

GLOBAL SOUTH-SOUTH DEVELOPMENT EXPO 2018

Showcasing Institutions Supporting South-South and Triangular Cooperation
in Preparation for the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
(BAPA+40 Conference)

28 – 30 November 2018
United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
(Concept Note – draft v2 31 July 2018)

I. The Changing Global Landscape

The global community has made significant advancements in human development over the past few decades. In 1990, nearly half the global population in the developing world lived on less than USD 1.25 per day. That proportion dropped to 14 percent in 2015. There have concurrently been rapid and significant achievements in a number of areas including improving literacy rates, gender equality, and reducing child mortality.¹

These achievements have occurred alongside rapid demographic changes. The world now has the largest generation of young people ever. Adolescents and youth, those between aged between 10 and 24, accounted for 28 percent of the global population in 2010. Many of them are concentrated in developing countries.² At the same time, advancements in health and technology mean that the world is getting older. People aged over 60 are the world's fastest growing age group. The number of older persons increased from 490 million to 765 million in 2010.³

In addition, there have been significant changes in the composition of the global economy. Countries of the South now account for 40 percent of world gross domestic product, which is estimated to rise to 55 percent by 2025. South-South trade as a share of world merchandise rose from 8.1 percent to 26.7 percent between 1980 and 2011⁴.

These changes to the global landscape have resulted in new challenges that will need to be addressed in the coming decades. A failure to address them may result in halting or even reversing recent gains in human development. For example:

- Progress in poverty eradication has been uneven with a few Asian countries, primarily China, accounting for most of the decline. The rate of poverty reduction has been much

¹ United Nations (2015) *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015*, available from: [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) accessed 24 July 2017

² Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (2015) *10 Things You Didn't Know About the World's Population*, available from: <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2015/04/10-things-didnt-know-worlds-population/> accessed 20 July 2017

³ UNFPA (2014) *How Has the World Changed in the Last 30 Years?*, available from: <http://www.unfpa.org/news/how-has-world-changed-last-20-years> accessed 24 July 2017

⁴ UNDP (2013) *Human Development Report 2013 – the Rise of the South: Human Progress in a Diverse World*, New York, USA: United Nations.

slower in other developing countries, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. An estimated 1.2 billion people in developing countries live in extreme poverty.⁵ Even in countries that have seen significant achievements in poverty eradication, the “last mile” poverty challenge remains.

- As populations age many countries will struggle with supporting this growing group including providing access to employment, social protection, and age appropriate health services. At the same time, there is a need to ensure that youth have access to productive employment opportunities. It has been estimated that nearly 500 million new jobs will need to be created by 2020 to provide opportunities to those currently unemployed, and to young people entering the workforce.⁶
- Recent years have seen an increase in the impact of armed conflicts. Approximately 180,000 people died in 42 conflicts in 2015, more than triple the 56,000 fatalities recorded in 2008,⁷ reflecting a growing intensification of violence. More than 1.5 billion people now live in countries affected by fragility and violent conflict. More violent conflicts lead to increased refugee flows – as of June 2018 there were 68.5 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide, 85 per cent of whom are being hosted in developing countries.⁸
- The world is seeing new and emerging health issues. Changes in climate are expanding the range of disease carrying vectors such as mosquitos, spreading infectious diseases to new areas. Increased global connectivity is further expanding the potential for infectious diseases to spread. Additionally, the rapid rise in noncommunicable diseases is predicted to impede poverty reduction initiatives in low-income countries, particularly by increasing household costs associated with health care.⁹
- There is a need to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, which will likely lead to shifts in agricultural production and more frequent and severe extreme weather events. As just one example, by 2050, demand for food will be 60 per cent greater than it is today. This will require agricultural sectors to become more sustainable and productive.¹⁰

II. The Expanded Scope of South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation

⁵ FAO (2018) *Sustainable Development Goals: Poverty Eradication*, available from: <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/overview/fao-and-the-post-2015-development-agenda/poverty-eradication/en/> accessed 27 July 2018

⁶ Hunt, R. (2016), *World Economic Forum Blog: What are the 10 Biggest Global Challenges?*, available from: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/what-are-the-10-biggest-global-challenges/> accessed 24 July 2017

⁷ International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) (2015) *Armed Conflict Survey 2015* available from: <https://www.iiss.org/en/Topics/armed-conflict-survey/armed-conflict-survey-2015-46e5> accessed 24 July 2017

⁸ UNHCR (2018) *Figures at a Glance: Statistical Yearbooks*, available from: <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/figures-at-a-glance.html> accessed 30 July 2018

⁹ WHO (2018) *Noncommunicable Diseases*, available from: <http://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases> accessed 30 July 2018

¹⁰ Hunt, R. (2016) op. cit.

Achieving the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and adapting to a changing global context outlined above, will require engagement from all stakeholders, at all levels and in all countries, leveraging their diverse and unique advantages. Despite the constantly evolving development landscape, the importance of Southern countries cooperating, collaborating and co-creating solutions to achieve national development priorities remains.

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation remain important cornerstones for development activities. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted the ongoing importance of these modalities in his report to the ECOSOC on *Repositioning the UN Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda – Ensuring a Better Future for All*.¹¹ In this report, he wrote:

The rapid evolution of alternative forms of development cooperation, including the scaling up of South-South cooperation, is beginning to suggest bold, innovative means to strengthen cooperation to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals

We must also step up capacities to support and leverage South-South cooperation, as a complement to traditional development assistance. This form of cooperation among developing countries is a unique asset for knowledge-exchange, transfer of appropriate technologies, and tested development solutions – as valuable to developing countries as financial resources.

Much as the global landscape has transformed in recent years, so too have the avenues for South-South and triangular cooperation. As outlined in the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), South-South cooperation, initially termed Technical Cooperation Between Developing Countries, is an expression of solidarity between countries of the South. These modalities were initially largely focused on technical cooperation, capacity building, and knowledge exchange.

Today, however, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation have increased in terms of strategic importance and volume. The scope of these modalities has also expanded to incorporate South-South trade, South-South flows of foreign direct investment, movements towards regional integration, technology transfers, sharing of solutions and experts, as well as other forms of exchange.

In the past decade, institutions support for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation has expanded markedly. New multilateral and intergovernmental institutions have been created such as the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank. These are significant avenues for South-South cooperation, prioritizing sustainability and inclusive growth in their respective agendas. The Islamic Development Bank Group, the only multilateral development bank whose membership is drawn entirely from the South, has introduced “Reverse Linkage” – a South-South cooperation mechanism whereby IDB plays the role of connector and a catalyst, matching needs and solutions from member States.

¹¹ Secretary-General of the United Nations (2017), *Report to the ECOSOC on Repositioning the UN Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda – Ensuring a Better Future for All, advance unedited version 30 June 2017*, available from: <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/qcpr/sg-report-on-unds-qcpr-june-2017.pdf> accessed 18 July 2017

Examples also abound at the regional level. ASEAN, with the support of UNOSSC, is currently undertaking a mapping of South-South cooperation amongst its member States focusing on regional integration, trade and investment/infrastructure, capacity development and human resources development. In Africa, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will be one of the world's largest free-trade areas in terms of numbers of countries and will facilitate South-South trade and investments across the continent. In Latin America, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) has prepared an annual report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America since 2007, whilst the Initiative for the Integration of the Regional Infrastructure of South America is a development plan to link South America's economies through new transportation, energy and telecommunications links.

Concurrently, individual countries are creating and bolstering national and sub-national institutions which support South-South and triangular cooperation:

- China has consolidated its development cooperation activities into a new agency, the International Development Cooperation Agency. The country has also developed new institutions such as the South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund, which will provide financial support to South-South activities, and the Center for International Knowledge on Development, to advance frontier research on South-South cooperation.
- In 2017, India announced the establishment of the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, with a multi-year contribution of USD 100 million. Managed by UNOSSC, the fund is already supporting 23 projects in 27 countries. In April 2018, the Government of India announced an additional contribution of \$50 million specifically dedicated to Commonwealth countries.
- Many providers of South-South cooperation are also engaging in triangular cooperation, particularly with other countries in their own region. In Africa, for example, Egypt, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa and Tunisia share their knowledge with other developing countries through triangular arrangements. In Asia, pivotal countries include China, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. In Latin America, virtually all countries are providers of South-South cooperation, some of the most active in triangular cooperation being Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico.

For the United Nations, these modalities are increasingly integrated and mainstreamed into entities' policy frameworks and strategies. According to the most recent *Report of the Secretary-General on the State of South-South Cooperation*, as of 2018 close to 30 UN entities have designed policies and programmes that draw on the expertise, experience, technologies and other resources from the global South. As just one example, in 2017 UNOSSC with the Government of China formally launched the Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities Alliance, designed as a sub-national platform to facilitate exchange between cities.

III. BAPA+40 Conference

In order to ensure that South-South cooperation is responsive to the evolving realities of global development and the emerging needs of developing countries, the United Nations General Assembly decided in 2017 to convene a Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Buenos Aires from 20 to 22 March 2019 on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40 conference).

The overarching theme of the conference is “Role of South-South Cooperation and the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities”. Sub-themes are:

- Comparative advantages and opportunities of South-South cooperation.
- Challenges and strengthening of the institutional framework of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.
- Sharing of experiences, best practices and success stories.
- Scaling up the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in support of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.¹²

The High-level Conference will be aimed at reviewing the trends in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, including the progress made by the international community, in particular the United Nations, in supporting and promoting such cooperation and identifying new opportunities, as well as challenges and suggestions to overcome them. The conference will also provide an opportunity to review lessons learned over the past four decades, with a view to implementing an inclusive strategy that effectively leverages South-South and triangular approaches to achieving sustainable development, leaving no one behind.

IV. The 2018 Global South-South Development Expo

The Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) is an annual event organized by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in its capacity as the General Assembly-mandated global and United Nations system-wide coordinator and facilitator for South-South and triangular cooperation, in close coordination with host governments and host institutions, and in consultation with the UN High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.

GSSD Expo 2018 is scheduled to take place at the UN Headquarters, New York, from 28 to 30 November 2018. The 2018 Expo will be one of the last major opportunities for stakeholders including Member States, UN entities, academia and civil society to come together before the BAPA+40 Conference. As such, it will tie in closely with the theme and sub-themes outlined above.

Theme

¹² United Nations General Assembly (2018) *Theme and sub-themes of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/72/L.47)*

Showcasing Institutions Supporting South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Preparation for the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40 Conference)

Objectives

Specific objectives of the GSSD Expo 2018 include:

1. To facilitate and promote discussion on institutions' support to South-South and triangular cooperation including:
 - a. What are some concrete examples of successful models and mechanisms provided by institutions to support South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation for sustainable development?
 - b. What challenges have been faced by institutions as they undertake South-South and triangular activities at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels?
 - c. What strategies have institutions utilized to overcome these challenges?
 - d. Given the changing global landscape, and the upcoming BAPA+40 Conference, what are some opportunities for new and innovative South-South and triangular cooperation activities?
2. To share experiences in institutional arrangements for the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation in developmental matters at the national level during the annual Forum of Directors-General.
3. To identify, promote and share specific South-South and triangular experiences, best practices and success stories that have the potential to significantly contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and can feed into the BAPA+40 discussions.
4. To facilitate the creation and strengthening of multi-stakeholder South-South and triangular partnerships for sustainable development.
5. To 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 the national, regional, and global levels.

V. Draft Programme and Tentative Schedule¹³

| Day 0 | 27 November |
|---------------|---|
| 09:00 – 17:00 | Pre-Expo Discussion and Satellite Side Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by UN entities and Member States • UNOSSC Conference Room, other UN entities and Permanent Missions' conference rooms |

¹³ Note: programme subject to change upon receipt of expressions of interest from partners

| Day 1 | | 28 November | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| 09:00 – 10:00 | Opening Ceremony | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming remarks • Statements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG/DSG • PGA • HLC President • G77 Chair • UNDP Administrator | |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Official launch of Exhibition: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Poster/Photo Exhibition: Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation Volume 2</i> • <i>Launch of report in 6 UN languages: Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation Volume 2</i> | |
| 10:30 – 13:30 | Morning Session | <p><i>Proposed Theme – South-South Cooperation for Poverty Alleviation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Solution Forum 1 10:30 – 11:50 • Thematic Solution Forum 2 12:10 – 13:30 | |
| 13:30 – 15:00 | Lunch Break | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>IBSA/PGTF Event</i> • <i>Other side sessions (on demand)</i> • <i>Launch of South-South in Action (on demand)</i> | |
| 15:00 – 18:00 | Afternoon Session | <p><i>Proposed Theme – Engaging Youth and Women for Sustainable Development through South-South Cooperation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Solution Forum 3 15:00 – 16:20 • Thematic Solution Forum 4 16:40 – 18:00 | |
| 18:00 – 19:30 | Welcome Reception (TBC) | | |

| Day 2 | | 29 November | |
|---------------|-------------------------|--|--|
| 09:00 – 12:00 | Morning Session | <p><i>Proposed Theme – South-South Cooperation in Sustaining Peace/South-South Cooperation in Emergency Response and Recovery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Solution Forum 5 09:00 – 10:20 • Thematic Solution Forum 6 10:40 – 12:00 | |
| 12:00 – 13:30 | Lunch and side sessions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by UN entities and Member States • CR1, UNOSSC Conference Room, other UN conference rooms | |
| 13:30 – 14:30 | Mid-day Session | <p><i>Proposed Theme – Healthy Lives and Healthy People</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Solution Forum 7 13:30 – 14:30 | |
| 14:30 – 15:00 | Break | | |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 15:00 – 18:00 | Afternoon Session <i>Proposed Theme – Green Growth and Sustainable Cities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic Solution Forum 8 15:00 – 16:20 • Thematic Solution Forum 8 16:40 – 18:00 |
|---------------|---|

| Day 3 | | 30 November | |
|---------------|---|--|--|
| 09:00 – 17:00 | Directors-General Forum (Full Day) – CR 1 | | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing Institutional Support for South-South and Triangular Cooperation | | |
| | | Satellite side events | |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted by UN entities and Member States • UNOSSC Conference Room, other UN conference rooms | |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | Closing Ceremony | | |

Under these thematic focus areas, the below sessions will be organized:

1. High-level Opening Ceremony

Featuring distinguished and powerful champions of South-South and triangular cooperation. Prominent dignitaries and senior officials will deliver keynote statements to launch the Expo, set its tone and agenda, and share their ongoing commitment to innovative and inclusive South-South and triangular partnerships.

2. Thematic Solution Forums

Daily Forums arranged by thematic focus and organized by Expo partners such as Member States or UN entities. Each Solution Forum will focus on sharing concrete solutions and good practices and have a concrete outcome such as the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, launch of a report, or announcement of a new partnership. Solution Forums will last between 1 and 1.5 hours.

3. Side Events

Opportunities for Member States, UN entities, and other interested stakeholders to host smaller and more informal sessions. These are intended to complement the substance and outcomes of the other sessions, and to focus on in-depth exchanges between solution providers and potential interested partners.

Due to space limitations, side events will take place outside of the UN Headquarters building, unless the lead coordinating entities are able to make their own room reservations at Headquarters. UN entity partners are encouraged to utilize meeting spaces in their respective offices around the UN Compound. The Expo Secretariat will assist other partners to find meeting spaces, which will include the UNOSSC Conference Room.

4. Exhibition Space

Due to space limitations at UN Headquarters, the Exhibition Space at GSSD Expo 2018 will differ from previous years. Rather than providing booths, the Expo will offer partners the

opportunity to present successful solutions in poster form, provided digital materials in acceptable resolutions are submitted on time.

It is envisioned that the cases collected by UNOSSC for the “Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development Volume 2” will be featured at the Exhibition.

5. Directors General/Heads of National Coordinating Authorities Forum

Annual Forum which brings together Directors-General from cooperation agencies of national governments of the South and the North who are working on South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives. It is intended to facilitate learning exchanges on policy, strategy, institutional, financial, and tools for these partnerships. The Forum also serves as a space to facilitate innovative partnerships.

6. Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony will be a celebration of the Expo’s successes. Eminent leaders in South-South and triangular cooperation including government officials, Heads of UN entities and intergovernmental organizations, and other prominent Southern leaders will share their impressions of the Expo and their future commitments to South-South and triangular cooperation.

VI. Organization and Indicative Timeline

| | |
|------------------|--|
| 31 August | Final date for submission of Session Concept Note template with proposed title and format. Final date for submission of good practices and case studies high resolution materials for inclusion on the Exhibition Floor. |
| 30 September | Final date for submission of finalized Thematic Solution Forum and Side Event concept notes to GSSD Expo Secretariat incorporating proposed speakers, solutions to be presented etc. Final date for review of Exhibition Floor content. |
| 31 October | Final date for submission of Thematic Solution Form and Side Event concept notes for printing in the GSSD Expo 2018 Programme Brochure. |
| 14 November | Final date for online-registration for External Participants with No UN Ground passes. |
| 19 November | Final date for submission of speaker names and biographies for inclusion on GSSD Expo 2018 website. |
| 27 November | Pre-Expo Discussion and Satellite Side Events |
| 28 – 30 November | GSSD Expo 2018 |

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Annex 1: Expression of Interest for Thematic Solution Forms and Side Events

Please complete the below form and return to the GSSD Expo Secretariat (gssdexpo.secretariat@unossc.org) before 31 August 2018

Substantive Information

Title of Session:

Thematic Focus/Related SDGs/Ideal Session:

Submitted by (lead organizer):

Format and Nature of Session (select one)

- Thematic Solution Forum
- Side Event¹⁴

Objectives:

-

Potential Partners/Panelists/Speakers:

- *Name and brief biography of proposed speakers*

South-South and Triangular Solutions to be Presented:

- *Brief description*

Concrete Outcome/s:

- *Brief description*

Focal Point Contact Details

| | |
|-------|--|
| Name | |
| Title | |
| Email | |
| Phone | |

¹⁴ Please remember that organizers are responsible for securing their own venues for side events

Annex 2: Submission of Solutions for the Exhibition Floor¹⁵

Please complete the below form and return to the GSSD Expo Secretariat (gssdexpo.secretariat@unossc.org) before 31 August 2018

Summary Information

Title of Solution:

Short Summary (20 words):

Primary SDG:

Additional Related SDG/s:

Solution Information

Challenge (100 – 150 words)

- This section should provide an overview of the challenge in the country or region in which the initiative is being implemented (or has been implemented) and what is required to address it for the achievement of one or more SDGs

Towards a Solution (600 to 700 words)

- This section should address questions such as:
 1. What does the initiative aim to achieve in response to the challenge?
 2. How did the initiative lead to cross-country transfer of good practices, knowledge, technology etc. between and across countries of the South?
 3. What outcomes were achieved in relation to the identified SDGs and SDG targets?
 4. How was the initiative innovative?
 5. How is the initiative sustainable?
 6. How is the initiative replicable?

Contact Details

| | |
|-------|--|
| Name | |
| Title | |
| Email | |
| Phone | |

¹⁵ Note that submissions to “Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation Volume 2” are automatically considered for inclusion

Metadata

Project name:

Countries involved:

Nominated by:

Sustainable Development Goal target(s):

Supported by:

Implementing entities:

Project status (ongoing/completed):

Project period:

URL of the practice:

Pictures

Please include 3 to 4 high-resolution photos of the initiative