Member.

How women and youth can be empowered with exposure to business in art, life, and technology for transformations?

— **Ms. Lucie Petit**, Founder - HK Model Camp;

— **Dr. Shirley Yeung**, Metaverse Mindset Award Winner - United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN)-Kenya.

Good practices as highlighted by panellists

Dr. David Hanson: Sophia Robot, UNDP Ambassador (SDG 4.7, SDG 5, SDG 9)

In 2013, Dr. David Hanson, the American Robotist, established Hanson Robotics, a Hong Kong-based robotics company, with the vision of creating human-looking robots with realistic facial expressions. His remarkable AI human-looking robot, Sophia, gained much recognition from the tech world.

He believes that Sophia can become an influencer, improving the world in a better way. He values critical inquiry and encourages his team to take risks and pursue further explorations. He strongly emphasized the importance of good leadership, although he doesn't suggest a particular form of leadership. He has stated that people should not consider the term "boss" or "bossy" negative. Instead, he believes that leadership is a spirit motivating people to pursue higher efficiency and achievement. He believes that in

the Metaverse, the AI tools created by his team and others, can accelerate innovation and historical change beyond what people have ever seen. They can also help people to activate hidden potentials and talents, making the whole world smarter and more productive. Popular culture is replete with examples of AI becoming sentient, either for good or for ill.

Still, Dr. Hanson emphasized that “even if it does become sentient, it’s only relevant in symbiosis with human intelligence”. His journey in robotics aims to actualize “human intelligence, compassion, creativity, wisdom, to levels that have only been drummed up in history”. Connecting back to United Nations SDGs, AI technology can create massive intellectual and creative value that can help meet other SDGs. When more smart people work together, they can solve more complex problems. Dr. David Hanson believed that the SDG challenges will be overcome “in the right spirit, with the right mindset”. Ultimately, Dr. Hanson has a win-win mindset because he believes giving people more opportunities and creating a better environment for business go hand in hand.

Mr. Anson Tang: Blockchain and NFTs in game industry and curriculum with critical thinking in use of technology for talent development (SDG 4.7, SDG 8, SDG9)

Mr. Anson Tang, an expert in Blockchain, explained that NFTs secure digital assets so that they can be exchanged and hold value. Blockchain may be decentralized, but 3D games like The Sandbox that use blockchain technology are quite centralized because they are currently funded through large video game companies.

Mr. Tang believes that applying our old economic ideas to the new phenomenon of the Metaverse is just the “very beginning stage” of the Metaverse. People from different backgrounds need to be recruited to participate in the Metaverse for it to grow and for its potential to be realized.

Mr. Tang hoped NFTs will allow people to create and keep value through cheap digital technology without their small businesses being crushed by large businesses. Still, today that possibility has not yet been realized. When people were laid off during the COVID lockdowns, some attempted to earn income by playing NFT games.

Mr. Tang demonstrated how NFT games are a phenomenon of austerity resulting from economic misery. He hoped that wealth and opportunities can be generated through the Metaverse in the future. Nevertheless, his presentation highlighted how the Metaverse already raises living standards for the vast majority of people on Earth by monetizing the creative free time activity of poor people. This is shown in the movie Ready Player One. In Ready Player One, people in a dystopian impoverished future fight for control of the Metaverse and have to defeat big business interests who want to take it over. So, is Blockchain fair or unfair? Mr. Tang said that it is quite controversial because the value created by NFTs comes from creativity. For example, a young student in Japan making art and not from manufacturing other types of wealth, which is both an opportunity and a liability. What is the social result of creating this new value, and who will control it?

Mr. Sam Ngan: using NFTs for charity and fundraising projects to engage the younger generation

Mr. Sam Ngan, the CEO of Popsible NFT, demonstrated cases of NFTs for social inclusion with identity.

Sam Ngan’s company, Popsible, focuses on local currency and the practice of using NFTs to aid in fundraising for charities. Ngan spoke about how NFT technology can be used in the real world and how it impacts present-day industries. NFTs and modern technologies operate in real-time, removing the need for a middleman, and transforming the experience of the younger generation, who can have their desires satisfied immediately.

Using NFTs can help older firms connect to a young audience, a group they have difficulty reaching through traditional marketing techniques. NFTs can help engage Gen Z youths in charitable fundraising efforts because they are more likely to donate when they can use NFT technology to see how their money will be used and ensure their money is immediately put to work. NFTs can also gamify membership to brands and other marketing strategies to engage Gen Z. Ngan also noted that NFTs will transform intellectual property because it could allow participants to make money from digital representations of art and books while also engaging young people in unfamiliar art forms

Dr. Shirley Yeung/Mr. Eric Fongoh: Applying SDG#3+4.7+8+9+17 to teaching, movie production, book publication for change, and activities with ICENECDEV (International Center for Environmental Education and Community Development).

Dr. Shirley Yeung presented her research findings on “transformation models with real-time assignments and disruptive education delivery modes”, for example, paintings in NFT and Color Brown coffee shop for creating new business models for social inclusion.

Dr. Yeung showed how NFTs and the green economy can create a new economic model for developing nations. NFTs allow us to turn art into value, and they can be sold via coffee shops and other business models that will give back to the community and build wealth in developing places. This economy requires educating people in minting and creating NFT artifacts and finding new ways to exchange those artifacts for value.

On behalf of Mr. Eric Fongoh, Dr. Yeung presented the case of ICENECDEV, United Nations Global Compact Member, about their projects:

- 1) Miss Environmental Contest 2021 and 2022;
- 2) waste collection campaign; and
- 3) donation to orphans with the use of 3D spatial io platform via training received from Dr. Yeung.

Lessons learnt from design/implementation of cases: Summary of projects

Dr. Shirley Yeung, the convener of the side event, is heavily involved in UNESCO, UNOSSC, UN PRME, and the UN SDGs, with a current focus on business transformation. She leads students in organizing events and activities, aiming to produce “sustainable actions”.

One impressive lesson that can be learned from Dr. Shirley Yeung is how she uses her experience of local practices to engage with other countries. In 2022, Dr. Shirley Yeung was awarded the Pioneer Metaverse Mindset Award by Asia Weekly. During COVID-19 lockdowns, she believed that people could use technology to unlock the potential of their creativity to improve society. She showed how 3D online technology could be used to improve the world by applying these technologies to developing countries. Dr. Shirley Yeung is the Asia Ambassador of Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)-Kenya and advocates to improve life

in Africa by giving African people more opportunities to use new technologies that can empower them economically and politically. This year SDSN Kenya created a three-year plan, aiming to improve gender equality and the status of women by using technology. She used technology to train African people in skills such as yoga or calligraphy that they can use to start their own businesses by teaching others in their communities. Through her support, Kenyans were able to obtain the SDG Award to fund new creative programmes to develop their communities.

The one thing in common between Dr. Yeung, and Dr. Hanson, Mr. Tang and Mr. Nga was that they all promoted the use of technology to be balanced with values, identity and new business models with curriculum design and training opportunities for a higher level of creativity and critical thinking.

The role of South-South or triangular cooperation in the initiative

One of the cases that Dr. Yeung mentioned is the sale of arts and paintings created by African people (e.g. UNSDSN-Kenya and ICENECDEV, UN Global Compact Member) and encouraged people to be more courageous by investing in African people and businesses.

It is desirable that UNOSSC and affiliated parties be able to work with Dr. Shirley Yeung’s core team to mobilize resources on furthering Goal 3: Good health and well-being, Goal 12: Responsible production and consumption, and Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions. By promoting African arts on new technological platforms, the world will learn more about their culture and experiences too. Dr. Yeung’s work has helped disadvantaged creatives and business owners to use new technologies and market their products. SDSN-Kenya can continue to support education on the use of technology, aiming to create a more environmental and sustainable life for Africans. For example, engaging students, SMEs and policy-makers in UNOSSC and affiliates in the following ongoing projects:

1) Cross-Generation Transformation Movie Project since 2017

A video with Dr. David Hanson/Sophia Robot, students and industry practitioners on the Seventh Cross Generation Transformation Movie Project with Dr. Yeung as a producer to help young people

and the mid-aged community to develop skills on storytelling techniques, script writing, video editing, filming, team work, serving the community with a mindset of social inclusivity/business and social transformation/sustainable development/design for impacts.

<https://youtu.be/5DmC1AL8gxY>
<https://youtu.be/egGvNGOI3yU>

2) 3D Platform designed by Dr. Shirley Yeung (see below) since 2019 for teaching and learning, event management, creative art and co-creation with immersive experiences and creative transformative business models.

https://spatial.io/s/SYs-Immersive-Space-630ada2fa8b5870001b778a1?share=5075991325978945768&utm_source=%2Fspaces

3) Book publication on SDGs/environmental, social and governance (ESG) implementation;

Over 25 books on UNSDGs have been published (Jan. 2021- Sept. 2022) with Dr. Shirley Yeung as the main author and book chapters with students on the Higher Diploma in Transformative Business Management programme.

Moving forward to fulfil expected demand with future exchanges

Based on the aims of the 11th GSSD Expo, 2022, the cases presented in the side event can be replicated on a South-South basis with future exchanges identified, e.g. UNDP, UN Women and UN Sustainable Finance to involve in projects with Metaverse mindset + transformative business exposure to match the expectations of UNOSSC EXPO, 2022:

→ To facilitate discussion on South-South and triangular cooperation via the platform of UNOSSC Entrepreneurial Academy, SDSN-Kenya three-year strategic plan and ICENEDEV UN Global Compact Member on Environmental and Business Education and events to support recovery from COVID-19 on communication, event management, teaching and learning and feasible solutions to overcome global challenges, for example wellness via yoga and Chinese

calligraphy/drawing on zoom;

- To identify, showcase and facilitate the creation of potential projects to contribute with global and regional partners. For example, the following NFT projects with Dr. Shirley Yeung as advisor and artist for alliance with stakeholders in different parts of the world: ImpactNFT (<https://www.impactnft.org/advisorycouncil>) and credprotopol.io (<https://credprotocol.io/marketplace>);
- To review and discuss development policies and capacity-building efforts via ESG-related Campaigns, SDG enterprise award with Junior Chamber International (JCI) Victoria Chapter (<https://www.vjc.org.hk/sdgenterpriseawards>) and Asia Quality Awards with the Silk Road Development Association with award ceremony in October 2022 (<https://www.qsp.asia/>).

The follow-up actions can be quantified with the number of events focused on transformative business exposure arranged for participants to develop a Metaverse mindset with new business models, e.g. creative art and culture, education, health care, retail and environment-related industries. The new business models developed after the events held may be qualified in terms of mindset change and impacts created with investors engaged.

The key message is that we need to develop an open attitude of applying technology for new products/services/processes via SDG/ESG/partnership and dialogue for transferrable skills/innovations and transformations/sustainable partnership.

Virtual Side Event

China's Experience for Africa's Food Systems Transformation: Case Study of WFP-UNOSSC China-Africa Rice Value Chain Initiative in Cote D'Ivoire

Organized by the World Food Programme (WFP)

Context

Post-harvest loss (PHL) management, which encompasses a sequence of activities and approaches at policy and technical levels, supports more efficient food system operations. Improved PHL management has the potential to contribute to food security in developing countries. To date, WFP has carried out national capacity strengthening in post-harvest loss reduction in more than 30 countries, which focused on improving farmers' capacity in post-harvest handling by promoting the use of hermetic storage equipment, preservation and value addition methods for fresh food, and provision of other value chain services to strengthen the supply side of the food value chain.

The WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China COE) and the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) facilitate the exchange of China's solutions on national food security and sharing of good practices among developing countries through a wide variety of modalities, including policy dialogues, training, workshops, in-field demonstrations to support the development of food systems at community, national and regional levels.

Aspects that were explored during this side event include:

Overview of the China-Africa rice value chain development initiative

- As the third largest rice producer in West Africa, Côte d'Ivoire has made progress in rice production. However, Côte d'Ivoire still relies heavily on imports to satisfy its growing domestic rice consumption needs. The potential for national rice production has yet to be unleashed; it is below 50 percent of demand, due to funding and technological constraints. The rice value chain in Côte d'Ivoire could be further developed to achieve self-sufficiency in rice and even with surplus for exports.
- To support the local rice value chain development in Côte d'Ivoire, in March 2021, WFP China COE and CERFAM jointly

launched the China-Africa rice value chain development initiative in northern Côte d'Ivoire with the financial support of \$100,000 from the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

- The exchanges with the Chinese experts through training and workshops aimed to bring innovations on policy, strategy, technology and technique on the rice value chain, including processing and storage.
- A field demonstration site set up with agro-machinery, such as rice threshers and peelers, has been established in a local community, to support knowledge and technology transfer through online and offline training.

Overview of China's experience on food systems transformation

- From 1990 to 2000, China advanced its reforms in the field of grain circulation, leading to the establishment of the State grain reserves management system. In 2017, the implementation of the "Quality Food Project" in the field of circulation consisted of three components: the development of a post-production grain service system; the establishment and improvement of a grain quality and safety inspection and monitoring system; and the "Healthy Grain and Edible Oil" Action Plan. That accelerates the high-quality development of China's grain industry, which can provide the experience to the West African countries.

Overview of digitalized granary management

- From 2016, China has put forward measures for the IT-based development of the grain industry, applying IT and application modes such as Internet+, big data, IoT and intelligent manufacturing in the grain industry, thereby comprehensively upgrading the IT of the grain industry.

Objectives

- showcase China's South-South cooperation experience in Africa: support for the development of the rice value chain in Côte d'Ivoire;
 - share China's experience and solutions for food systems transformation, especially on post-harvest loss management;
 - introduce China's digitalized granary management outcomes;
 - promote Chinese experience and solutions at policy, technological and technical level for post-harvest loss management to strengthen food systems transformation;
- outline the applicable and effective South-South and triangular cooperation approaches on food systems transformation with showcase of the Côte d'Ivoire Rice Value Chain Project.
 - Identify opportunities to further transfer and exchange knowledge and experience among China and other developing countries to strengthen food security.

Moderator

Ms. Yan Jia, Head of South-South Cooperation, World Food Programme (WFP) China.

Opening Remarks

- **Mr. Sixi Qu**, Representative/Country Director, WFP China on *WFP China Centre of Excellence (COE) engagement in Post-harvest loss management and its facilitating role in World Food Programme-United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (WFP-UNOSSC) Rice Value Chain Project*;
- **Mr. Patrick**, Director a.i., Regional Centre of Excellence Against Hunger and Malnutrition (CERFAM) on *CERFAM's engagement in Post-harvest loss management and its role in WFP-UNOSSC Rice Value Chain Project*;

Panellists

Prof. Xie Jian, China Grain Wuhan Scientific Research and Design Institute on *China's solution on rice Post-harvest loss reduction*;

Closing Remarks

Mr. Jean-Pierre Demargerie, Deputy Director of WFP Programme Division – Technical Assistance and Country Capacity Strengthening Service (PROT) on *Food systems transformation and highlight China's support to South-South cooperation*

Virtual side event

Digital South-South Cooperation for School Feeding

Organized by the World Food Programme (WFP)

Context

The WFP Centre of Excellence Against Hunger in Brazil (CoE) is a global hub for knowledge exchange, capacity development and technical assistance to help countries achieve zero hunger. Over the past 10 years, the WFP CoE Brazil has supported more than 80 countries, using South-South and triangular cooperation to showcase positive experiences in the development of food and nutrition security policies.

In order to be more adaptable, since 2019, the WFP CoE Brazil has focused on offering support through Virtual Exchanges. This remote assistance methodology was crucial for the continued delivery of services during the pandemic. Through digital support, the WFP CoE Brazil was able to provide technical assistance in a flexible and cost-effective way to more than 17 countries in the past two years.

One of the core components of this remote package is the Virtual Study Visit: Brazil. Launched in July 2021, the visit consists of online workshops and a series of videos that simulate an immersion into the Brazilian National School Feeding Programme. In the past year, four countries have already tested this new methodology, with positive results for South-South engagement and school feeding advocacy among governments.

Even after the end of travel restrictions, remote support is expected to answer to demands that require quick, cheap and effective technical assistance to governments and WFP offices, especially as it allows delegations that are larger than the usual government and WFP offices to take part in the activities, reaching government officials and implementation partners involved in the process at all levels. This side event presented this successful experience and fostered a discussion about the opportunities and challenges of using digital tools to promote South-South cooperation.

Outcomes

- shared learnings from the Brazilian experience in remote assistance;
- discussed opportunities and challenges of digital tools for South-South collaboration;
- identification of how to leverage COVID-driven innovative solutions to complement on-site traditional development work.

Opening Remarks

- **David Kaatrud**, Director, World Food Programme (WFP) Humanitarian and Development Division;
- **Daniel Balaban**, Director, WFP Centre of Excellence Brazil.

Panellists

The Centre of Excellence's Virtual Exchanges and the Virtual Study Visit: Brazil

- **Sharon de Freitas**, Head of Programme, WFP Centre of Excellence (CoE) Brazil;
 - **Solange Fernandes de Freitas Castro**, General Coordinator of National School Feeding Programme (PNAE);
 - **Renata Mainenti Gomes**, Coordinator of Education and Social Control of PNAE.
- **Video of the Virtual Study Visit: Brazil**

Partner countries: Successful experiences of digital cooperation

- **Masahiro Matsumoto**, Deputy Country Director, WFP Lesotho;
- **WFP and Government in Angola;**
- **Government and Save the Children in Ethiopia;**

Final discussion

What are the main opportunities and challenges for the use of digital tools in South-South cooperation?

Closing remarks: Brazilian Cooperation Agency

Virtual Side Event

Joint Training on “Transitioning to Complex Risk Management and Resilient Urban Futures: Harnessing South-South Cooperation and Learning from COVID-19”

Session 4: South-South cities exchanges on “Transitioning to living with COVID-19 and managing complex risk scenarios”

23 August – 13 September 2022 (every Tuesday)

08:00 New York | 14:00 Geneva | 19:00 Bangkok | 21:00 Incheon

(four 90-120-minute online sessions, one end-of-course assessment and one post-course survey)

Registration: <https://virtual-expo.southsouth-galaxy.org/en/SSC-DRR-PAHO-WHO-joint-training>

Organized by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the World Health Organization, and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

Context

Urbanization will continue to rise at an unprecedented rate for the next three decades, from 56 per cent in 2021 to 68 per cent in 2050.⁵⁹ While the future of humanity is undoubtedly urban, where cities are hubs of jobs and opportunities, the increase in population density and informal settlement in high-risk urban areas are mounting challenges for urban populations. Since 2020, cities around the world have faced even more challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic, which exacerbated the vulnerabilities and had a tremendous impact on urban health and well-being. The virus has taken the lives of millions and the public health and social measures had a huge economic impact on citizens. The COVID-19 pandemic reveals the new reality: cities are living with uncertainties and facing much more complex risks. In order to transition to resilient and sustainable urban futures, cities need to evolve to reflect the interconnectedness of people, planet and prosperity. Cities must transition to systematic risk governance with enhanced understanding of systematic risks.⁶⁰

Business as usual will not lead to changes. Cities are at the forefront of opportunities to learn from the systematic impact of the pandemic and the complexity of risks amidst climate emergencies. Local authorities are in a vital position to ensure climate, health and other risks are integrated in city planning and financing processes, allowing city stakeholders to collaborate and take collective actions to reduce risks. Equally important is mutual learning and support

among cities across countries with their tested and innovative experiences. Strengthening municipal governments’ capacities in understanding the systemic nature of risks, disaster risk reduction, public health emergency response, as well as their abilities to collaborate and learn from each other’s experiences remain critical to the success of cities in this transformed world.

The Buenos Aires outcome document of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) in 2019 recognized that local authorities play an increasingly indispensable role in South-South and triangular cooperation which can take different forms such as knowledge sharing, training and capacity building, and technology exchange in various thematic areas including disaster risk mitigation and climate change. Such cooperation can support cities, especially in developing countries, in achieving sustainable development.

This training provides an opportunity for local authorities and urban development practitioners to mutually learn and share experiences in transitioning to managing complex risks and a resilient future. Jointly organized by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), it builds on the two prior annual training programmes, which took place in 2020 and 2021.

59 World Cities Report 2022: Envisaging the Future of Cities

60 The Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2022

The first training was delivered between 8 September and 6 October 2020 and focused on “Making Cities Resilient: developing and implementing local disaster risk reduction strategy to respond to COVID-19 and to better prepare for the future”, It was attended by over 2,500 participants from 150 countries and territories.

The second training, entitled “Build Back Better: harnessing South-South cooperation and risk reduction planning for resilient and healthy cities in the post-COVID-19 era”, was held throughout June 2021 with over 5,000 registrations and 2,979 live attendances from over 1,000 cities in 155 countries and territories, with close to equal gender participation.

The third training was organized from 23 August to 13 September 2022 with the focus on “Transitioning to Complex Risk Management and Resilient Urban Futures: harnessing South-South cooperation and learning From COVID-19”, in conjunction with the Global South-South Development Expo 2022.

This training programme serves as an introductory training for urban leaders, planners, and practitioners, aiming to:

- increase understanding and capacities to manage complex and systemic disaster risks and enhance public health emergency response preparedness, and South-South cooperation;
- better prepare city stakeholders for transitioning to living with the COVID-19 pandemic, fostering collective collaboration, and making cities resilient for future crises - especially health emergencies and uncertainties;
- facilitate city-to-city partnerships in South-South and triangular cooperation towards sustainable development.

By the end of this training, participants will:

- be able to describe the connections between systemic risks, disaster risk reduction, public health emergency response preparedness and South-South and triangular cooperation;
- be able to explain South-South and triangular cooperation trends and policies in disaster risk reduction (DRR), the key elements of the Sendai framework and other disaster risk reduction frameworks, and public health responses at urban levels;
- Be able to provide examples of cities transitioning to living with COVID-19 and managing complex risk scenarios; share relevant solutions on DRR and health emergency response preparedness, and exchange cities South-South and triangular cooperation experiences and good practices on DRR and integration of health emergencies preparedness in city urban development actions;
- Be able to use tools related to DRR planning, public health response and South-South and triangular cooperation.

Expected outcomes

- national and local government officials as well as urban resilience practitioners with enhanced knowledge on the requirements for fostering resilient cities, learning from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- increased understanding of South-South and triangular cooperation trends and policies and its importance in disaster risk reduction and public health emergency response; DRR normative frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework for DRR, the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative; and tools to help strengthen disaster risk reduction and public health resilience planning such as the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities – Public Health System Resilience Addendum;
- increased awareness of cities’ experience and solutions on COVID-19 and public health emergency responses, inequity reduction strategies, DRR strategic planning, complex risks management, sustainable urban development showcases, exchanges, captured in a knowledge report for further dissemination and public policymaking;
- partnership brokering between cities as well as city-related entities facilitated and documented for the incubation of thematic communities of practice (CoP), city clusters, and city networks

Target Audience

Local and national government officials in charge of disaster risk reduction and management, urban development and planning, and public health emergency preparedness, national associations of municipalities, urban resilience and development practitioners, as well as civil society, private sector, and academia.

The course is open to all applicants from both developed and developing countries, especially the young experts and officials. Participants from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDs) are highly encouraged.

No. of trainees: maximum 3,000 participants, on a first-come-first-served basis.

Date and time: 23 August, 30 August, 6 September and 13 September 2022 (every Tuesday, a total of 4 online sessions)

All online sessions lasted 90-120 minutes starting at the same time: 8:00 New York | 14:00 Geneva | 19:00 Bangkok | 21:00 Incheon

Venue: Virtually, through UNOSSC Virtual Expo site

Workshop Language: English was the main language. Simultaneous interpretation was provided into Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Course assessment (exam): participants were given an online voluntary end-of-course assessment via the UNOSSC Virtual Expo Site to test their knowledge and understanding of key content taught and presented in the training. The assessment will consist of a quiz to test knowledge on South-South and triangular cooperation, disaster and risk reduction, and public health. Participants need a score of 80 per cent or above to succeed.

Course evaluation: to enable evidence-based course evaluation, a post-course survey was disseminated to participants to collect feedback on the course content and organization, and to understand participants' development needs for follow-up and to facilitate future programmatic design.

Certificate: a certificate of completion was given to participants who met the following requirements:

- attended at least three out of four live sessions (75 per cent attendance);
- completed a feedback survey; and
- passed an end-of-course assessment (exam), with a score of 80 per cent or above

Qualified participants who fulfil all requirements can obtain the certificate automatically from the UNOSSC Virtual Expo site.

Date	Duration	Programme
Tue, 23 Aug 2022 8 AM NY EST 9 PM KST	120 min	Session 1: welcome and introduction on disaster risk reduction, public emergencies preparedness and South-South and triangular cooperation : trends, policies, and roles in supporting resilience at the sub-national/local levels
Tue, 30 Aug 2022 8 AM NY EST 9 PM KST	90 min	Session 2: utilizing the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities – Public Health System Resilience Addendum to strengthen cities' disaster risk reduction planning and implementation UN Disaster Risk Reduction Global Education and Training Institute (UNDRR GETI)
Tue, 06 Sep 2022 8 AM NY EST 9 PM KST	90 min	Session 3: whole of society and multi-sectoral/cross-sectoral approaches to all-hazard health emergencies preparedness in urban settings (PAHO and WHO)
Tue, 13 Sep 2022 8 AM NY EST 9 PM KST	120 min	Session 4: South-South cities exchanges on "Transitioning to living with COVID-19 and managing complex risk scenarios" (UNOSSC)
End-of-course assessment and survey		Participants must complete an end-of-course assessment and a post-course survey via the UNOSSC Virtual Expo site at the end of the course. The site will automatically record attendance, session participation, results of exam and survey assessments. Training certificates can be generated by platform automatically for qualified participants who fulfilled all requirements.

Contacts:

- UNOSSC Cities Project: southsouth.cities@unosscc.org;
- UNDRR Global Education and Training Institute (GETI): undrr-incheon@un.org;
- WHO Health Emergencies Programme: WHEtraining@who.int;
- PAHO/WHO: csc@paho.org;

Organizers

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) was established to promote, coordinate and support South-South and triangular cooperation globally and within the United Nations system. In 2017, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) initiated the South-South and triangular cooperation among Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities for Sustainable Development Project (Cities Project). The Cities Project aims to promote South-South and triangular cooperation at city level in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Global Education and Training Institute (GETI) was established in 2010 to develop a new cadre of professionals in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to build disaster resilient societies. GETI has a global mandate to provide capacity-building support to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into sustainable development; convene and support inter-city learning to strengthen resilience (Making Cities Resilient); and provide capacity-building and best-practice sharing support to national training institutions working on resilience issues. Based in Incheon, the Republic of Korea, UNDRR GETI is also the global secretariat of Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030). For more information: <https://www.undrr.org/incheon>

WHO's Health Emergencies Programme works with all countries and partners to ensure the world is better prepared for all-hazards health emergencies that threaten global health security. We work around the world to research, prevent and manage epidemic and pandemic-prone diseases; to strengthen and expand systems to rapidly detect, investigate and assess potential threats to public health; and to respond immediately and systematically to manage acute emergencies. In some conflict-affected and humanitarian settings, WHO staff and operational partners even act as the health-care provider of last resort. For more information: <https://www.who.int/our-work/health-emergencies>

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Health Emergencies Programme works with countries of the Americas to increase health sector resilience to emergencies and disasters. PAHO/WHO's priority is to deliver rapid, predictable, and comprehensive support to Member States in terms of prevention, risk reduction, preparedness, surveillance, response, and early recovery in case of any threat to human health, including outbreaks or disasters caused by natural phenomena, biological, chemical or radiological agents, human activities, conflicts or any other hazard. When national capacities are overwhelmed, PAHO/WHO is ready to lead and coordinate the international health response to contain disasters, including outbreaks, and to provide effective relief and recovery to affected populations.

Virtual side event

Launch of South-South Ideas on Digital Transformation: Introduction of the South-South Global Thinkers Initiative

Organized by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Context

The 2030 Agenda calls for a new and inclusive global partnership, of which South-South and triangular cooperation forms an integral part. SDG 17 focuses on the need to enhance knowledge sharing through improved coordination among existing mechanisms.

The BAPA+40 Outcome Document also reiterated that to fully unleash the potential of South-South and triangular cooperation, it is imperative to continue technical, policy and research support for countries. Think tanks and research institutes from the global South play a vital role in political and policy arenas at local, national, and global levels and assist governments in understanding and in making informed choices about issues of domestic and international concern. Thus, they can strategically champion thought leadership on South-South and triangular cooperation. The final Report of the Twentieth High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation (2021) explicitly recognizes the key contribution of the South-South Global Thinkers initiative in this endeavour. Similarly, the United Nations System-Wide Strategy for South-South and triangular cooperation for Sustainable Development (2020-2025) indicates that UN entities can build on this global project to jointly conduct evidence-based analysis, research, dialogue and advocacy to inform policymaking on South-South and triangular cooperation in order to support the achievement of the SDGs.

The South-South Global Thinkers initiative - a global coalition of think tank networks, was jointly launched by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with various Southern-led think tank networks and private sector entities. The objective of the initiative is to contribute to a growing body of evidence and knowledge on issues pertinent to South-South cooperation. This is a joint effort to draw on the high-quality expertise of think tank networks and research institutes from the global South (as well as some from the North) and to develop a platform for South-South cooperation research, knowledge sharing and dialogues. The aim is to inform global policy dialogues and agenda-setting on South-South cooperation, and to inform policymakers and development practitioners on the value of South-South and triangular cooperation and assist them in making informed decisions on their

South-South and triangular cooperation investments, with the goal of accelerating progress toward the SDGs and the attainment of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Every year under the initiative, research grants are provided to think tanks as part of an initiative through a competitive process on the selected themes. These research papers provide an extensive and cross-disciplinary breadth of knowledge, evidence-based analyses, independent intellectual debate, as well as inspiring policy recommendations for the achievement of the SDGs by leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation.

The 2021 Research Grant cycle included South-South cooperation in technology and digital transformation, among four other research priority areas. The three papers commissioned on this theme were launched on the margins of the Global South-South Development Expo 2022.

Background and objective

Southern economies are leveraging digital transformation as an opportunity to leapfrog industrial age infrastructure, to draw on the vast knowledge spillovers from the Internet, to take advantage of new markets offered by digital platforms, technologies and systems and to exploit the production possibilities enabled by digital technologies for economic transformation and to spur the broad-based sustainable development needed for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Policymaking is shifting dramatically as governments strive to keep up with new technologies and manage the increasing volume of data flowing across borders. Institutions — national, regional, and international — must evolve quickly to fill governance and regulatory gaps at a time when support for international cooperation needs to be further mobilized. The digital economy, driven largely by data and other intangibles, demands a new approach and mechanisms for international governance across the areas of trade, finance, law, security, economic policy, and privacy, to name but a few.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further triggered the use of digital technologies and a surge in digital skills. It has been credited with bridging the disruption caused by the pandemic. As Southern countries continue their efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, digital solutions are enabling economic transformation and putting them on a path toward green, resilient and inclusive growth. Private and public investment in digital solutions is bringing critical services to the poorest and most marginalized, creating decent employment opportunities, strengthening small and medium businesses, enabling trade and services, and building resilience to future shocks. Yet at the end of 2021, according to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), nearly 3 billion people remained offline, the vast majority concentrated in Southern countries. And the usage gap remains a challenge. Meanwhile, close to half (43 per cent) of the world's population are not using mobile internet, despite living in areas with mobile broadband coverage.

The research papers commissioned under South-South Global Thinkers aim to explore relevant policy recommendations to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation in addressing the widening digital divide, scaling up technological transfers and innovations, and enabling digital economic transformation. The papers discuss different aspects and bring diverse perspectives from the global South that can help inform the policy discourse and decision-making processes.

The papers launched in the 2022 Expo side event include the following:

- South-South Cooperation on Technology and Digital Transformation Through the Establishment of a Science and Technology Park Under the Belt and Road Initiative;
- South-South Cooperation, Technology, and Digital Transformation: the Case of Arab Countries;
- Digital Trade Integration: Role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

The launched papers are also available on the South-South Global Thinkers Platform.

Target audience

The publications presented at the side event are expected to inspire South-South and triangular cooperation practitioners and policymakers from governments, regional or international institutions, UN entities, the private sector, academia, think tanks and civil society.

Moderator

Dr. Hany Besada, Senior Research and Programme Advisor, UNOSSC.

Opening Remarks

- **Mr. Zanofer Ismalebbe**, (Incoming) Chief, Knowledge Management, UNOSSC;
- **Mr. Babatunde Abidoye**, Global Policy Advisor and Team Leader for Integrated Policy and Analytics, UNDP.

Panellists

- **Professor Dr. Samia Satti Osman Mohamed Nour**, Full Professor of Economics and Head of the Department of Economics, Khartoum University, Khartoum, Sudan and an Affiliated Research Fellow of the Economic Research Forum (ERF) for the Arab Countries.
Present paper on: **South-South Cooperation, Technology and Digital Transformation: the Case of Arab Countries;**
- **Dr. Wen Chen**, Research Fellow, Department of International Development Cooperation of the Institute of New Structural Economics (INSE) at Beijing University, China;
Presenting a paper on: **South-South Cooperation on Technology and Digital Transformation Through the Establishment of a Science and Technology Park Under the Belt and Road Initiative;**
- **Dr. Vaqar Ahmed**, Joint Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), Pakistan
Presenting a paper on: **Digital Trade Integration: Role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.**

Virtual side event

South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace

Organized by the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Context

The compounded and adverse socioeconomic and political impact of the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the significance of South-South and triangular cooperation for achieving national, regional and global priorities.⁶¹ Southern countries, including LDCs and SIDS, have been some of the most affected, simultaneously at the front-lines of conflict, poverty, economic downturns and unsustainable debt, climate extremes and natural disasters.⁶² Of the 84 million people forcibly displaced in 2021 due to conflict, violence and human rights violations,⁶³ 86 per cent lived in developing countries.⁶⁴ At a recent meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the UN Secretary-General warned that we are facing the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945, directly affecting one quarter of humanity living today in conflict-affected areas and causing skyrocketing food, fuel and fertilizer prices, among other things, that spell disaster for developing countries.⁶⁵

Confronted with existing and emerging multidimensional risks, the global South has called for enhanced UN system-wide support for South-South and triangular cooperation, regional cooperation and other solidarity-based partnership models that promote global equity, technology development and transfer, knowledge exchange and capacity development to collectively build peace and address the root causes of conflict. Indeed, the Second High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40, 2019) underlined the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies to achieve sustainable development and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, while recognizing the potential of South-South and triangular cooperation for cross-regional cooperation, and highlighting that

South-South and triangular cooperation has facilitated regional, subregional and interregional integration and provided innovative approaches for collective actions. The United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for Sustainable Development 2020-2024 is an important step towards addressing this demand.⁶⁶

Southern actors have continued to implement numerous South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives for building and sustaining peace, preventing conflict and mitigating risks, and addressing the peace and development nexus by tackling the root causes of conflict, effectively demonstrating opportunities and potential for collective action through robust South-South and triangular cooperation. This has included, for example, the creation of the g7+ fragile-to-fragile (F2F) cooperation platform⁶⁷ and engaging with the PBC for enhanced cooperation and coordination, sharing lessons learned, good practices and expertise, as well as promoting successful innovative solutions for peace and development with the potential for replicability and adaptation in similar fragile contexts.⁶⁸ Regional, subregional and cross-border entities that have actively designed and engaged in initiatives to collectively manage shared risks, like the countries in the Sahel, and the G5 Sahel countries in particular,⁶⁹ have frequently approached the PBC for the purposes of peer learning and mobilizing coordinated, cross-pillar and conflict-sensitive UN support for their joint efforts.

61 See the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) advice to the Security Council in document 211217_and joint_statement.ecosoc-pbc.approved.pdf (un.org).

62 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), Report: Alert 2021! Report on conflicts, human rights and peacebuilding (8 July 2021).

63 UN Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks at the PBC meeting on his report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, 30 March 2022.

64 UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, para. 5.

65 UN Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks at the PBC meeting on his report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, 30 March 2022.

66 Extended to 2025.

67 g7 policy note on Fragile-fragile-cooperation.pdf (g7plus.org).

68 For example, at PBC Liberia Configuration meeting on 17 June 2021, the Government encouraged the PBC to continue rallying international support for Liberia's peacebuilding priorities, including by fostering South-South cooperation as well as regional approaches through the Mano River Union. The upcoming PBC meeting on 12 September 2022, at the request of Timor-Leste, is intended to serve as a platform for sharing the country's lessons learned in addressing its multidimensional challenges and informing the country's efforts to work through its remaining challenges.

69 chairs_summary_of_sahel_meeting_22_march_2022.pdf (un.org).

As one of its key work priorities, the PBC has committed to promoting South-South and triangular cooperation in addressing the common challenges faced by conflict-affected countries and has created space for national governments, regional entities and others to seek opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation that contribute to building peace and development. In 2021, an increasing number of PBC outcome documents⁷⁰ explicitly referenced South-South and triangular cooperation as a modality for improving impact and outcomes and strengthening local, national, and regional capacities to better withstand, adapt, and quickly recover from stresses and shocks.⁷¹ Drawing on the deliberations of the PBC, its unique composition of key actors from the North and the South, as well as its bridging, convening and advisory roles, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other UN entities have been able to advance UN system's support for South-South and triangular cooperation, with a shared approach to multidimensional risks and fostering greater coherence and complementarity among humanitarian, development, human rights and peace and security partners.⁷²

DPPA-UNDP support for South-South and triangular cooperation

In recognition of multidimensional, protracted, and compounded threats to peace and development, requiring sustained and integrated approaches that link development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace,⁷³ DPPA and UNDP have increased their collaboration within the UN system. The DPPA-UNDP Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention, including the Peace and Development Advisors deployed across 70 countries, is a good example of this shared approach to multidimensional risks, fostering greater coherence and complementarity among humanitarian, development, human rights, and peace and security partners, strengthening the capacity of a wide range of stakeholders, including local peacebuilding organizations, and promoting robust South-South and triangular cooperation. At global level, the Joint Programme encourages and facilitates information-sharing and collaboration among its partners and promotes peer-to-peer learning and exchanges.⁷⁴

Additionally, in 2020-2022, DPPA and UNDP led the development of the UNSDG Good Practice Note on Conflict Sensitivity, Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace (2022).

Moderator

- **Dr. Cedric de Coning**, United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UN DPPA).
- **Ms. Elizabeth Spehar**, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support;

Panellists:

- **H.E. Mrs. Ruchira Kamboj**, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations;
- **H.E. Mr. Alhaji Fanday Turay**, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations;
- **Ms. Juanita Millan Hernandez**, UN Senior Mediation Adviser from Colombia;

Closing Remarks

- **Mr. Haoliang Xu**, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) UNDP

70 See Report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its fifteenth session.

71 See, for example, 2105199_pbc_press_statement_on_institution_building.pdf (un.org).

72 pbc_chairs_remarks_to_ga_high-level_committee_on_South-South_cooperation.pdf (un.org).

73 UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, para. 5.

74 Some highlights of global and regional learning and exchanges, cross-border frameworks and programmes, demonstrating the importance of South-South cooperation for conflict prevention and sustaining peace, include: (i) the exchange of experiences on election-related issues among countries in Western and Central Africa; (ii) the contributions to the regional conflict prevention framework for West Africa in the Mali+5 project and Chad; (iii) the development of an integrated cross-border conflict prevention programme between Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, just to name a few. A risk monitoring platform established in N/NE Kenya is also being carried forward by the DPPA-UNDP Joint Programme and replicated elsewhere (Mozambique and Niger, among others). For details, see the Programme's 2020 annual report (launched in October 2021).

Purpose and objective

While UN support to South-South and triangular cooperation for peace and development is being provided, there is increased demand to scale up the support across all programming to accelerate progress towards achievement of the SDGs, including SDG16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies. As the international community is facing a series of overlapping threats and exacerbating risks, particularly in the most fragile settings, global solidarity and South-South and triangular cooperation have assumed greater relevance. The Eleventh Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) provides a unique opportunity to showcase concrete South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives in the realm of peace and development implemented by the global South, with the support of DPPA and UNDP. This event also aims to explore additional measures that can be taken to galvanize strategic, coordinated and coherent policy and programmatic support on South-South and triangular cooperation to increase the impact of all UN activities at national, regional and global levels, including by leveraging the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation and its Action Plan.

The objectives of this side event are to:

- demonstrate the added value of South-South and triangular cooperation for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and development;
- disseminate South-South and triangular cooperation good practices facilitated by DPPA and UNDP that have contributed to peace and development;
- take stock of the important contributions of the global South and the United Nations in recent years and share lessons learnt in the realm of South-South and triangular cooperation for peace and development;
- promote cross-fertilization of experiences and ideas for peace in the global South through South-South and triangular cooperation, as a way of strengthening multi-stakeholder cooperation
- identify measures to galvanize strategic, coordinated and coherent policy and programmatic support on South-South and triangular cooperation to increase the impact of UN activities at national, regional and global levels, including by leveraging the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation and its Action Plan.

Virtual side event

Digitalized South-South Cooperation for Zero Hunger

Organized by the World Food Programme (WFP)

Context

Digital technologies play an important role in agricultural production and have become a major driving force in alleviating poverty and achieving Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger. At the same time, the popularity of digital technologies has changed the way knowledge is disseminated and shared, as digital platforms have become an increasingly important way to share knowledge and exchange experiences.

The WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation (WFP China COE) upgraded its web-based South-South Cooperation Knowledge-Sharing Platform and launched “Cloud School” with the aim of creating a two-sided platform and knowledge hub linking knowledge providers and demanders. Cloud School provides developing countries with China’s knowledge, technology and policy references on agricultural development and rural transformation. In addition, WFP China COE leverages the most useful experiences and proven technologies for poverty reduction and rural transformation to broker South-South cooperation activities through a digitalized working environment and modalities across policy, technical and grass-roots levels.

Aspects to be explored during this side event included:

overview of WFP-China South-South cooperation Knowledge-Sharing Platform and Cloud School function, structure, and impact

WFP-China South-South cooperation Knowledge-Sharing Platform provides knowledge of China’s experiences and solutions in four thematic areas of value chain development for smallholders; post-harvest loss management and food systems; disaster risk reduction and climate change resilience; and the innovative poverty alleviation initiative. It also motivates people in their self-empowerment for food security locally. The Cloud School is embedded in this Platform, which offers an inclusive space and a tailored learning programme for learners at all levels. Courses offered in the Cloud School reflect WFP China COE’s work on the four thematic areas, as well as the value chain development in rice, Juncao and cassava. The main sections of the South-South cooperation Knowledge-Sharing Platform include: solutions, policy reference, experts, South-South cooperation engagement, publications and FAQs. As a knowledge hub, the South-South cooperation Knowledge-Sharing Platform offers an enabling

environment for partners to post demands, share solutions and connect with each other for food security, nutrition improvement, poverty reduction and rural transformation. Strategic partners and technical partners of WFP China COE provide policy references, technology and knowledge.

Overview of digitalized South-South cooperation

- China’s digitalized technologies for poverty reduction and rural transformation: digital technologies have been used in the production, storage, logistics and retail of agriculture, playing an important role in four areas that WFP China COE prioritized, which can improve the efficiency of agricultural production, enhance the quality of agricultural products, and promote farmers’ income, etc;
- smallholder value chain: rural informatization, rural e-commerce (online business, live streaming marketing), farmers information service, etc.;
- post-harvest loss management and food systems: IOT for grain reserve management, information service for smallholders, smart control of granary/warehouse system, e-trading platform, grain bank and digitalized financial services, etc;
- disaster risk reduction and climate change resilience: information service, GIS analysis, remote sensing, rapid assessment, drone for emergency response, digital water saving irrigation, etc.;
- innovative poverty alleviation initiative: digitalized countryside infrastructure construction, Blockchain for rural poverty reduction, low-income households identification and registration, etc.) Digital management of South-South cooperation: digital South-South cooperation is based on the South-South cooperation database and makes solutions from knowledge providers accessible, affordable, available and transparent through webinars and lecture series, virtual tours, and livestreaming.
- present WFP-China South-South cooperation Knowledge-Sharing Platform and Cloud School;
- Introduce digitalized South-South cooperation.

Outcomes

- increase global awareness of WFP China COE's South-South Cooperation Knowledge-Sharing Platform and Cloud School as an effective tool for digitalized South-South and triangular cooperation;
- promote affordable and effective digital technology for agricultural development and rural transformation;
- present effective approaches for South-South and triangular cooperation management and working mechanism agenda.

Moderator

Dr. Sixi Qu, Representative/ Country Director, World Food Programme (WFP)China.

Opening Remarks:

— **South-South cooperation innovation enables WFP's global development agenda**

Mr. David Kaatrud, Director, Programme – Humanitarian & Development Division, WFP

— **China's digital economy strategy for rural transformation and digitalized South-South cooperation**

Mr. Jianmin Xie, General Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China.

Panellists

— **Introduction to WFP-China South-South Cooperation Knowledge-Sharing Platform**

Ms. Yan Jia, Head of South-South Cooperation, WFP China;

— **Rural youth empowerment by novel technology**

Mr. Yongwan Hu, Executive Vice President of Central Agricultural Broadcasting and Television School

— **China's experience in rural transformation by adopting digitalized platforms and tools;**

Mr. Chongjun Tan, Deputy Director of AliResearch

— **Overview of digitalized South-South cooperation;**

Prof. Xiaolin Wang, Deputy Dean of Institute for Six-Sector Economy of Fudan University/ Executive Director of Shanghai (Fudan University) Institute for Cooperation and Development;

Closing Remarks

Technical innovation empowering rural transformation

Mr. Stanlake Samkange, Director of Strategic Partnership Division, WFP HQ.

Youth4South

08

Youth4South

Youth4South: Advanced Youth Leadership Programme

UNOSSC launched the Youth4South: Advanced Youth Leadership Programme with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, China Institute for South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (CISSCA), Finance Centre for South-South Cooperation (FCSSC), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, in November 2017.

The Youth for South (Y4S): Advanced Youth Leadership Programme is designed as an umbrella facility that aims at facilitating 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 bring sustainable development to their home country and local communities.

The wave of youth-led transformational change processes across many countries across the global South have highlighted youth as positive assets for development and powerful agents for change. Leadership development is a key pillar of capacity development be it at individual, organizational or national level. Y4S supports the attainment of the SDGs and aims to achieve transformational change through funding initiatives, projects and activities related to leadership and capacity development for youth, and to facilitate scaling up successful development solutions to inform policy decisions and ensure long-term sustainability.

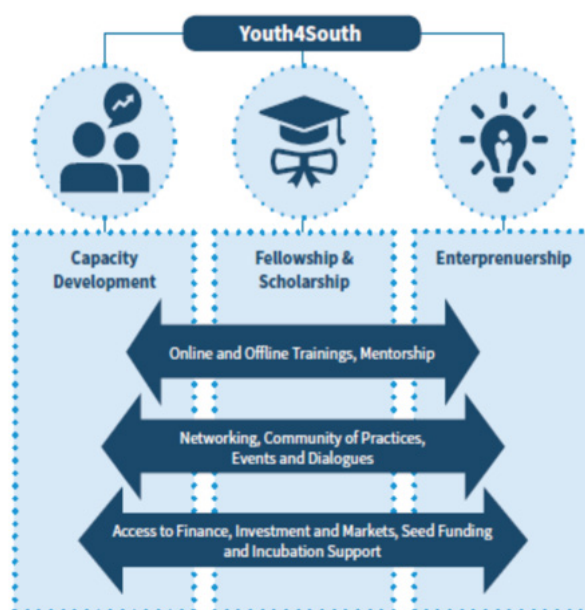
Youth4South aims to:

- support the exchange of knowledge and mutual learning among young people globally;
- provide capacity development opportunities for youth to learn, adapt and apply South-South and triangular cooperation tools and methods in scaling up sustainable development solutions and projects in their home community, institution, and country contexts;
- provide accesses to expertise, mentorships, resources, and networks;
- promote dialogue between youth and development stakeholders and increase youth participation in global dialogue;

- increase youth engagement and participation in global dialogues and discussions including the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum, the World Programme of Action for Youth, BAPA+40 and the Global South-South Development Expo.

Pillars under the Youth4South programme include:

- capacity development pillar - young government officials and technical officers;
- fellowship pillar – youth and women scientists and scholars to advance their research and learnings;
- entrepreneurship pillar – youth and women entrepreneurs and SDG innovators.



Source: <https://unsouthsouth.org/youth4south/>

Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition

Objectives

Through the entrepreneurship competition, young talents from across developing countries had an opportunity to gather, share knowledge and ideas, and collaborate to develop and scale up innovative solutions to address global challenges through South-South and triangular cooperation. Everyone can play a role in the SDG decade of action, especially the passionate, innovative and entrepreneurial young leaders who have demonstrated their capacities and commitment to making the world a more inclusive and sustainable place. The objective of this competition was to promote South-South cooperation by sharing, replicating, or scaling up entrepreneurs' existing innovations with relevant partners, entrepreneurs and audiences from other developing countries.

Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition 2022: Key Thematic Focus areas for Entrepreneurs

The overall focus area for the entrepreneurs participating in the competition was the theme of the GSSD Expo 2022, "Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery: Towards a smart and resilient future" with the key sub-themes for entrepreneurs initiatives/projects to relate to the following areas:

- poverty eradication and reduction of inequalities;
- digitalization and smart future;
- creative economy and sustainable tourism;
- green recovery, environmental sustainability and climate action;
- food security and supply chain;
- disaster risk reduction and resilience-building;
- sexual and reproductive health, demographic data;
- urbanization, local and city level development;
- cross-border e-commerce;
- vaccination inequality and COVID-19 response, recovery;
- clean energy.

Preparation for the Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition 2022

The Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition was scheduled to be held at the Global South-South Development Expo 2022, and by way of preparation the Competition was launched in November 2021, jointly with the Government of Thailand and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and in collaboration with United Nations Youth Envoy's Office, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the UNDP Youth Co: Lab. The

call for applications from young entrepreneurs globally received close to 230 applications from 45 countries. For the first-round pitch, on 23 and 24 June 2022, more than 20 young entrepreneurs from 15 developing countries came together to put forward their innovative business plans on the theme of "Sustainable COVID-19 recovery: toward a smart and resilient future", and indicated which of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) their project related to. Based on the competitive live pitching over the two days, eight initiatives were shortlisted for the main competition which covered a wide range of topics, from creative economy, education, and renewable energy to cross-border e-commerce, and food security and supply chain, and were the most environmentally-friendly and financially sustainable initiatives.

Selection and eligibility criteria

About the entrepreneurs

- age between 18 and 35 years (as of the conference date);
- preference given to citizens of Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), and women;
- proficiency in English required.

About the entrepreneurs' initiatives

- must be operational or registered for at least 6 months with demonstrated results, a tested minimal viable product (MVP): product or service prototype, tested with already measured or measurable results;
- must be in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, linking and tangible social impact metrics in relation to the priority SDG;
- preferably must be in line with one or more of the thematic tracks as indicated below:
 - poverty eradication and reduction of inequalities;
 - digitalization and smart future;
 - creative economy and sustainable tourism;
 - green recovery, environment sustainability and climate action;
 - food security and supply chain;
 - disaster risk reduction and resilience building;
 - reproductive, sexual health, demographic data;
 - urbanization, local and city level development;
 - cross border e-commerce;
 - vaccination inequality and COVID-19 response, recovery;
 - clean energy.
- must be innovative solutions, sustainability-driven, with a new approach to solving problems;
- must either have demonstrated that they are, or have the potential to be, replicable and technically feasible for other countries, territories, or regions.

Jury

- **Mr. Wilert Puriwat**, Dean of Business School, Chulalongkorn University;
- **Marta Pérez Cusó**, Economic Affairs Officer, Trade, Investment and Innovation Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP);
- **Ms. Ines Tofalo**, Trust Fund and Project Management Specialist, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC);
- **Mr. Arasu Jambukeswaran**, Project Specialist Inter-country Cooperation Office, United Nations Population Fund (UNPF);
- **Mr. Mohammad Ba**, Senior Coordinator, Digital Innovation Ecosystem, International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- **Ms. Yaki Agishu**, Youth Startup Support Coordinator, Governance and Peacebuilding Team, UNDP, Bangkok Regional Hub



**Special event:
Building sustainable initiatives and compelling stories to promote, accelerate and strengthen South-South cooperation**

As a special event, led by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), an open and interactive workshop “Building sustainable initiatives and compelling stories to promote, accelerate and strengthen South-South cooperation” was held on Day One of the GSSD Expo 2022, 12 September 2022. Acknowledging that building sustainable initiatives is critical to South-South cooperation and achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), new approaches are needed to ensure that stakeholders are equipped with the mindset and tools to transform their communities. The session delivered the case for innovation frameworks that allow new thinking, new approaches and new capacity to develop and sell remarkable initiatives with changing technology and environment.

Recognizing also that a powerful and compelling story is vital for any initiative looking to open doors for partnerships and accelerate growth, the participants also learnt the science behind crafting a compelling story. The need to re-think how information is shared, using stories to achieve the impact needed for initiatives in developing countries to succeed, was actively explored. The special event demonstrated through case studies the use of innovation frameworks and invited the young entrepreneurs and participants to practice through the example of the storytelling innovation framework. The tool was part of the portfolio developed by ITU to ensure countries can have sustainable digital ecosystems that foster entrepreneurship and innovation. Participants had the opportunity to present and receive feedback from experts.

The Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition 2022

A closed practice session, was held on 13 September 2022, to allow the eight shortlisted young entrepreneurs to rehearse their presentations and receive feedback from mentors and experts. The Entrepreneurship Competition was held on 14 September 2022. The finalists presented their initiatives to a panel of experts and a six member jury, in a shark-style final event.

The award ceremony for the Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition was held at the GSSD Expo 2022 Networking Night at Vithes Samosorn, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and hosted by the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA). The top three winners from final eight contestants were selected:

The Winner: Ms. Kavindya Thennakoon, from Sri Lanka, received \$3,000 together with the winner’s plaque for her initiative: “Tilli – a playful social-emotional digital learning tool”.

First Runner-up: Mr. Gopal Kumar Mohoto, from Bangladesh, received \$2,000 together with the first runner-up’s plaque, for his initiative: “Cassetex – solar battery swapping for electric 3-wheelers”.

Second Runner-up: Mr. Rogers Githinji, Uganda, received \$1,000 together with the second runner-up’s plaque, for his initiative “Breaking the wall of (access to justice)”.



Closing

09

Closing

Global South-South Development Expo 2022

Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, noted that the GSSD Expo 2022 comprised a full programme of fruitful and results-oriented discussions, which offered ample opportunity for engaging in exchanges of experiences and expertise. She was pleased to “note the vibrant and engaging panel discussions with delegations sharing their views, experiences and examples, but also challenges and outlining the possible solutions”.

“The organization of the Global and the Regional Directors General Forums for South-South and triangular cooperation gave the Directors General of the cooperation agencies of developing countries the opportunity to link national, regional and global perspectives on policies, strategies and tools for South-South partnership. The Youth Entrepreneurship competition gave young talents from developing countries the space to promote South-South cooperation by sharing existing innovations with relevant partners, entrepreneurs and audiences from other developing countries seeking options to replicate or scale up this initiative or solutions”. Ms. Alisjahbana also noted that the “GSSD Expo 2022 offered space for partners to share and exchange ideas during the physical exhibition, as well as through the virtual exhibition space showcasing many successful examples of South-South cooperation from more than 60 partners”.

She highlighted that there was an excellent mix of experts, who shared their knowledge and experiences, which included the South-South cooperation policy makers and practitioners from several Member States and experts from think tanks, research institutes, civil society organizations, as well as from the United Nations. She recognized that efforts are already underway within the UN system to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation”.

Mr. Wattanawit Gajasen appreciated the insights, perspectives and recommendations shared by the speakers and experts, which made the discussions valuable and interactive. He noted that “sustainable development is the future of our mankind. Our vision is ambitious but achievable through strong and effective global partnership”. While there will undoubtedly be a number

of challenges and unexpected events, such as COVID-19, which can delay or slow down all progress, “South-South and triangular cooperation has a strategic and important role to play in driving forward our development agenda”. He noted that over the past four decades, South-South and triangular cooperation has proved to be a successful framework with a lot of concrete examples and it can complement but not replace North-South cooperation in addressing development needs. The global South has benefitted from mutual partnership and sharing of knowledge, skill, experience and good practices.

He hoped that developing countries would stay united and further strengthen the cooperation partnership, which requires enhanced institutional capacity and enabling ecosystems at home, innovative resource mobilization, increased multi-stakeholder engagement, and better coordination. Strong political leadership and a sense of ownership of the global South is also important to collectively forge a more peaceful and prosperous future.





Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang congratulated everyone for the success of the Expo and acknowledged shared experiences, learnings, connection and commitments made for collaborations. She thanked the co-organizers, the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand for their generous support and substantive contributions and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. She thanked UNOSSC's partner organizations, co-sponsors of various thematic solutions forums and side events, the moderators, speakers for active participation and the participants.

Finally, she noted that this was the Eleventh Expo, and it enjoyed the most participation yet, with over 5000 participants, including

governments, civil societies, academic organizations, private sector, media, more than 300 young students and tens of thousands of participants from social media engagement. Ms. Wang highlighted that the seeds of many new partnerships were planted as a collective response to Member States' demand for all partners to engage in and support South-South and triangular cooperation towards achieving Agenda 2030 and all other internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs.



Global South-South Development Expo 2022

12-14 September 2022

United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand

(Note: Timeslots indicated are in local Bangkok time zone)

Day 1 12 September 2022	
09:30	All delegates are seated in ESCAP Hall
09:40	Announcements by Master of Ceremony (MC)
09:50	High-level speakers are seated MC begins introduction
10:00-10:30	GSSD Expo Opening Ceremony (Plenary) (Interpretation in 6 official UN languages and Thai language) Leadership Messages Mr. António Guterres Secretary-General of the United Nations (Video Message) Mr. Abdulla Shahid President of the United Nations General Assembly (Video Message) Welcome Remarks H.E. Mr. Vijavat Isarabhakdi Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Mr. Achim Steiner UNDP Administrator (Video Message) Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang Head of Delegation, UNOSSC Solidarity Message Mr. Kitack Lim Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization (IMO)
10:30-11:00	Senior Dignitaries Group Photo Tour of Exhibition Booths IBSA Exhibit Launch Coffee Break
11:05-12:05	Leadership Roundtable 1: Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) for SDGs by Thailand (Interpretation in 6 official UN languages and Thai language)
12:15-13:15	Leadership Roundtable 2: Our Common Agenda-A Ministerial Dialogue by UNOSSC (Interpretation in 6 official UN languages and Thai language)
13:15-14:15	Lunch

14:15-15:20	Leadership Roundtable 3: Strengthening multi-hazard early warning for disaster and health resilience in ASEAN by ESCAP (Interpretation in 6 official UN languages and Thai language)
15:25-16:40	Thematic Solution Forum 1: South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Maritime Transport and a Green Recovery (IMO and ESCAP) Thematic Solution Forum 2: Accelerating the Learning Recovery and Transforming Education in Southeast Asia through Multistakeholder Partnerships (SDG 4) (UNESCO, UNICEF, ASEAN, SEAMEO) Thematic Solution Forum 3: South-South Economic Integration for Sustainable Recovery (UNCTAD) Youth4South Special Event: Workshop Session (Open) "Building sustainable initiatives and compelling stories to promote, accelerate and strengthen South-South cooperation" (UNOSSC-ITU) (from 15:25 – 16:40)
16:40-16:55	Coffee Break
16:55-18:10	Thematic Solution Forum 4: SSTC for Reproductive Health and Population and Development (UNFPA & PPD) Thematic Solution Forum 5: Joint initiative for Home-Grown School Feeding, Unlocking the Potential of National Home-Grown School Meals Programmes to transform local food systems and support pandemic recovery through SSTC (FAO, WFP, IFAD) Side Event: South-South and Triangular Cooperation and the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Science and Technology: Harnessing the Power of the Atom to Support COVID-19 Recovery and Address Global Challenges (IAEA) Youth4South Special Event: Workshop Session (Open) "Building sustainable initiatives and compelling stories to promote, accelerate and strengthen South-South cooperation" (UNOSSC-ITU) (from 16:55 – 18:10)
18:20-19:45	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation 2022: Key Priorities and Future Directions in Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future. (With video messages and reception)

Day 2 13 September 2022

9:00-10:15	Thematic Solution Forum 7: Social Protection and Health: South-South and Triangular Cooperation to Enhance Capacity to Produce and Deliver vaccines (ESCAP) Youth4South Special Event: Practice Session (Closed) "Best-Practice sharing and rehearsal for the Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition" (UNOSSC-ITU) (from 9:00 – 11:00)
10:15-10:30	Coffee Break
10:30-11:45	Thematic Solution Forum 8: Building Multi-Stakeholder Alliances in the Global South to Build Back Better: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future in the World of Work (ILO) Thematic Solution Forum 9: Maximizing the role of South-South Cooperation in achieving Universal Health Coverage: Showcasing the EMTCT of HIV & syphilis (PAHO, UNICEF) Thematic Solution Forum 6: Scaling up Conservation Agriculture to accelerate agri-food systems transformation in the Global South (FAO) Field Trip (By host country invitation only 8:00-13:00)
11:50-13:05	Side Event: Overcoming Challenges and Exploring Opportunities for Sustainable Energy Transition through South-South Cooperation (UNECE, UNESCAP & UNESCWA) Side Event: The Role of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) in Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus (STEPI, UNOSSC, MI & Republic of Korea) Side Event: Promoting South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a crisis response mechanism (IFAD)
13:05-14:20	Lunch

14:20-15:35	<p>Thematic Solution Forum 10: Local Government Finance is Development Finance: SDG Cities and the unlocking sub-national finance for sustainable development and transformation in the global south (UNCDF)</p> <p>Side Event: Measuring South-South Cooperation: United Nations global, voluntary framework to measure South-South cooperation (UNCTAD)</p> <p>Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum</p> <p>Side Event: Promoting urban economic resilience in cities globally during and after COVID-19 (ESCAP & ECE)</p>
15:40-15:55	Coffee Break
15:55-17:10	<p>Thematic Solution Forum 11: The role of SSTC in strengthening social protection systems and access to child allowances especially in the context of COVID-19 recovery (UNICEF)</p> <p>Side Event: Triangular Cooperation: A modality for the Asian Century (Germany and GPI)</p> <p>Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum</p>
17:15-18:30	<p>Side Event: CoWIN - A digital revolution winning over COVID-19 (Government of India & UNDP India)</p> <p>Side Event: SSC dialogues and learning in Africa: powerful tool to improve food security and nutrition (WFP CERFAM)</p> <p>Asia-Pacific Directors General Forum</p>

Day 3 14 September 2022

9:00-10:00	<p>Side Event: Partnerships for Development - Saudi Fund for Development (SFD)</p> <p>Side Event: Role of NGOs and CSOs (Global One, ANCSSC)</p>
9:45-10:15	Coffee Break
10:00-13:00	<p>Global Directors General Forum (Interpretation in 6 official UN languages and Thai language)</p> <p>Side Event: Workshop on Effective Matchmaking for Public Service Innovations through South-South Network (SSN4PSI) (from 10:00 am-12:00 pm)</p> <p>Youth4South Special Event: Discussion Panel (Open) "Shared Insights and experiences for scaling digital innovation through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (UNOSSC-ITU)" (from 11:30 am-1:00- pm)</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:00	<p>Global Directors General Forum (Interpretation in 6 official UN languages and Thai language)</p> <p>Youth4South Special Event: (Open) Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition (Government of Thailand, ESCAP, UNOSSC, UNFPA, ITU) (from 4:30-2:00 pm)</p>
15:00-15:15	Coffee Break
15:15-16:45	<p>Global Directors General Forum (Interpretation in 6 official UN languages and Thai language)</p>
17:00-17:30	<p>GSSD Expo Closing Remarks by Co-hosts</p>
18:00-20:00	<p>GSSD Expo 2022 Networking Night (With Message from Host Country, Cultural Performance, Entrepreneurship Competition Award Ceremony, and Farewell Dinner) (Note: By host country invitation only)</p>

Online Side Events

(Note: Timeslots indicated are in local Bangkok time zone)

Day 1 12 September 2022

19:30-21:10 **Launch of Report “Accelerating COVID-19 Recovery through Ushikamano wa Pan-Africa” (UNDP)**

Day 2 13 September 2022

09:00-09:50 **Responsible Business at the Forefront of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (UN Global Compact)**

15:00-16:30 **Building South-South Cooperation on Data: Republic of Moldova – India Experience (UNFPA)**

17:30-19:00 **Metaverse Mindset via Transformative Business Exposure - SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) and NFT (Non-fungible Token) (UNSDSN-Kenya)**

18:00-19:00 **China’s experience for Africa’s Food Systems Transformation: Case study of WFP-UNOSSC China-Africa rice value chain initiative in Cote D’Ivoire (WFP)**

18:00-19:30 **Digitalized South-South Cooperation for School Feeding (WFP)**

19:00-21:00 **Joint Training on Transitioning to Complex Risk Management and Resilient Urban Futures: Harnessing South-South Cooperation and Learning From COVID-19 (Session 4: South-South cities exchanges on ‘Transitioning to living with COVID-19 and managing complex risk scenarios’) (UNOSSC, UNDRR, WHO, PAHO)**

19:30-20:45 **Launch of South-South Ideas Papers on Digital Transformation (UNOSSC UNDP)**

20:00-21:30 **South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace (UNDP-DPPA)**

Day 3 14 September 2022

18:30-19:30 **Digitalized South-South Cooperation for Zero Hunger (WFP)**

