



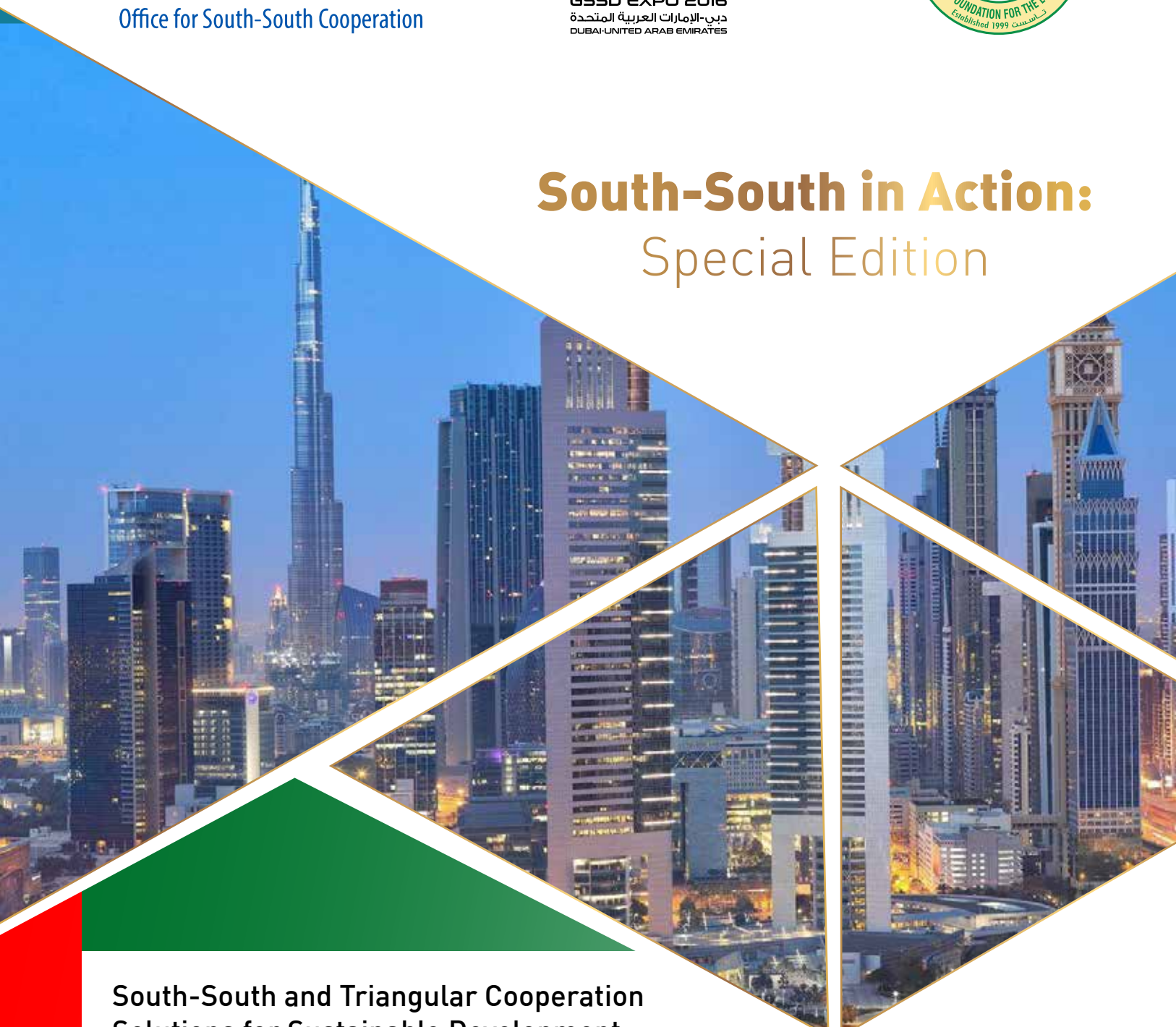
United Nations  
Office for South-South Cooperation



GSSD EXPO 2016  
دبي-الإمارات العربية المتحدة  
DUBAI-UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

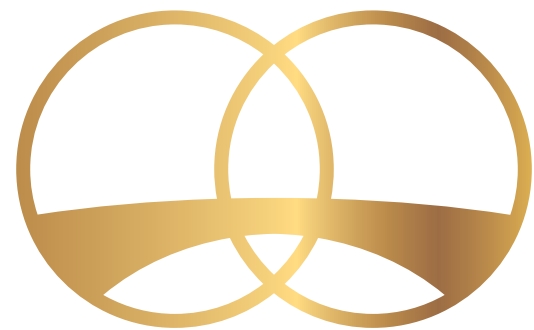


# South-South in Action: Special Edition



South-South and Triangular Cooperation  
Solutions for Sustainable Development

**United Arab Emirates**



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The main target audiences of the publication are development practitioners. For consistency of definitions, concepts and further guidance on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, reference can be made to the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), New Directions for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, and the Nairobi Outcome Document (A/RES/64/222).



# **South-South in Action:**

Special Edition:

Global South-South  
Development Expo 2016

United Arab Emirates Support to  
Advocate and Showcase South-South  
and Triangular Cooperation Solutions

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>ACP</b>	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
<b>BAPA</b>	Buenos Aires Plan of Action
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<b>GSSD Expo</b>	Global South-South Development Expo
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>INBAR</b>	International Network for Bamboo and Rattan
<b>IPC-IG</b>	International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth
<b>IRENA</b>	International Renewable Energy Agency
<b>IsDB</b>	Islamic Development Bank
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Centre
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>NEPAD</b>	New Partnership for Africa's Development
<b>ODA</b>	Official Development Assistance
<b>OIC</b>	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
<b>OECD DAC</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee
<b>PAHO</b>	Pan American Health Organization
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SENAI</b>	Brazil's National Service for Industrial Training
<b>SSC</b>	South-South Cooperation
<b>SSTC</b>	South-South and Triangular Cooperation
<b>UNCDF</b>	United Nations Capital Development Fund
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCWA</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
<b>UNESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>UNECE</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNIDO</b>	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
<b>UN-OHRLS</b>	United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
<b>UNOSSC</b>	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>WIPO</b>	World Intellectual Property Organization

# Foreword

In 2016, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) decided to create a space for United Nations Member States and other partners to collaborate with us in a unique way, to share their key innovations and successes – solutions implemented at home and replicated across the world. Guided by this, UNOSSC branded a publication series titled “South-South in Action”. The focus for the publication would be selected by the country or institution whose successes are highlighted, not by the UNOSSC.

One of the first countries to approach UNOSSC to present their story was the Government of the United Arab Emirates, through its Zayed International Foundation for the Environment.

In 2016, the United Arab Emirates generously hosted and ensured the resounding success of the annual Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo). This was the first ever GSSD Expo hosted by a Member State. Thanks to His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, and His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, and Patron of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, for the exceptional leadership and generous support to the GSSD Expo 2016. This special edition of South-South in Action is a compilation of not only success stories created in the UAE, but of all the stories shared by Member States and partner institutions during GSSD Expo 2016.

Since its inception in 2008, the GSSD Expo has provided an impressive platform for strategically engaging all development actors, including the private sector and civil society, in a global partnership to showcase and scale up innovative solutions to the development challenges faced by the South. The GSSD Expo 2016, the 8th in its series, was ground-breaking in terms of participation, mutual learning and knowledge-sharing among practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation. We received extremely positive feedback from United Nations Member States, our United Nations colleagues, panellists and audience members alike in recognizing the great success of the event.

The institutional contribution of the Government of the United Arab Emirates through the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment has provided invaluable support to our ongoing efforts to build a global partnership for sustainable development that leverages the effectiveness of Southern development solutions and highlights the progress that countries of the South have made in addressing and overcoming the challenges that they face.

We are proud to present this publication together. The publication demonstrates that there is no “one size fits all” for contributions to building a healthy and sustainable world. As the world looks for solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, contributions like those shared in this volume will deepen the scope of thinking and contribute to broader and more equitable exchanges of Southern knowledge at the World Expo 2020 in Dubai UAE.

## **Dr. Meshgan Al Awar**

Secretary General of  
the Zayed International  
Foundation for the  
Environment

## **Jorge Chediek**

Envoy of the Secretary-General on  
South-South Cooperation and  
Director of the United Nations Office  
for South-South Cooperation

## Introduction to South-South Cooperation and the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo)

### *What is South-South and Triangular Cooperation?*

In the last century, the world was divided starkly between the industrialized North and an underdeveloped South, however as a bridge South-South cooperation has emerged with the **Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries**, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in 1978 (resolution 33/134). Its emphasis on using the expertise and needs of the South to determine and shape development can be considered a success, not least with the achievement of so much of the MDG agenda.

South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South that contributes to their respective national well-being, their national and collective self-reliance, and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The South-South cooperation agenda and initiatives must be determined by the countries of the South, guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs, and mutual benefit. Triangular cooperation involves Southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries supported by a developed country(ies)/or multilateral organization(s) to implement development cooperation programmes and projects.

The Nairobi outcome document identifies the following policy and operational principles of South-South and triangular cooperation:

#### (a) Normative principles

- Respect for national sovereignty and ownership
- Partnership among equals
- Non-conditionality
- Non-interference in domestic affairs
- Mutual benefit

#### (b) Operational principles

- Mutual accountability and transparency
- Development effectiveness
- Coordination of evidence- and results-based initiatives
- Multi-stakeholder approach

As set out in BAPA, the aim was, and still is, to:

- Foster the self-reliance of developing countries by enhancing their creative capacity to find solutions to their development problems in keeping with their own aspirations, values and specific needs;
- Promote and strengthen collective self-reliance among developing countries through

- the exchange of experiences; the pooling, sharing and use of their technical and other resources; and the development of their complementary capacities;
- Strengthen the capacity of developing countries to identify and analyse together their main development issues and formulate the requisite strategies to address them;
  - 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;
  - Create and strengthen existing technological capacities in the developing countries in order to improve the effectiveness with which such capacities are used and to improve the capacity of developing countries to absorb and adapt technology and skills to meet their specific developmental needs;
  - Increase and improve communications among developing countries, leading to a greater awareness of common problems and wider access to available knowledge and experience, as well as the creation of new knowledge in tackling development problems;
  - Recognize and respond to the problems and requirements of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and the countries most seriously affected by, for example, natural disasters and other crises; and,
  - Enable developing countries to achieve a greater degree of participation in international economic activities and to expand international cooperation for development. Southern collaborative efforts in social, political, humanitarian and economic spheres have contributed significantly to improving national well-being and have enhanced the capacity of developing countries to attain their national priorities and other internationally agreed development goals.

### **What is GSSD Expo?**

The Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) is a unique platform that the UN system offers solely for the global South. It provides an opportunity for all development actors and stakeholders to showcase Southern development solutions, celebrate South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) successes, share knowledge and hard-earned experience, explore new avenues for collaboration, and initiate new partnerships.

In 2016, the GSSD Expo was hosted by the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates. It was convened from 31 October to 4 November 2016 in Dubai, under the theme **“South-South Cooperation: Towards Innovation and a Roadmap to Achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**.

This year, the conversations were even more purposeful, with all activities considered in light of how they could advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which the world development system has formulated. The panels, workshops and displays reinforced how much the countries of the South can and should learn from each other’s experiences. Participants came away reinvigorated and optimistic about the prospects for the SDGs and for the role of SSTC in reaching the goals. In the context of changes in the global balances of economics and politics, it was clear that the South-South orientation of development cooperation is both more vital and more productive than ever.

# High-Level Opening Ceremony



*An estimated 500 delegates and participants graced the opening ceremony. Invitations were extended to senior officials within and outside the United Nations system.*



*Prominent dignitaries attending the High-level Opening Ceremony.*

## SUMMARY OF THE HIGH-LEVEL OPENING CEREMONY



*H.E. Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Government of the United Arab Emirates*

**H.E. Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, Government of the United Arab Emirates**, opened the session with greetings to His Highness Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, and welcomed the participants to the Eighth Session of the Global South-South Development Expo 2016.

Explaining how integral SSC was to UAE policies, He thanked His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, for support and generous sponsorship in hosting the event. The minister explained that South-South cooperation (SSC) has observed significant developments on multiple levels since it was established by the United Nations four decades ago.

It has provided developing countries with genuine opportunities to advance their individual and collective endeavours to achieve steady economic growth and sustainable development. The dedication of the countries of the South to improve education and focus on the tools of scientific research, innovation, technology and capacity, building upon their cultural heritage as well as rich and diverse resources, has transformed many of these countries into major powerful political and economic forces in their regional and global environments.

Some countries of the South have even become models for development, helping to develop innovative practices and solutions to the growing development challenges, including climate change and sustainability, to narrow the North-South knowledge and technology gap and to enhance opportunities for North-South cooperation.

H.E. Dr. Al Zeyoudi explained that the late His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan laid down international cooperation as a fundamental principle of the UAE's foreign policy. Beyond bilateral relations, the UAE is committed to building cooperation and partnership ties with regional and international organizations and blocs and to taking an active role in international efforts to find sustainable solutions to global priority issues, particularly those related to the SDGs.

Over the past years, the UAE has strengthened its role in international cooperation, especially with the South, launching global initiatives focused on vital sectors such as education, health, water, energy and capacity building. He cited recent initiatives in combating poverty and disease, disseminating knowledge, social empowerment and innovation, such as those undertaken by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives, and the initiative of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, to combat infectious diseases and eradicate polio in many developing countries.

In addition to its continuing grants and development aid to developing countries, the UAE has also established renewable energy projects in many developing countries and a partnership fund with the Caribbean and the Pacific States.

The UAE participates in international events and conferences on the environment and climate change, as well as hosting and organizing such events and activities locally, notably including international development organizations such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the recently-announced World Green Economy Organization.

As highlighted in UAE Vision 2021, the country's actions have demonstrated a firm commitment to international efforts to identify and apply sustainable solutions to global problems. The UAE also reaffirms the belief that international cooperation and solidarity is no longer just a pressing need but, rather, the only way to build a secure, happy and sustainable future for humankind.

He pointed out that this exhibition and the global forum provided a great opportunity to exchange successful development initiatives and experiences among countries in the face of economic, social and environmental challenges. They presented developmental solutions that reflect successful experiences from many countries in the fields of youth, women, energy and diversification of water and food sources.

As countries of the South have played an important role in achieving the MDGs, we are confident that their vast human resources, world-renowned competencies, technical capabilities, rich and diverse resources, experiences and practices will enable them to contribute to achieving the Agenda 2030.



*H.E. Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment at the High-Level Opening Ceremony, conveyed the host's greeting.*

**H.E. Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed bin Fahad**, Chairman of the Higher Committee and of the Forum and Exhibition, spoke for the event's host, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, describing the global conference as "a beautiful day indeed in South-South cooperation," that had been under discussion for several years.

The UAE was defining the matrix of development requirements in the first half of the 21st century, with the initiatives of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum carried out in more than 160 countries and benefiting millions, if not billions, of people in the areas of health, education, safe drinking water, agricultural development, economic development, green economy and more.

The developing countries are experiencing social problems, including grinding wars, lack of agriculture, lack of technology transfer and extreme poverty. He reminded delegates of the importance of triangular cooperation along with SSC. he also spoke about the importance of principles of leadership for development, as exemplified in the UAE, which attracts communities from all over the world.

This has a dual impact on incoming technicians, experts and workers and on their home countries upon their return, creating a paradigm of rebound development in countries of the South, in addition to the thousands of initiatives launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, as the Minister of Climate Change and Environment mentioned earlier.

The UAE strives to create integration among countries of the South - integration of resources, industries, trade and tourism - rather than competition, which is destructive for those developments.

Expressing his hopes for concrete results from the Forum and Exhibition, the Chairman invoked His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum message: the UAE's leadership and people seek to consolidate the concepts of justice, equality and harmony among peoples.

**Former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon**, in a video message, greeted participants and thanked the Government of the United Arab Emirates for hosting this important gathering, in partnership with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.

Ban said, "Countries of the South are vital to global economic success and to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. I welcome your decision to highlight the central role of South-South and triangular cooperation, focusing on green technology transfer, industrial innovation, and global health and food security. These cross-cutting challenges are at the heart of the SDGs. I urge you to seize this opportunity to engage, build bridges, and develop sustainable strategies together. I wish you a productive and rewarding Expo."



*Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein of Jordan delivered the keynote statement to launch the Expo.*

**Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein of Jordan** thanked the organizers for the invitation. In particular, she expressed her appreciation to the UAE, which she described as a particularly suitable venue for the Expo in view of its part in SSTC and its role in popularizing renewable energy in the region.

She noted that while cooperation among developing countries is not new, South-South cooperation has become stronger and the Expo is an opportunity to see how we can develop and demonstrate leadership in confronting challenges.

South-South and triangular cooperation has expanded the range of the SDGs. It will be critical to complement the more traditional North-South agenda, not least in the need for new resources. The perspective of developing countries has become much more important, given their rich experience demonstrating leadership in confronting challenges to cooperation and development.

Her Majesty welcomed the Paris agreement, for example, “a milestone treaty” that owed much to the input of the South-South countries. However, she also stressed the “current calamitous global displacement crisis, which has impoverished and marginalized more people than ever before.”

She related how Jordan had used South-South assistance to cope with the Syrian refugee crisis, with help from UAE, Kuwait and others. She stressed the absolute importance of investing in women’s leadership by empowering them through education, training and economic opportunities, which could radically increase GDP, she applied those lessons particularly to rehabilitating refugee women. “Teach a woman to fish, and everybody eats,” she said, adding that, “rather than boots on the ground,” empowered women combat radicalization. She also called for a comprehensive human security agenda that would transcend deprivation and hopelessness.



*Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) addressed at the High-level Opening Ceremony.*

**Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)**, highlighted the achievements in the past 38 years since Member States convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to support technical cooperation among developing countries through BAPA, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. Today the Expo is a collective response to Member States demand that all partners engage in and support South-South and triangular cooperation towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the SDGs.

Since UNOSSC launched the Expo in 2008 together with UNDP at UN headquarters in New York, the Expo has grown to become a global and United Nations system-wide platform. UNOSSC is indebted to the World Bank, ILO, FAO, UNIDO, UNEP, and OAS for hosting the annual Expos, which draw attention to South-South successes within their respective focus areas. The GSSD Expo has proved effective in bringing together development partners to establish inclusive and innovative partnerships—South-South, North-South, triangular and public-private.

“This year,” he said, “UN Member States called for the commemoration of BAPA+40 in 2018, where we will focus South-South efforts toward achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”



*H.E. Ambassador Richard Nduhuura, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations and President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, addressed at the High-level Opening Ceremony.*

**H.E. Ambassador Richard Nduhuura, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations and President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation**, emphasized that the pivotal role of South-South cooperation has recently been emphasized not only in the context of the 2030 Agenda, but also of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Since its inception in 2008, the Global South-South Development Expo has established itself as a powerful platform to promote cooperation and partnerships across the Global South in support of developing countries' sustainable development aspirations.

This is particularly important now, as Member States embark on the implementation of the ambitious and transformative agendas agreed in 2015, specifically including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its associated Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Together these agreements provide a road map towards a fairer, and more equitable and sustainable world for all.



*Tegegnetwork Gettu, UNDP Associate Administrator, spoke at the High-level Opening Ceremony.*

**Tegegnetwork Gettu, UNDP Associate Administrator**, indicated that promoting South-South and triangular cooperation was central to UNDP's work. Leveraging UNDP's programme and operational reach, UNDP has much to offer - as a knowledge broker, capacity development supporter, partnership facilitator, and convener. Reflecting this commitment, UNDP's support

in this area has grown steadily over the past years: in 2015 close to 700 UNDP projects and programmes – or double the number in 2014 - utilized South-South and triangular cooperation as a modality across 132 countries. To take these efforts even further, UNDP has prepared a corporate strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation.

**Getachew Engida, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO**, welcomed South-South and triangular cooperation as a key component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for implementing the SDGs. He identified it as an important avenue for human and productive capacity-building, technical assistance and exchange of best practices among countries of the South that face similar development challenges. He also noted that it is of increasing importance as the dynamics of globalization are changing.

For UNESCO, South-South and triangular cooperation is a key modality to support countries in implementing the SDGs through education, the sciences, culture, and communication and information. To support developing countries in implementing SDG 4 (Education on inclusive, quality education for all), UNESCO is facilitating regional multi-stakeholder policy dialogues to design regional roadmaps to implement the Education 2030 agenda; support regional mechanisms for its coordination, review and follow-up; and develop new partnerships.

**Ibrahim Thiaw, Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations, and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, indicated that South-South cooperation has emerged as one of the key tools for countries to overcome shared challenges in making their economies greener and more inclusive. Since 2013, UNEP has been helping to facilitate South-South cooperation on inclusive green economy and supporting governments and policy makers to learn about the multiple pathways to sustainable development that countries are pursuing around the world.



*H.E. Ambassador Patrice I. Gomes, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), spoke at the High-level Opening Ceremony.*

**H.E. Ambassador Patrice I. Gomes, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP)**, indicated that ACP has been engaged in fostering South-South cooperation by providing a platform where development cooperation stakeholders can share their experiences, best practices and identify priority areas to scale up practical solutions to the current and future challenges facing ACP Member States, both at the policy and grassroots levels.

He reinforced the point that South-South and triangular cooperation should be considered a modality that complements the North-South model and builds on innovative, cost-effective solutions to be scaled up for the benefit of others. The benefits to be gained include mutual learning among partners, new opportunities for regional integration, fostering collective self-reliance amongst developing countries, building Southern capacity to manage development cooperation, networking and cost-effectiveness.

**Douglas Frantz, Deputy Secretary-General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development**, pointed out in his opening speech that developed and developing countries should “set aside the old divides” and find ways to work together to confront poverty challenges, which exist in the North and South. “All of us have work to do,” he said. “And if we don’t do that work together, we will not meet the goals we have set.”



*H.E. Amb. Mouhamadou Doudou Lo, Director General for Economic Affairs, Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) spoke at the High-level Opening Ceremony.*

**H.E. Amb. Mouhamadou Doudou Lo, Director General for Economic Affairs, Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**, recognized the increasing importance of South-South and triangular cooperation among OIC Member States, as reflected in the growing volumes of South-South trade, increasing flows of South-South development cooperation, and the building of institutional capacities in support of South-South cooperation. The UN and OIC agreed to further strengthen concerted action in the field of South-South cooperation building on the Multilateral Support Architecture for South-South Cooperation for the effective implementation of a number of internationally agreed development goals in the framework of post-2015 development agenda. More specifically, OIC would further expand systematic activities supporting South-South cooperation agendas of the OIC Member States, such as documenting successful Southern solutions and South-South trade opportunities, capacity development for managing South-South cooperation, and South-South cooperation in people-centered investment promotion.

## First High-Level Plenary Session

**Plenary Session 1: Partnerships for Climate Action and Sustainable Development: Sharing Experiences in South-South and Triangular Cooperation (Coordinator: Executive Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, UNOSSC and Zayed International Foundation for the Environment)**



*Participants from the Plenary Session 1 discuss how to have stronger partnerships for Climate Action and Sustainable Development*

**UNOSSC, the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General (EOSG) and the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment** co-organized the EXPO's first high-level plenary under the **Southern Climate Partnership Incubator (SCPI)**, also known as the UN Climate Partnerships for the Global South.

The SCPI is a new initiative of the EOSG, jointly developed by UNOSSC and EOSG, to foster, support, and promote South-South partnerships for climate action.

Speakers from Member States, UN entities, intergovernmental organizations and civil society reiterated the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including South-South partnerships, to address climate change and achieve sustainable development and urged delegates to promote and support such partnerships.

## Panel 1

The first panel explored this issue from the perspective of Member States. Panelists were:

**H.E. Ali Aziz Abdullah Al Shafar, UAE Permanent Representative to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA);**

**H.E. Engineer Waleed Salman, Executive Vice President of the Strategy and Business Development for Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, and Chairman of the Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence; and,**

**Dr. Ali Musa Abakar Eissa, Executive Director of the Office of the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Republic of Sudan**



*First panel discusses perspectives from Member States*

**H.E. Ali Aziz Abdullah Al Shafar** discussed the UAE and IRENA, which he noted is active in renewable energy and aid work. It has a USD 840 million portfolio of international support, particularly through the Pacific Fund. This major IRENA initiative assists the Pacific Islands by providing approximately USD 50 million, focused on renewable energy and rural access to electricity.

H.E. Ali Aziz Abdullah Al Shafar noted that the Government of the UAE, a private sector representative and IRENA worked together to provide around 6.5 MW of energy in the Pacific Islands and that the group would like to replicate this project in other areas, such as the Caribbean. He also discussed another major IRENA program, the USD 350 million Abu Dhabi Fund, an intergovernmental program exclusively for IRENA Member States. It focuses specifically on LDCs, providing co-financing for renewable energy projects. He stressed that 50 per cent of the funding is provided by the countries themselves.

Concluding, he expanded upon lessons learned from their programs, which they would like to replicate and take forward in the future. Those lessons include the following:

- Capacity building activities are vital, particularly on smaller islands;
- Partnerships for countries can help to develop the best solutions available; and,
- Innovation is important.

**H.E. Engineer Waleed Salman** addressed the plenary both as a representative of the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), part of the Government of Dubai, and as Chairman of the Dubai Carbon Centre of Excellence, an independent private organization jointly founded by the Government of Dubai and UNDP and comprised of Dubai government-owned shareholders. He explored DEWA's strong focus on renewable energy in its effort to assist Dubai and the UAE transition to a low-carbon economy. Achievements include:

- Development of a smart energy grid, which reduces energy requirements;
- Development of the His Highness Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, which will be the largest single-site solar project in the world, with planned capacity of 5,000 MW by 2030. This will be enough to power 800,000 homes, with a total investment of 50 billion UAE dirhams (AED). As a partnership with the private sector, it is hoped that this will be a model for the MENA region;
- Establishment of an AED 500 million innovation center with an Research and Development (R&D) focus and equipped with the latest technologies in renewable and clean energy, focusing on energy efficiency, renewables, water, and the smart grid;
- Working with partners, including the academic sector, to advance research;
- Building guidelines, including implementing sustainable building practices;
- Water desalination technology; and,
- Reducing losses from electricity and water lines.

The Government of Dubai is working with stakeholders to create new businesses to shift towards renewable energy. He noted that Dubai aims to have an energy mix of 61 per cent natural gas, 25 per cent solar, 7 per cent nuclear and 7 per cent clean coal by 2030.

**Dr. Abakar Eissa** concentrated on the agricultural impact of climate change, which is already having significant impacts in Sudan. The country is already experiencing increased drought, loss of plantation cover and, given that 95 per cent of the crop area is dependent on increasingly erratic rainfall, reduced yields.

He explained the strategies that Sudan is using to address the impacts of climate change, including the use of drought-resilient plant varieties, water harvesting and planning to improve the irrigation system, already the largest in Africa. Sudan is also exploring ways to reduce water loss from evaporation. Finally, the Government is developing farmers' capacity to use and adapt new technology.

He concluded with a call for more partnerships to assist countries like Sudan to increase their ability to adapt to the impact of climate change.

## Panel 2

The second panel was composed of representatives from the UN system and inter-governmental organisations:

**H.E. Amb. Macharia Kamau, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on El Niño and Climate, and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN;**

**Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Head of UN-OHRLS; and,**

**Dr. Hans Friederich, Director-General of the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR).**



*Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and High Representative for UN-OHRLS; and H.E. Amb. Macharia Kamau, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General on El Niño and Climate, and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN) discuss the core objectives of the Leadership Roundtable to explore the priorities of South-South Cooperation.*

Following on from Dr. Eissa's contribution, **Amb. Kamau** also focused on the impact of climate change on agriculture, poverty and food security, reporting on a recent five-country tour during which he became aware of the millions of people facing hunger on a daily basis. He noted that the biggest challenge is that many countries that face the first and greatest impacts of a changing climate, such as more frequent and more intense extreme weather events, are those in the global South that are least able to cope. Addressing these challenges will require all stakeholders, including governments, the UN and civil society, to work together with strong political will and a united vision.

In terms of South-South cooperation, Amb. Kamau reiterated the importance of these programmes being driven by the countries of the South but reminded participants of the need for financing for the sustainable development goals. He implored stakeholders to work together and leverage all sources to ensure ample financing for development activities.

**Mr. Acharya** noted the visible impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels and increases in extreme weather events, and pointed out that addressing them will require both mitigation and adaptation activities.

He primarily focused his remarks on the impact of climate change on the small island developing States (SIDS). He noted that they will be among the first countries impacted by a changing climate, given that many are only five metres above sea level. In discussing partnerships, he spoke extensively of the UAE's support of the SIDS Lighthouses Initiative, a multi-stakeholder initiative designed to accelerate SIDS' transition to a sustainable energy future.

### Example from the First High Level Plenary Session: Bamboo and the South

**The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)** is the only international treaty-based organization that focuses on the opportunities for sustainable development provided by bamboo and rattan, which are distinctively Southern commodities. With 42 Member States, it has woven six SDGs into its work, focusing on poverty reduction, renewable energy, affordable construction, sustainable trade, landscape restoration, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

As the world's leading bamboo-growing country, China hosts INBAR headquarters and has helped the organization train nearly 730 participants from 75 countries to learn from its experience. Partners like the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) in Nairobi, the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in Jakarta, and the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) in Dubai work with INBAR to share knowledge, experiences and technology. INBAR helps countries to understand how bamboo can be used, for example, in carbon sequestration (as part of the Paris Accords) and as a fast-growing, versatile forestry crop, to mitigate the effects of climate change. Indeed, bamboo can be used in manufacturing, construction, for charcoal and, even, gasification, while reforesting degraded land and sequestering carbon.

A good example of an SSTC partnership involves three INBAR Member States in East Africa and China, facilitated by INBAR with funding from the Netherlands. The goal is to develop bamboo resources in East Africa, both to mitigate climate change and produce high-quality furniture, with its economic potential for the countries and populations involved. An immediate result of INBAR's work is that changes were made in the building regulations of all three countries. Bamboo may now be used legally for construction, without an exemption from construction regulations.

The INBAR Regional Office in Quito has assembled a pool of experts in the north Andean Region that can design and build affordable, earthquake-proof houses using local *Guadua* bamboo resources.

**Dr. Friederich** explained the many and unique ways in which bamboo can help to address the impacts of climate change. He noted that it can be used to control erosion, sequester carbon and serve as a biofuel and a sustainable material for both building and clothing. He explored INBAR's many SSTC activities and noted that it is an inter-governmental organization with 42 Member States, all but one from the South; thus, many of their activities are South-South in nature. As an example, he noted that INBAR is working with Norway and China to build bamboo-related industries in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda through capacity-building activities and access to technology and information.

### Closing Remarks



*Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General of Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, shares her perspective on the future and planned commitments to South-South cooperation going forward.*

**Dr. Meshgan Al Awar**, Secretary General of the Zayed Foundation for the Environment, closed the session, reiterating the importance of engaging all stakeholders to address climate change and achieve sustainable development. She noted that many of the winners of the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, which recognizes and encourages environmental achievements, have focused on the global South and on South-South initiatives.

## Second High-Level Plenary Session

### **Plenary Session 2: The 2030 Agenda and the Evolving Dynamic Role and Contribution of the Private Sector and the Catalytic Role of the United Nations System in Sustainable Development**

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015 by 193 countries was both unprecedented and historic. The SDGs will shape global development priorities for the next 15 years and envisage a world in which poverty is eradicated, economies are transformed and development takes place within planetary boundaries.

Member States cannot address these challenges alone. It will require concerted collective efforts of governments, the private sector and other stakeholders. Thus, the SDGs offer a unique opportunity for development actors – specifically Member States who are tasked with the responsibility of fulfilling the SDGs – to be strategic about their collaboration with the private sector in advancing the sustainable development agenda.

Partnerships with the private sector are crucial. Member states are able to draw on the private sectors' expertise and resources sector to design, implement and resolve multilevel and cross-sectoral problems. If partnerships are strategically packaged and done properly, the private sector can become real drivers of change that will help propel sustainable development.

In promoting cooperation, it is important to build mechanisms by which partnerships and sharing of responsibilities between the public and the private sectors become the core of sustainable development efforts. It is equally important to ensure that the role of the private sector is not solely centred on financing and investment. There are more innovative mechanisms and more sustainable approaches that the private sector can contribute. The current situation calls for a revitalized paradigm shift.

With the 2030 Agenda as the overarching framework under the “Delivering as One” vision of the UN Secretary-General, a joint session was organized to create an interactive dialogue on the role of private sector and impact investment in South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. With the UN Global Compact as the advocate and policy coordinator of the private sector contribution to the 2030 Agenda, the UNDP SDG Impact Finance (UNSIF) as the implementor and provider of blended financing models and creator of intermediary investment platform, and the private sector alliance as the key network of technology investors and expert providers, the session charted a new discourse of private sector engagement that will redefine development results and impact to benefit the countries of the global South.

The discussion covered establishing concrete mechanisms, tools and approaches to better engage the private sector in various development activities and initiatives that will scale up development, enhance positive results and achieve greater impact.

The session presented a broader framework on corporate responsibility as well as proposed viable and innovative models of partnerships through the UN system and private sector engagement. The discussions also centered on the benefits of blended financing, how to measure social impact

and how it will impact the 'investing for SDGs' agenda as well as the opportunities and challenges the private sector faces in engaging with the programmatic activities in the UN system.

**Sobhi A. Batterjee**, Chairman, Middle East Healthcare Company (MEAHCO) and President and CEO, Saudi German Hospitals Group focused on "Meeting Rising Healthcare Demand through Innovative Public Private Partnerships (PPP): The Experience of the SGH Group". In the past, health care was exclusively a public sector function. However, governments in the Arab world have recently allowed and encouraged a role for the private sector because public hospitals could not meet the needs. Currently, the government focuses on primary care, while the private sector addresses the secondary and tertiary sectors. To develop public-private partnerships (PPP), governments must create investor-friendly climates and conducive legal/taxation structures. The PPP health care model can also be effective in poor nations and, even, in remote areas of wealthy ones and can provide a sustainable business model in health care, health education and health research. Many governments have shown interest in PPPs for new hospitals or to address ailing ones.



*Mr. David Sutherland, Chair of the Board, International Care Ministries, and Ms. Joyce Zhang from the Finance Center for South-South Cooperation, participate in the plenary session on the 2030 Agenda, the evolving dynamic role and contribution of the private sector, and the catalytic role of the UN system in sustainable development.*

**Mr. David Sutherland**, Chair of the Board, International Care Ministries, explained how bringing business best practices to the development world has been the focus of much of his life's work. ICM works exclusively with local churches in the Philippines and is now one of the largest local charities there, with an annual budget of USD 10 million, concentrating on the lowest income households - people living in ultrapovertry on less than USD 50 cents per day. ICM has applied business principles to design a four-month, intensive program called Transform. ICM focuses its efforts on about 15 Philippine provinces in the Visayas and Mindanao, with a total population of 18 million people. He spoke about how disciplined business people apply principles that are common practice in the business world to the development world and suggested that the development world focus on return on investment, scalability and franchise, research and data. He also noted the need for successful business people to help charities be as effective and as efficient as possible.



*James M. Donovan, Chairman, Global CEO Alliance, speaks about the role of private sector for sustainable development*

**James M. Donovan, Chairman, Global CEO Alliance** recognized the role of the private sector in steering sustainable economic transformation and embracing sustainable development as a shared responsibility needing partnerships. There is growing awareness in both the developed and developing worlds that alleviating infrastructure and other investment gaps is a critical requirement. This awareness has led to an increased focus on private sector participation in infrastructure projects and, in particular, the use of public-private partnerships (PPPs). It is important that both the public and the private sectors identify their needs and capabilities, assess their priorities, and align regional and local plans and company values. He highlighted the need for global partnerships to consider their impact far beyond simply measuring financial investment performance.

## Special Session: The India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Fund launched its 2016 Project Portfolio Overview Report and Video



*India Brazil and South Africa delegates launched the IBSA Fund report with UNOSSC.*

**H.E. Mpetjane Kgaogelo Lekgoro, Ambassador of South Africa to the United Arab Emirates, H.E. Anurag Bhushan, Consul General of India in Dubai, and Ms. Maria Cristina de Castro Martins, interim Chargée d’Affaires of Brazil to the UAE, together with Mr. Jorge Chediek, Director of UNOSSC,** reported on the progress of the IBSA Fund, underscoring the strategic nature of this initiative and its global importance. while renewing the IBSA countries’ commitment to the fund with new contributions in support of new initiatives.

Operational since 2006, the IBSA Fund has already received USD 35 million in contributions and approved 27 projects in 21 partner developing countries, mostly least developed States.

The Fund is known for its people-centred results. It has built or refurbished six hospitals or health centres, seven markets and an irrigation structure. It has enhanced the livelihoods of over 30,000 farmers across various countries and continents, including in highly remote areas, and upgraded the skills and employability of about 6,000 urban youth. These and many other accomplishments advance all 17 SDGs, while epitomizing the benefits of South-South cooperation.

# Solution Exchange Forums

## Solution Forum 1: The Future of Work and South-South Triangular Cooperation (Coordinator: ILO)



*Ms. Maria Luz Vega, Future of Work Initiative, International Labour Organization; Mr. Foued Ben Abdallah, Director General of the Labour Inspectorate and the Reconciliation to the Ministry of Social Affairs of Tunisia; and Yordanka Tzvetkova, BRICS Programme Manager, International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin (Italy) discuss ILO's involvement in supporting South-South and triangular cooperation.*

Through this solution forum, ILO sought to generate a better understanding of the forces transforming the world of work and the implications for governments, workers and employers and how SSTC can support this. The forum was intended to articulate and promote policy alternatives, innovative partnerships and good practices that can be replicated by governments, employers and workers and other key partners in countries of the global South through SSTC.

The Forum focused on the thematic topic, the “Future of Work”. It showcased practical examples of how Southern practices and South-South cooperation can help positively shape policies and programmes that advance social justice and inclusion in the labour market. Two examples shared during the solution forum were:



*Solution Forum 1 panel.*

1. The Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet (composed of the Tunisian General Labour Union, the Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade and Handicrafts, the Tunisian Human Rights League, and the Tunisian Order of Lawyers). The Quartet was formed in 2013, when Tunisia's efforts to introduce democracy were in danger of failing amid assassinations and social unrest. It led to the signing of a social contract, furthering improvements in the areas of labour law, labour relations, employment policies, social protection and vocational training. The Quartet won the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.
2. A joint programme between ILO and Algeria's Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, which advanced cooperation with other countries in Africa and the Maghreb, sharing Algeria's experience with tripartite social dialogue and social protection. Algeria also created a National Institute of Labour Studies and Research to share Algerian experiences.

Overall, the session underscored that, particularly on social dialogue and labour markets, solutions from the South are not models, but are unique to in the context in which they evolved. However, South-South sharing of these experiences allows for adaptation and designing solutions appropriate to each country context.

## Solution Forum 2: SSMart for SDGs (Coordinator: UNDP)



*Solution Forum 2 panel*

UNDP has a lot to offer in terms of its programmes and operational reach as a knowledge broker, capacity development supporter, partnership facilitator and convener. UNDP's support has grown steadily over the past years, with close to 700 UNDP projects and programmes in 2015 –double the number in 2014 – utilizing South-South and triangular cooperation as a modality across 132 countries.

As a part of the Strategy, UNDP launched SSMart for the SDGs at the GSSD Expo 2016. SSMart is an online marketplace, matching demand with supply of South-South and triangular development solutions.

**Example 1 from Solution Forum 2: Inclusive and Sustainable New Communities (ISNC) Project: Uganda Re-Invigorating Volunteerism; Communities as Drivers Of Development, presented by Assumpta Ikiriza Tibamwenda**

Landlocked Uganda has ambitious plans. Its Vision 2040 envisages a “transformed Ugandan society from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years” and its NDP II Target is to be a middle-income country by 2020. The Government describes the system of governance as “decentralization,” adopted in 1992 to democratize state power and transform society by empowering citizens to take charge of their development agenda for a better life.

This is structured through a local government system that includes 115 districts, municipal councils, 1,463 sub-counties and 58,051 villages constituted by popularly elected councils, which are empowered to deliver services in their jurisdiction.

ISNC is anchored in the existing system and frameworks of governance – the decentralization policy, local economic development policy and local government system. It builds on:

- Korea’s Saemaul Ungong (SMU) model and its experience in implementing SMU in the 1970’s to address endemic poverty by applying the principles of self-help, diligence and cooperation; and,
- Uganda’s experience with volunteerism in the early 1960s.

Its objectives are to support Uganda’s transformation through community-driven integrated and sustainable local development. Expected results include:

- A strengthened institutional system of local development;
- Enhanced cohesiveness and inclusiveness of community development;
- Improved and increased local resources and financing mechanisms;
- Scaled-up, proven sustainability innovations; and,
- Documentation and dissemination of generated knowledge

Since July 2015, the project has been piloted in three local governments, representing the Greater North, Central and Western regions of Uganda in 15 communities, with five SMU communities in each locality.

The project has led to a revival of volunteerism within communities, which have assigned local names to ISNC, such as Ssalongo, Eisini Lyobwabwavu and Karo Karungi. It has resulted in:

- Improved self-help and a can-do attitude in local communities, with significant cost reductions to operate and maintain basic service delivery facilities;
- Empowerment of vulnerable people through income-generating projects (women, youth and elderly);
- Harmony and cohesiveness at the community level, thus reducing crime rates and conflicts;
- Increased interface between communities and government representatives;

- Formation of organized and needs-based community groups that can develop local solutions tailored to their needs;
- Generation of innovative and local solutions to local challenges, including tree planting for environment mitigation, eco-cooking stoves as alternative sources of energy, micro-irrigation and farming techniques; and,
- Knowledge exchange and transfer among communities, from goat rearing to business skills.

The SMU Model provides a low-cost, yet catalytic and transformational, approach to community development. The ISNC modality provides a launching pad for domesticating SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 16. There is an overwhelming demand for the ISNC model in the communities outside the project area because, as a development solution, it:

- Stimulates active participation and inclusion in the development process;
- Provides a cost-effective pathway for resource delivery to the grassroots;
- Leverages community support for uptake of government policies and programmes;
- Generates knowledge to influence policies on community empowerment; and,
- Is an important model for domesticating and realizing the SDGs.

### **Example 2 from Solution Forum 2: Viet Nam: Saemaul Initiative towards ISNC**

The overall objective of the Viet Nam ISNC Project is to “Vietnamize” the original Korean SMU approach and set up mechanisms for nationwide visionary leadership of the approach through: political advocacy; sharing of best practices; and, pilot implementation of a tailored training and public communication programs based on SMU principles, aimed at accumulating social capital and building a social movement for self-reliant and sustainable rural development in Viet Nam.

The project’s intended outputs were to:

1. Provide support for policy advocacy and policy reform to enhance government commitment, coordination and investment to promote a social movement for self-reliant and sustainable rural development and poverty reduction in Viet Nam; and,
2. Help develop effective tools and channels to strengthen leadership capacity at different levels for the adaptation, scaling up and institutionalization of the SMU self-help and community mobilization principles and best practices in the national targeted programmes for sustainable poverty reduction and new rural development.

#### **Policy advocacy**

The project obtained a commitment from the country’s highest level, as President Truong Tan Sang demonstrated by his participation in the UN General Assembly ISNC side event in September 2015. Practical advocacy steps included:

Enabling an environment to formulate and strengthen institutional arrangements/legal framework; and,

Educating policy makers (the Government, National Assembly and party committees) on self-reliance, community leadership for possible application in rural development, and poverty reduction by:

- a) Short and clear concept note/message on ISNC shared at high-level policy dialogues and other channels;
- b) Experience sharing for policy makers (inside and outside Viet Nam);
- c) Communication via mass media (VOV, VTV, newspapers); and,
- d) Regular meetings with key Government officials (ministerial level).

The ISNC project was piloted in the National Targeted Programs (NTPs) between 2011-2015.

The teams identified good practices supported at local levels and consolidated them for review and formulation of new NTPs from 2016-2020. They developed networks (including capacity-building) of communities, local/central government agencies, private sector and CSOs to support community-driven initiatives. They also mapped out community leadership skills development, training materials and TOT for local officers and community leaders.

### **Lessons learned**

Several positive factors contributed to the success of the initiative:

- The policy is in line with thousands of years of context and culture in Viet Nam;
- It is timely, given the National Assembly's adoption of Resolution 76/2014 on accelerating sustainable poverty reduction to 2020, with favorable conditions for promoting community development and lessons learned from the implementation of previous NTPs;
- It has a sound implementation approach. Rather than create unnecessary innovations, it institutionalizes ISNC in the country's current policies/guidelines, combining lessons learned from Korea and best practices in Viet Nam and then testing at the local level before replicating nationwide;
- Widespread consensus exists between the central and local government and relevant partners on ISNC, which was achieved through many activities and communication events and channels (television, radio and newspapers) that involved senior/well-known experts and/or high-level policymakers; and,
- It has sound documentation – the materials are short, clear, easy to read and understand, and eye catching.

### **Challenges**

Efforts to build a consensus on the key principles and elements of a "Vietnamized ISNC" began in June 2015. They sought to reform long-standing Vietnamese government mechanisms and took more time and effort than anticipated.

Although the project is making progress in engaging national policymakers and translating policy directions into NTP principles and interventions, the NTPs' implementation capacity at the community level remains a concern. Technical assistance will be needed to continue to build the project. Specifically, it will be needed to ensure that ISNC elements are included during implementation of the 2016-2020 NTPs, to review and adjust relevant policies, legal documents and implementation guidelines, and to set up an M&E system. Additional assistance will also be required for a community leadership training programme to finalize training materials and TOT, following up on current ISNC projects in Viet Nam.

### **Solution Forum 3: South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Food Security and Agriculture: Southern Networking and Knowledge Exchange as Key Means towards Achieving the SDGs (Coordinator: FAO/WFP/IFAD)**



*Solution Forum 3 panel chaired by ACP Ambassador Henrique Banze and participated by FAO, IFAD, WFP representatives.*

FAO, IFAD and WFP explained how, together, as “Rome-based agencies” they are promoting Southern networking and SSC, presenting their corporate vision for SSC, how their work is interlinked, and creating synergies to tap into.

**FAO** is committed to mainstreaming SSC to increase the impact on the ground for member countries. It developed the SSC Gateway, an online platform, to enable partners and those seeking and providing innovative solutions to find each other and promote South-South flows among countries. Countries can engage bilaterally or with FAO as facilitator. Fifteen triangular partners are rolling out 100 different initiatives every year. The Gateway provides visibility to countries, governments and technical institutions, showcasing national agricultural institutions in the South and allows users to search for expertise by technical area, country or specific institution and links them to focal points in each organization.

FAO's SSC Gateway is a first step to engaging in South-South cooperation, allowing users to match their needs with the Southern expertise available. It highlights existing national expertise and facilitates an exchange of solutions, allowing even those countries that are not yet involved in SSC with FAO to present their national expertise and/or search for expertise within other countries. The next steps involve negotiating and facilitating the connection and forming development partnerships, which can be facilitated by FAO or achieved bilaterally.

**WFP** pointed out that its overall work is much broader than emergency response. For example, it encouraged peer learning with 32 countries in Africa through its Centres for Excellence, in addition to developing activities for farmers to achieve food security. WFP also supports a unique program which is built by Africans for Africa, the African Risk Capacity (ARC). WFP sees its role as a catalyst to help develop policy and programmes suited for local conditions across all 82 member countries.

**IFAD** invests in tools that enable countries to share and partner with each other. Its comparative advantage is that as a financial institution, it has USD 6 billion in its active portfolio. Each year, it invests USD 1 billion of its own resources to support:

- Policy platforms to help countries share solutions;
- Projects that share data so Southern governments can make informed decisions;
- Technology transfer;
- Countries to develop capacity so that they know what they need to know to improve SSC using grants; and,
- Investment cooperation and involving businesses to finance.

### Example 1 from Solution Forum 3: ProHuerta

In countries across the world, market gardens planted in family plots (huertas, in Spanish) have helped families sustain themselves cheaply and nutritiously. The Argentinean initiative ProHuerta helps vulnerable people produce fresh food and poultry in an organic vegetable garden-based system by assisting them with the knowledge and tools they need.

The Director General of Argentina's International Cooperation, Ana Ciuti, pointed out that the program has a strong social and educational component, highlighting the role of women in ProHuerta "The Program has a major gender component, because we realized that women are really the ones who carry out the project," she said. "When we were in the field, all the orchards that really worked were carried out by women."

Argentina has had many requests for assistance to develop ProHuerta programmes from, for example, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and Haiti. The programme was launched in Haiti in 2005, with implementation of a pilot project in Gonaives, where Argentina worked with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Haitian Ministry of Agriculture.

Achievements to date as part of the exchanges include providing 38.3 tons of corn, vegetable and bean seeds to 37,640 families and marshalling 5,294 promoters and trained volunteers to demonstrate appropriate techniques.

Building on SSC and given the growing demand for technicians, promoters and participants in the ProHuerta Program, Argentina seeks new triangular partners to strengthen coordination and track the program at a national level.

### **Example 2 from Solution Forum 3: FAO Champions Food Security through City-City Collaboration and South-South Cooperation (SSC)**

The initiative supports African cities, in particular, that seek innovative solutions to transform their food systems through:

- Knowledge generation: disseminating, documenting and sharing challenges, solutions, lessons learned and good practices; and,
- Capacity building: exchanging technical expertise, technologies and policy solutions through fielding experts, workshops, training, study tours and continental or regional networks.

By 2050, it is predicted that nearly three-quarters of the world's population will live in towns and cities, far from traditional rural food production. Since 1950, Africa has urbanized twice as fast as Europe. The UN estimates that by 2050, 56 per cent of Africans will live in cities. Urbanization has generated new and complex challenges to achieving the SDGs, such as poverty, environmental degradation (including soil and water pollution), food waste, undernutrition and obesity.

The world needs food systems that are resilient, inclusive and sustainable. Local governments have a critical role to play in developing the capacity of urban and regional food systems to provide reliable access to adequate, safe, local, diversified, fair, healthy and nutritious food for all. The New Urban Agenda, the outcome of the UN-Habitat III conference held in Quito in October 2016, also highlights food security and nutrition as a critical sustainability challenge facing cities.

During Expo 2015, Milan launched the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUPFF) to promote sustainable food systems and healthy diets in cities and their connected rural areas. As described in the Directors' Forum, 130 cities have since signed the pact, committing themselves to working towards generating more sustainable food systems. Forty of those cities are from the South, including 20 from Africa and Dubai, the host of the GSSD Expo 2016.

FAO has long supported cities to develop specific initiatives corresponding to their local needs. All of those initiatives seek to improve food security and nutrition for the most vulnerable populations, income generation, job creation for women and youth, and the resilience of food systems and the local environment for the MUPFF. It is now working with cities on the potential solutions that can help address these challenges under the MUPFF:

- Micro-garden projects: FAO is working with the cities of Milan (Italy) and Dakar (Senegal) to promote micro-gardens, which are widely recognized as a good practice in both improving nutrition security and creating job opportunities;
- Food for the Cities Programme: FAO is promoting more resilient and sustainable food systems within urban regions by helping local governments identify and understand gaps, bottlenecks and opportunities. This will provide a basis to design sustainable food

policies and strategies to improve local food systems and strengthen rural urban linkages. FAO has implemented this cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and participatory process in four city regions: Medellin (Colombia); Colombo (Sri Lanka); Lusaka and Kitwe (Zambia).

- Programme on urban and peri-urban horticulture in Central Africa: FAO is working to improve food security and nutrition in urban areas in Central Africa by promoting horticulture in cities. This builds on FAO's experience, including with the Growing Greener Cities Programme, which promotes healthy and sustainable production, resources and access to markets thanks to multi-stakeholders, institutional and political support.

FAO is supporting cities to strengthen the sustainable management of urban and peri-urban forests in the cities of Espargos (Sal Island), Mindelo (São Vicente Island), Porto Novo (Santo Antão Island) and Praia (Santiago Island). The project seeks to: moderate the urban climate; control urban expansion; control soil erosion; reduce costs associated with irrigation; strengthen the spirit of community; and, preserve biodiversity and the beauty of structured ecological elements. Results include creating 15 hectares of new urban forest areas, maintaining 50 hectares of landscaped sidewalks in cities, restoring and protecting 50 hectares of wooded slopes and 20 hectares of dunes, and providing local authorities and schools with more than 10,000 trees to support their initiatives and raise awareness of the need to sustain the forested areas of their local environment.

These projects encapsulate the principles of SSTC: they are demand-driven, developed through a participatory process and involve local and national governments, civil society organizations, private actors and local communities. They all have been adapted to respond to local contexts, including the specific environmental, economic, social and institutional challenges the cities face, and help local actors build their capacities.

### **Lessons learned and recommendations**

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to combat the poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition that can accompany current urbanization processes. Cities in poor countries often lack capacities to identify and analyse the problems they face or find the best available options available to solve some of their problems.

Learning from the experience of other cities is an important step in developing local initiatives for urban food security. FAO thus proposed a city-to-city cooperation mechanism based on SSC principles that focuses on programmes and projects addressing food security and nutrition in urban and peri-urban areas. It will involve selecting and maintaining an online catalogue of good practices and cities willing to share their experiences, matching these learning opportunities with cities that request support:

- Set up and facilitate the exchange through an appropriate set of modalities, oversee the agreements between cities and arrangements and ensure the quality of the exchange. FAO and its network of decentralized offices offer broad coverage to ensure the quality of the exchanges in this regard;

- Source funding and in-kind contributions for the exchange: a principle for collaboration is that each partner contributes to allow the exchange to take place, including funding for air travel, for example, or offering in-kind contributions such as accommodations or local transport; implementing local projects: initial funding sought to close the financing gap, based on an existing, long-term sustainability plan for the project, independent from any external support; and,
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) to provide international visibility for the partnering cities and the innovations they share.

### **Solution Forum 4: Boosting South-South Trade and Investment Cooperation for Development Impact 9 (Coordinator: ITC)**



*Solution Forum 4 panel discussed the role of trade and investment in supporting countries from the global South.*

This Solution Forum emphasized the role of trade and investment in assisting countries from the global South achieve sustainable development. The UN system, through entities such as ITC, can help to facilitate South-South trade. This includes actions such as assisting with the development of relevant government policies, regulations and infrastructure; supporting SMEs; helping to ensure that populations in the global South have the right skills, experience and training; facilitating access to financing; and, identifying and bringing together buyers and sellers. The forum emphasized the importance of making available appropriate technology, as called for in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

The panel discussed concrete examples of ITC's work in this area, including the SITA (Supporting Indian Trade and Investment in Africa) project, which brings together Indian and African buyers and sellers. One example provided was of spice growing for the Indian and global market, a partnership between an Indian private company and a number of farmers in Rwanda. There has been a shift away from viewing many countries of the South as simply a source of commodities. With the growth of domestic economies around the world, many countries, both North and South, now see a two-way trade street. It was noted that access to financing for SMEs in the global South remains a problem.

#### Example 1 from Solution Forum 4: ITC

- During the Solution Forum, ITC shared a number of key South-South and triangular initiatives, including the *E-Solutions Programme* to remove technical and logistical obstacles that might prevent SMEs from engaging in international e-commerce.
- *The Sustainability Network* allows farming and agribusiness SMEs to connect to global buyers through an online public platform and report compliance with sustainability standards. The Network uses geolocation technology to contribute to traceability across agriculture value chains.
- *The ITC Refugee Employment and Skills Initiative* was introduced in 2015 to support refugees and displaced persons to acquire commercially viable skills and contribute to the economies of host countries and countries of origin.
- In 2015, ITC launched the *SME Competitiveness Outlook*, an annual flagship report that analyses the competitiveness of SMEs across countries and regions and provides guidance on where best to concentrate reforms to boost countries' SME sectors. One of ITC's principal knowledge products is a suite of free online market intelligence tools that companies around the world can use to discover promising trade and investment opportunities. There are 500,000 registered users of these global public goods.
- ITC also hosts the annual *World Export Development Forum*, a global event for policymakers and business leaders to explore trade-related issues, identify best practices to increase the competitiveness of SMEs and foster business-to-business (B2B) deals. It also hosts the Women Vendors Exhibition and Forum, the Trade for Sustainable Development Forum and the biennial Trade Promotion Organization Network World Conference and Awards.

### **Example 2 from Solution Forum 4: Supporting Diversification and Higher Value Crop Production through Market Linkages**

Case Study – Chilli buy-back arrangements in Rwanda

*SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere*

Agriculture accounts for a third of Rwanda's annual GDP. Eighty per cent of the population works in this sector, so increasing productive capacity is essential to ending poverty, which, according to UNDP, stood at 39.1 per cent in 2014. The poverty rate is higher for Rwandans whose main source of income is agriculture. Linking Rwandan suppliers with international buyers and facilitating buy-back arrangements gives Rwandan farmers the confidence to expand production and delve into new, higher value commodities, thus diversifying their export baskets.

"This pilot programme and training gives us a better, fresh hope to continue chilli farming," reported one farmer, Giscard Tuyishime. "The trial seeds received look very promising – they have good germination percentage and are growing vigorously!"

ITC is supporting the production of new, high-value chilli varieties in Rwanda for export markets by helping with market linkages with Indian buyers. Indian spices company, Akay Flavours, is currently conducting trials on sourcing six new chilli varieties from Rwanda. SITA is providing coordination, support and execution of appropriate farming practices together with a national counterpart, the National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB). Akay Flavours has provided the seeds and agreed to buy back the entire production for the current season. Their ultimate objective is to expand chilli cultivation in Rwanda to 250 hectares and to process this chilli for global export to global markets.

### **Example 3 from Solution Forum 4: Turning waste into wealth while reducing environmental impacts**

Case Study – Processing animal waste from leather tanneries to make bio-fertilizer

*SDG 13: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*

Kenya's leather industry generates over USD 100 million annually and is projected to grow rapidly in the coming decade. However, leather tanning operations can be major land and water polluters. In Nairobi, hundreds of tons of leather waste from tanneries end up in landfill, creating significant environmental hazards.

With an initial investment of USD 500,000 and support from an Indian animal by-product manufacturer, a pilot facility to process this waste is being built. This literally turns waste into wealth, converting 300 tons of waste into bio-fertilizer, which can then be sold onto domestic markets, thereby increasing revenue while mitigating environmental damage. The leather industry is one of ITC's key focus sectors and this 'waste to wealth' pilot could be replicated across other countries where ITC is supporting trade and investment.

#### **Example 4 from Solution Forum 4: Enhancing the competitiveness of women exporters through collaboration**

*SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls*

Women face many obstacles that undermine their ability to grow their own businesses or participate fully and effectively in the workforce. Lack of skills, production inputs and market information, as well as poor access to international trading networks, are just some obstacles to their economic empowerment.

In most countries in East Africa, women predominate in the handloom sectors. Although the sector has strong traditions, bottlenecks hinder its development. India also has a strong tradition of handloom weaving and the sector is well-developed there. Working with Indian industry experts, ITC is supporting the expansion of existing handloom clusters in East Africa to improve productivity, product quality and design and will help the clusters to venture into new markets.

ITC also supported a pilot initiative led by SEWA Bharat (All India Federation of Self-Employed Women's Associations), whose goal is full employment, economic empowerment and self-reliance for women workers in informal sectors. The initiative assisted Ethiopian weavers to participate in India's Dastkar Basant Craft Bazaar, a national crafts fair and exhibition. The Ethiopian artisans showcased their traditional handloom fabrics, handicrafts, dresses, leather bags and purses and jewelry at the exhibition. They also participated in the designer workshop and a buyer-seller meeting. The event offered Ethiopian artisans the chance to interact with Indian designers and buyers and assess what they could improve in design and pricing. The event taught them how to diversify and expand their business and how to meet the demands of the Indian market, while retaining their artisanal traditions.

### **Example 5 from Solution Forum 4: Using Institutional Collaboration as an Entry Point to a New Market**

Case Study – Collaboration between east African and Indian sunflower industries

*SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*

Agriculture is a vital contributor to economic growth in many east African countries, so developing a sustainable agricultural sector can move a country closer to achieving food security, improving nutrition and ending hunger.

Collaboration in the agricultural sector can aid know-how and technology transfer, leading to increased production and quality. In the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, domestically produced sunflower oil is an important source of edible oil. However, due to the small size of the sector and challenges in the value chain, sunflower production has not developed at a pace that can meet growing domestic demand. Therefore, dependence on imports is increasing. ITC is facilitating collaboration between sector associations from India and Tanzania and from India and Uganda. The institutions identified win-win opportunities for technology upgrades in east Africa to increase sunflower oil production. At a B2B meeting, Indian technology providers demonstrated their technologies to select east African millers and discussions are now underway for various upgrade projects. The B2B meeting also gave Indian processors an opportunity to look closely at the east African market. Some are now actively pursuing both joint ventures and greenfield investment opportunities.

### **Example 6 from Solution Forum 4: Bridging the Communication Gap: Innovative Platforms to Develop Common Understanding**

Case Study – A handbook of pulses

*SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture*

Pulses are a healthy, cost-effective and environmentally friendly solution to food security and malnutrition in both India and Africa. Epitomizing South-South cooperation, by boosting the production and export of pulses in east Africa, India can obtain a more sustainable supply of the commodity, while at the same time delivering a reliable source of income for east African farmers.

To realize the sector's potential, the communication gap between east African suppliers and Indian buyers must be overcome. ITC thus seeks to improve connections between suppliers and potential buyers. While organizing B2B meetings between east African and Indian companies, it became clear that the different terms for pulses used in local languages created obstacles to successful business deals. In response, ITC has developed a pulses handbook with detailed descriptions of each type of pulse produced in east Africa, including pictures of the crops and the plants, with their names in Hindi, English, Amharic and Swahili.

The handbook also provides basic specifications regarding growing seasons and harvest patterns for each pulse variety. Distributing extracts from the handbook to B2B meeting participants is now a standard ITC procedure and has proven to facilitate greater understanding and better trade outcomes.

### Example 7 from Solution Forum 4: SITA

The Ethiopian Textile and Clothing Value Chain Roadmap is a component of the ITC project, *Supporting Indian Trade and Investment in Africa* (SITA). Funded by the UK's DFID, SITA is a South-South trade and investment initiative that is also an example of triangular cooperation. The Roadmap seeks to improve the competitiveness of select value chains by creating partnerships between institutions and businesses in Ethiopia and India. The Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute (ETIDI) and the Ethiopian Textile and Garment Manufacturers Association (ETGAMA), with technical assistance from ITC, drafted the document, which represents the ambitions of private and public sector stakeholders for the development of the sector.

Their commitment and comprehensive collaboration have helped build consensus around a common vision that reflects the realities and limitations of the private sector, as well as of policymakers and trade-related institutions. The Roadmap is to set the sector on the course of strategic development by identifying constraints and opportunities that can be dealt with through the specific steps detailed in its Plan of Action (PoA).

The PoA has five strategic objectives to support its implementation:

1. Improve productivity and employment outcomes through skills development;
2. Strengthen the enabling environment to favour sector development;
3. Establish conditions to harness foreign direct investment (FDI) as an engine for growth in textile and clothing (T&C);
4. Foster product and market development through the use of trade information; and,
5. Enable market penetration and product development through trade intelligence.

Demand has surged in developing countries, production was consolidated in Asia and new countries, such as Viet Nam, Myanmar and Cambodia, have emerged as fast-growing exporters of T&C products. Buyers are looking to shift more activities to their suppliers (while at the same time demanding larger volumes and quicker turnaround times); consumers are pressuring the industry to adhere to corporate social responsibility (CSR) standards; information and communications technology (ICT) is becoming critical to modern production and inventory management; and man-made fibres have taken their place as the sector's preferred material.

Ethiopia's T&C sector is characterized by strong value addition throughout the entire value chain from cotton to clothing, with high local processing of cotton lint into textile and apparel products. Reforms to the business environment reducing trade hurdles have increased Ethiopia's comparative advantages; namely its low labour cost, cheap and sustainable electric power supply, preferential market access, and relative proximity to important markets. With incentives for investors, the sector has engaged significant investment from abroad.

Although exports have expanded rapidly, the sector has yet to realize its full potential; sales are heavily concentrated among a few product categories of fairly low value addition and market diversification is limited. While larger companies have succeeded in entering global

value chains, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) continue to be excluded, relatively speaking, from external trade, with only limited economic integration with larger market players. Productivity continues to suffer as a result of limited skills in the workforce, weak management capacities and reliance on outdated equipment, among other issues. In addition, problems remaining in the business environment create unnecessary cost burdens and delays.

To move forward, public and private stakeholders must work together and build on the successes achieved thus far. To this end, the continued stimulation of FDI will play a crucial role. The Government must do more to effectively target investors and promote development of underserved opportunities in Ethiopia's value chain. Skills development must also be a priority, particularly with a view towards increasing productivity, quality and the capacity for value addition. Last, the Government must do more to remove the remaining policy and business environment roadblocks to competitiveness.

### **Solution Forum 5: Delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through Innovative South-South Cooperation Solutions (Coordinator: UNEP)**



*Solution Forum 5 panel discussed innovative approaches towards environmental, social and economic development.*

The UNEP Solution Forum discussed different approaches from the South to advance a balanced integration of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of development in line with the 2030 Agenda. It showcased the following solutions:

1. Advocacy by the World Wide Fund for Nature in China, which developed a methodology to assess the environmental practices of Chinese transnational corporations abroad. For example, it revealed that although the environmental compliance record of Chinese

companies in Gabon had previously been below average, the companies are now improving faster than average;

2. Policy-making and government work in Rwanda, which has set up a fund for green investments, to support reform in government policies and encourage natural resource management activities across the various levels of government;
3. Projects supported by the Argentine Fund for Horizontal Cooperation, notably on foodstuff agro-processing in the dry corridor in Central America and on water management in Bolivia. Argentina has also agreed to host BAPA +40; and,
4. Awareness-raising campaigns by UN-Habitat.

Overall, these solutions proved that although environmental mainstreaming is an activity that takes time, successful approaches exist.

## **Solution Forum 6: Reaping the Potential of Young People: Solutions in the Global South (Coordinator: UNFPA)**



*Solution Forum 6 panel.*

During this Solution Forum, UNFPA created a policy dialogue with Member States and other partners on the basis of concrete responses that are comprehensive and strategic with regard to the demographic dividend and youth. The Solution Forum served as a space for sharing experiences as well as national and subnational policies, strategies and services that can then be shared through South-South and triangular cooperation to reap the demographic dividend, including:

- Strategic investments in education, employment and health that need to be connected with local realities and challenges, taking into consideration capacity gaps;
- Public actions and partnerships with the private sector needed to broaden access to family planning information and services and achieve a balanced fertility rate (a necessary precursor to reaping the benefits of the demographic dividend);

- Data collection, analysis and use for policy design and implementation, including budgetary decision-making and service delivery; and
- Use of technologies, skills development and up-to-date entrepreneurship that are crucial to compete in global markets.

UNFPA also encouraged an open discussion and exchange of institutional measures that lead to the adoption of concrete procedures and the establishment of partnerships to harness the demographic dividend. It aims to build a network of partners from the global South that would share systematically their common challenges and solutions in harnessing the opportunities of the demographic dividend and galvanize combined actions of governments, partners and the business sector to invest in the future of young people.

### **Solution Forum 7: UN-OIC Collaboration in Promoting SDGs (Coordinator: OIC and UNOSSC)**



*Solution Forum 7 panel of representatives from OIC institutions.*

The forum focused on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), its subsidiary organs, and specialized and affiliated institutions working with UNOSSC to achieve the SDGs in their respective fields of competence in OIC Member States. All 57 OIC Member States are in the South, so cooperation among them in the political, economic, social, humanitarian and other spheres constitutes South-South cooperation, as does the OIC's role in fostering cooperation among its Member States in pursuit of these goals. In addition to presenting their respective organizations' overall programmes, the panelists reviewed the 29 project proposals that emerged from their bilateral consultations with UNOSSC representatives at the last UN-OIC meeting on cooperation held in Geneva in May 2016, to be implemented over the ensuing two-year period, 2016-2018.

The status review of these proposals showed some overlapping objectives and activities and it was agreed that the organizations concerned would try to remedy this. The review also brought the demand-driven nature of the project proposals into the discussion and it was recognized that this aspect had, indeed, been the motivating factor in identifying the proposals.

The participants agreed that the OIC institutions concerned and UNOSSC would, together, develop brief profiles of the project proposals for which they were lead agencies.

The Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (ICCIA) and the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Dialogue and Cooperation (ICYFDC) signed riders to their MOUs with UNOSSC, bringing them up-to-date on practices that are now current in the respective cooperation mechanisms among the signatory organizations. The Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) exchanged letters of intent to enter into a MOU with UNOSSC, thereby strengthening their cooperation arrangements.

### **Solution Forum 8: Multi-stakeholders Meeting on South-South Cooperation (Coordinator: UNOSSC)**



*Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), conducts the Multi-stakeholders meeting on South-South Cooperation*

The past two decades have given credence to South-South cooperation, with its rapid growth in scale, geographic reach and intensity. South-South cooperation is now recognized as an important complementary source of both financing for global and regional development and of knowledge and experience in meeting critical development challenges in specific countries. It is also a critical force enabling developing countries to articulate their common positions in concert and safeguard their shared interests during negotiations in major international forums and processes.

To this end and in response to the growing demands by Member States for strengthened United Nations support to South-South cooperation, the United Nations development system has stepped up its support for South-South initiatives by incorporating South-South cooperation strategies, policies and activities into its strategic plans and annual reporting. In an effort to further strengthen and align United Nations South-South policy instruments, collaborative frameworks and institutional arrangements, the United Nations Development Group South-South and

Triangular Cooperation Task Team was established. The Task Team has had measurable success in its inaugural publication on mapping good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation that are relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In recognizing the need to further strengthen and reinvigorate South-South cooperation, Member States are considering ways to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in 2018. This commemoration is expected to generate new ideas and practical ways to enhance South-South cooperation across the United Nations system towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As the United Nations system continues to take measurable steps towards more coherent, strategic and robust inter-agency programmes and initiatives, UNOSSC organized the multi-stakeholder meeting on South-South cooperation in conjunction with the Global South-South Development Expo 2016 to deliberate on ways of further strengthening United Nations support to South-South cooperation.

During the session, United Nations entities reconfirmed their support for SSTC as integral complementary modalities for achieving the 2030 Agenda and other development frameworks. Mr. Getachew Engida, Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, welcomed SSTC as a key component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for implementing the SDGs. He identified it as an important avenue for human and productive capacity-building, technical assistance and exchange of best practices among countries of the South that face similar development challenges. He also noted that it is of increasing importance as the dynamics of globalization are changing.

### **Solution Forum 9: African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States High-level Panel on the Transformation of ACP Economies through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (Coordinator: ACP)**



*H.E. Mr. Patrice I. Gomes, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) Group of States, shares his ongoing commitments to innovative and inclusive South-South cooperation and triangular partnerships.*

The Solution Forum described current efforts by ACP, jointly with UN system partners (such as FAO) and Member States, to capitalize on South-South cooperation to advance sustainable development within ACP countries. The ACP Group comprises 48 states from sub-Saharan Africa, 16 from the Caribbean and 15 from the Pacific.

ACP has a very diverse membership, ranging from landlocked and least developed countries to small island developing States and middle-income countries. Therefore, their strategies and efforts are broad, covering food security, health, industrialization, innovation, harnessing the national resource base through greater value addition, and harnessing the blue economy (many ACP countries have enormous maritime space).

Through interactive discussions, the panel described current ACP contributions to emergency response activities in Haiti after Hurricane Michel, trade and industrialization structures, and legacies that hinder local development, as well as multilateral policy-level work undertaken with support from FAO in Brussels.

### **Forum 10: Cross-regional South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Promoting Sustainable Development (Coordinator: UNOSSC Regional Division for the Arab States, Europe and the CIS)**



*Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General of Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, shares her perspective at the Solution Forum 10.*



*Solution Forum 10 panel.*

Cooperation among Southern countries has grown significantly in the last decade. It has often taken the form of private investment, knowledge sharing, or concessions on market access. Some developing countries have offered preferential treatment to LDCs' products. This trend towards South-South cooperation is likely to continue, with the share of traditional DAC ODA declining as a proportion of all flows to developing countries.

This trend is also accompanied by the growing interest of traditional donors in South-South cooperation and, more specifically, triangular cooperation as a means to increase the value added and efficiency of their aid contributions.

In particular, countries have noted strong parallels between the experiences of the States in MENA and Europe, and the complementary desire - not least among younger citizens - to combat corruption, ensure that citizens' needs are met and move forward the global agenda for sustainable development. Similar trends have impacted efforts to promote responsiveness and efficiency in Europe, the CIS and the Arab States. Migration and refugee flows have put pressure on border management, shaped the informal economy and impacted access to the public services of host and transit communities.

Marine Destrez of UNDP pointed out that in both regions, citizens' perceptions and experiences of integrity and transparency is strongly correlated with fair and equal access to government services and social trust within and between communities. In some parts of both regions, citizens have organized at the grassroots to demand reforms and accountability.

Both regions present highly diverse profiles. However, some countries in both are taking the lead to develop innovative responses to transparency and accountability challenges, introducing openness and information technology solutions. For example, Georgia will become co-chair of the Open Governance Partnership this year. Most countries across the two regions are signatories to the UN Convention against Corruption. In Europe and the CIS, countries have quickly translated their obligations into national legislation and have established a host of anti-corruption institutions at the national level, providing an equally diverse number of case studies for peer-to-peer exchange.

In the Arab States, a broad range of stakeholders, including private sector organizations, have been engaged in identifying risks and designing solutions for integrity. Since 2008, the UNDP Global Anti-Corruption Initiative has provided an umbrella for work on integrity. Concrete examples of success in both regions include the development and implementation of national anti-corruption strategies.

Led by the expressions of interest from national partners, and jointly with the South-South Cooperation Office, UNDP in Europe, the CIS and the Arab States have defined priorities for joint efforts and begun exchanging information and experiences more systematically.

While more and more countries continue to deploy efforts to enhance related legislative frameworks, adopt holistic strategies and build specialized capacities, the effectiveness of such measures is often questioned, as well as their relevance to the problems of citizens' daily life, especially the most marginalized - namely women, youth and the poor.

Related reports from the field reveal a need to scale up support to specialized anti-corruption agencies with a view to safeguarding their independence; enhance their technical capacities to develop, implement and monitor responsive strategies; and enable them to establish stronger collaboration with the judiciary, the media, the business community and civil society. Furthermore, additional efforts are needed to address the limited capacity for parliamentary oversight and to promote the de jure and de facto implementation of the UNCAC with a view to increasing transparency and accountability in national institutions.

### **Solution Forum 11: Research on SSC in the Context of the SDGs (Coordinator: UNDP)**



*Solution Forum 11 panel discussed the findings from the research studies related to South-South cooperation.*

As a follow-up to the UNDP Partnership Forum on Emerging Opportunities for Think Tanks for SSTC held at the GSSD Expo 2014, in 2015 UNDP commissioned think tanks from the South to produce analytical papers exploring the potential contribution of SSTC to the 2030 Agenda, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and methodologies for such cooperation.

This Solution Forum officially launched the findings of the following research studies on priority research topics relating to South-South and triangular cooperation that were selected and conducted by think tanks from the South:

- Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms for South-South and Triangular Development Cooperation;
- Advancing South-South Cooperation in Education and Skills Development: Lessons from the Field (Africa, Brazil and India);
- Brazilian Triangular Cooperation on Social Protection: Contribution to the 2030 Agenda; and,
- Concessional Financial Flows among Southern Countries: Conceptualizing Design Principles, Operational Modalities and Assessment Frameworks.

## **Solution Forum 12: International Cooperation on Skills Development (Coordinator: SENAI)**



*Solution Forum 12 panel discussed international cooperation on skills development, education and training*

Brazil's National Service for Industrial Training (SENAI) coordinated the Solution Forum and discussed effective solutions from institutions that contribute to achieving the UN's sustainable development goals.

SENAI's International Relations Executive Manager, Frederico Lamego, described the results and impacts of the projects developed by the institution in Latin America and Africa, such as the number of graduates, social impacts, the inclusion of women in the labour market and the participation of local companies. He also invited representatives from partners from Angola, Peru, Japan and the Brazilian multinational Vale to present success stories of partnerships with SENAI. According to industrial development specialist Tatiana Mello, SENAI's participation in the event was important in terms of bringing new ideas and partnerships to expand projects in Africa.

This forum discussed international cooperation for skills development, education and training. Education and training are vital to help lift populations out of poverty. The panel emphasized the need to work closely with governments to ensure that training provided is in line with national development priorities and identified needs. For example, if the government has a strategy to create a renewable energy sector, training must focus on building those skills required to operate and maintain renewable energy plants. One of the key takeaways from this session was the role of the private sector both as a provider of training and as an eventual employer. The private sector needs to work with all stakeholders to identify skills needed and then support and/or provide training in these areas.

Panelists stressed the importance of ensuring that women are included in skills development and training programmes. SENAI also hosted a promotional booth at the exhibition, publicizing its record in international technical cooperation and its publications in this field.

### **Solution Forum 13: South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Tobacco Control (Coordinator: Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Secretariat/UNDP and WHO)**



*The Solution Forum 13 discussed the results of joint efforts by UNDP and the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Secretariat to promote SSC and TC for tobacco control.*

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), an international and legally binding treaty with 180 parties as of September 2016, is the world's main tool to combat tobacco use and its consequences. The Solution Forum presented results from joint efforts of UNDP and the WHO FCTC Secretariat to promote South-South and triangular cooperation for tobacco

control. It also examined the potential for scaling up initial work to support tobacco control and advancing health, health equity and sustainable development more broadly. Other global health challenges, including non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and global health crises, would benefit from the currently untapped potential of strong information-exchange platforms.

The objectives of the Solution Forum were to:

- showcase results from South-South and triangular cooperation for tobacco control and position them as high-value means of implementation for Agenda 2030; and
- strengthen support and partnerships for South-South and triangular cooperation for tobacco control as well as NCD prevention and control.

Expected outcomes are greater awareness and strengthened support and partnerships for South-South and triangular cooperation work on tobacco control and NCDs and a better understanding of how to best leverage South-South and triangular cooperation for other global health challenges.

### **Example 1 from Solution Forum 13: Smoke AND Fire**

The tobacco industry is international and globally oriented, with the major Northern-based companies basing their growth plans on selling their products in the global South, deploying multinational diplomatic and regional resources against Southern countries' anti-smoking efforts.

The anti-smoking movement, which includes WHO's FCTC harm reduction efforts, is a major contributor to achieving the SDGs by mitigating the harm caused by smoking. Those involved suggest that reducing the damage from tobacco use is 'low-hanging fruit', ripe for plucking for a wide range of SDGs. For example, apart from direct effects on smokers' health, poor families' spending on tobacco often comes at the expense of children's food, education and health.

As presenters said "The SDGs are ambitious. Tobacco control is relatively easy compared with eliminating hunger, reaching gender equality or ending wars."

One of the targets of tobacco company litigation has been government measures to reduce the attractiveness of tobacco packaging. Indeed, the South has led such efforts; for example, Vanuatu and Nepal require that at least 90 per cent of the package is covered by effective anti-smoking messages and health warnings.

Sharing successful legal strategies has been instrumental in defeating tobacco company efforts to overturn such attempts. An exemplary application of SSTC was the project on tobacco packaging, where Panama and ICCTC Uruguay acted as hubs for Colombia, Senegal, Guatemala and Moldova with triangular support from UNOSSC, Canada, Australia and NGOs, such as the McCabe Centre and World Lung Foundation.

The forum also showcased the September 2015 Montevideo SSTC meeting to promote the WHO FCTC and share legal strategies to counter domestic and international litigation by tobacco giants. That followed a successful legal defence of Uruguay's anti-tobacco measures. Uruguay is also the home of the International Cooperation Centre on Tobacco Control, set up as a knowledge hub by WHO and the Ministry of Public Health.

In another example of SSTC, Malaysia and Mongolia are learning from the Philippines through the Cape Town, South Africa knowledge hub, focusing on the use of tobacco taxes to reduce demand while raising revenue for cash-strapped government services. Pooling data and experience provides cooperating governments the tools to craft their fiscal policies to reduce smoking and shape measures to thwart tax evasion and smuggling.

### **Solution Forum 14: Agricultural Innovation Marketplace (MKTPlace) (Coordinator: IFAD)**



*Solution Forum 14 panel.*

The Agricultural Innovation MKTPlace is an international initiative backed by multiple partners with the aim of connecting Brazilian, African, Latin American and Caribbean specialists and institutions to jointly develop agricultural development research projects. The aim is to promote knowledge exchange among African, Brazilian and Latin American and Caribbean countries and:

- Support agricultural development in Africa and LAC;
- Promote investments in agricultural research and development; and,
- Together, help to achieve the SDGs.

Agriculture is vital to these countries, which have similar climates, ecosystems, farming practices and culture, which should make knowledge-sharing and technological cooperation easier.

Brazilian policies, experience and focus on social programs such as Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) , which develop social protection networks for the poor, provide an important linkage among the regions. In Africa, the importance of agriculture to development is recognized through initiatives such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Framework for African Agricultural Productivity (FAAP).

Such South-South collaborations, complemented by relevant basic science developed in industrialized countries, could make an important contribution to more productive agriculture and more affordable food for the poor in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Projects for the future include:

- Integrated systems for smallholders (Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda);
- Integrated soil fertility management (Ghana, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda);
- Community-based goat breeding (Ethiopia, United Republic of Tanzania);
- Millet sourdough and extruded snacks (Ghana, Nigeria, Benin);
- Honey production for food security (Ethiopia); and,
- Rhizobia nitrogen fixation in cowpea (Ghana).

**The current thematic areas are:**

### **1. Productivity-Enhancing Technologies**

Development of technologies for adaptation and mitigation of climate change, including: forestry and agroforestry options to combat desertification, poverty and hunger; livestock distribution, health and productivity; plant breeding; crop management; water harvesting and management techniques; soil reclamation; and reforestation.

Development of land productivity enhancement and saving technologies, including: approaches to biological nitrogen fixation and utilization; improvement of livestock breeds and health; molecular and conventional approaches for genetic improvement and adaptation of crop plants, arable crops, fruit trees and forestry species; biodiversity management; molecular characterization and conservation of plant genetic resources; soil, water and crop management; storage technologies; and food processing

### **2. Natural Resource Management Improvements**

Generation of natural resource and soil conservation technologies with reduced drudgery and low cost, including: regeneration of degraded lands; conservation agriculture, including soil and water conservation; usage of legumes in cropping systems; crop rotation techniques; and development of organic farming.

### 3. Policy, Institutional and Market Strengthening and Knowledge Management

Strategies for knowledge management and improved access to knowledge and information by stakeholders in the commodity chain, including: policy analysis; market studies; ICT for development; communication strategies to farmers, policy makers, and private sector; gender sensitivity in communication; and trade in agricultural commodities.

Strategies and policies for institutional strengthening, including: capacity building; re-engineering institutions; engagement of private sector in agriculture; innovation systems; and engagement of government support in research.

### 4. Smallholder and Poverty-Alleviation Targeted Technologies

Development of technologies and strategies/systems to reduce poverty and hunger, including: improvement of cash flow for farmers; improvement of information flow and of agricultural lending systems; and mechanization appropriate for smallholders. The future strategy is to:

- Allow for long-term institutional cooperation, building on the success of peer-to-peer collaboration (MKTPlace);
- Broaden national and regional partnerships;
- Create environments for interaction among stakeholders, including the private sector; and,
- Pave the way to markets.

#### Partners include:

<b>Embrapa</b>	Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation
<b>IICA</b>	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
<b>FARA</b>	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
<b>ABC/MRE</b>	Brazilian Cooperation Agency
<b>DFID</b>	UK Department for International Development
<b>B&amp;MGF</b>	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>UC Davis</b>	University of California, Davis
<b>MAPA</b>	Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>CIAT</b>	International Center for Tropical Agriculture
<b>FUNARBE</b>	Arthur Bernardes Foundation

## Solution Forum 15: Peacebuilding and Peace Alternatives (Coordinator: APC-Colombia and UNOSSC)



*Solution Forum 15 panel members launched report.*

The space and opportunities for the use of South-South and triangular cooperation in the areas of peace and development, crisis prevention, conflict management and peacebuilding are growing. In 2015, the Government of Colombia, through its Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC Colombia), and UNOSSC embarked upon a new strategic initiative for the post-2015 development agenda, particularly SDG 16, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

To implement the joint initiative, in September 2015 APC Colombia and UNOSSC signed a cost-sharing agreement. This initiative resulted in the publication of 20 peacebuilding cases from Colombia, Azerbaijan, El Salvador, Philippines and Rwanda, which were launched in an international conference titled Colombia's Know How – Peace on August 17, 2016, in Bogota, Colombia, followed by the successful launch of the English version of the publication in Dubai.

The 20 cases studies used a methodology developed with UNOSSC and the World Bank. From the 20 case studies, 16 are from Colombia and the other four are from Philippines, Rwanda, El Salvador and Azerbaijan. Colombia created a platform for sharing peacebuilding, called 'Know How', and is interested in sharing knowledge and knowledge alliances.

Some of the lessons learned in peacebuilding are that local context should be respected, continuity should be at the centre of proceedings and that building social capital, partnerships and including community perspectives is important. The G7+ noted that it had become an effective organization for peacebuilding and is collaborating with several UN agencies. The G7+ stressed it had fought hard to include SDG 16, since without peace there is no prosperity. Lessons were shared regarding peace processes in Egypt and Argentina's support for peacebuilding efforts in Colombia. Argentina indicated that it has an international fund to support South-South cooperation

## Solution Forum 16: Promoting Youth Entrepreneurship through Triangular Cooperation: The Experience of Togo (Coordinator: Togo Delegation)



*Solution Forum 16 panel*

The employment and socio-economic inclusion of young people has become a major concern for Togo and has been featured prominently in the National Development Policy document, “Strategy for Accelerated Growth and for Promotion of Employment 2013-2017.”

To respond to unemployment, particularly among young people and women, the Togolese Government created an innovative policy and regulation framework on job creation and promotion. In addition, a group of public institutions, including the National Agency for Employment (ANPE), has been created to ensure and facilitate the integration of young people and women into the labour market. Its three main missions are to:

- Ensure intermediation between job seekers and businesses (employers);
- Promote self-employment through entrepreneurship; and,
- Produce labour market information.

ANPE shared its triple strategy which was to develop partnerships internationally, align the users’ benefits and coordinate employment promotion actions with the other national actors. Within the framework of entrepreneurship support, young people are offered: a better understanding of the entrepreneurial spirit; a self-diagnostic test for first-time entrepreneurs; a test of financial viability; training in developing a business plan; training in business creation and management; and, personalized follow-up in the development of a business plan.

The ANPE shared its experience on promoting Self-employment through Entrepreneurship. The Solution Forum attracted the interest of other countries and partners to support the development of youth entrepreneurship in Africa.

ANPE’s presentation was supported by its partners in the project - the German cooperation (German Agency for International Cooperation, GIZ), French cooperation (Pôle emploi) and multilateral cooperation (World Association of Public Employment Services, AMSEP).

# Exhibition

Throughout the entire GSSD Expo 2016, the exhibition space showcased close to 70 successful and innovative Southern development solutions, which are outstanding examples of the actual and potential strength of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.





# Side Events

## **Side Event 1: South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Scaling Up on Innovation in Public Service Delivery (Coordinators: Prime Minister's Office Bangladesh and UNOSSC)**

Governments around the world in both developing and developed countries are undertaking tremendous changes in order to respond to citizens' rapidly rising expectations for improved public service delivery. Governments are thus accelerating technological transformations and embracing strong competitive pressure from the private sector service providers. Traditional public service delivery is known for its unresponsiveness to citizens' demands, driven by rules and procedures many of which have their roots in a bygone era.

On 20 September 2016, the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) convened a high-level meeting on the theme, "South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Scaling Up Innovation in Public Service Delivery", on the sidelines of the 71st session of the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, ministers from Bhutan, Kazakhstan, Maldives and the Netherlands, and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uganda to the United Nations in New York highlighted examples of innovations in their respective countries.

The Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh proposed a collaborative network to share those good practices and find ways to adopt them in other countries.

Following up on that meeting, a side event was held at the Global South-South Development Expo. This side event generated below concrete outcomes:

1. Increased awareness of scaling up innovation in public-sector service delivery;
2. Formed a coalition of countries (developed and developing) interested in pursuing the recommendation on creating a network;
3. Connected with institutions and centres engaged in similar work; and
4. Discussed challenges such as: What kinds of innovations in governments are meeting citizens' expectations of improved public service delivery? What creates impact and what does not in such innovations? Why can certain public service innovations be scaled up and others cannot? How much experimentation is pragmatic in the public service delivery sphere? How does one gather and provide access to data while balancing the need to protect privacy and the responsibility to share data that belong to the public? What constitutes the effective provision of digital platforms, open marketplaces and collaborative communities? The network tried to answer these questions in specific terms so that it helps to empower countries to take action towards the adoption of innovative practices after customizing them to the local context.

## **Side Event 2: What It Takes to Facilitate South-South Cooperation: Perspectives from the Rome-based Agencies (Coordinators: FAO, IFAD and WFP)**

This session took a closer look at what it takes to facilitate South-South cooperation. Rome-based agencies' experiences highlighted the lessons learned, successes and challenges in implementing South-South cooperation programmes and projects. Panelists interacted and took questions and viewpoints from the floor on how to scale up and further mainstream South-South cooperation as a key mechanism for delivering on Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Side Event 3: Enhancing Partnerships for a Common Goal: The United Nations Joint Package of Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence (Coordinator: UNFPA)**

Violence against women has an emotional, physical and social cost, as well as a significant longterm economic cost. This was clearly recognized with SDG 5, which includes the commitment to "Eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; and to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation."

This explicit integration of the need to address violence against women as an essential component of sustainable development represents a major advance for the rights of women and girls around the world, many of whom continue to be denied their basic human right to a life free from violence. However, while SDG 5 is undoubtedly a positive development, the scale of the challenge is vast and far exceeds the resources currently allocated to address it.

The United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence is a partnership of UN Women, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP and UNODC to provide greater access to a coordinated set of essential and quality multi-sectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence.

The Essential Services Package of the United Nations Joint Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence was developed jointly by UNODC, UNDP, UNFPA, UN-Women and WHO to provide a practical tool for improving access to a coordinated set of essential, quality, multisectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence.

The programme identified the essential services to be provided by the health, social services, police and justice sectors as well as guidelines for the coordination of essential services and the governance of coordination processes and mechanisms. Service delivery guidelines for the core elements of each essential service have been identified to ensure the delivery of high-quality services, particularly for low- and middle-income countries, for women and girls experiencing violence. Taken together, these elements make up the Essential Services Package.

The programme targeted to fill the gap between the agreements made at the international level for responding to violence against women and girls and the actual work done at the country level on how to develop and implement quality services and responses. The Essential Services Package connects services and expectations across health, policing, social welfare, justice, as well as the systems for coordinating them.

At this side event, UNFPA representatives shared the tool which was developed based on experiences from different countries across the globe, including in the Arab States region. Through advocacy for implementation of the tool at the national level, organizations in the Arab States have been joining forces to ensure a better future for women and girls.

These guidelines and tools are being piloted in up to 10 low- to middle-income countries from 2016 to 2018.

## High-level Ministerial Meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security in the Arab States, Europe and CIS



The High-level Ministerial Meeting on SSTC Cooperation for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security took place on the 30th of October as a pre-event of EXPO.

As part of the partnership initiative on SSTC for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security (SSTC-ADFS), this meeting was jointly supported by IFAD, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and UNOSSC. It provided a platform for the senior officials representing the ministries of agriculture of the countries within the SSTC-ADFS partnership to present their visions on the best ways for the initiative to maintain support for their respective national priorities in agricultural development and food security through SSTC.



*Participants discuss South-South and Triangular cooperation for agricultural development solutions*

The meeting discussed practical ways to promote successful home-grown solutions and the national expertise of the participating countries in the thematic areas supported by the SSTC-ADFS initiative, including management of farmer-based organizations, effective water resources management, agricultural biotechnology, livestock and horticulture development.

Participants agreed to produce a joint statement to further promote South-South cooperation among their respective line ministries that would constitute a policy recommendation framework for the issues related to advancing their respective ministries' South-South cooperation, thus contributing to their ministries' overall international cooperation agendas.

More specifically, the participants agreed that:

- Support offered in the framework of the partnership initiative should continue to be provided on a demand-driven basis and respond to actual national-level priorities of participating countries with respect to advancing the partnership initiative;
- Women and youth empowerment, while an important development objective in its own right, is an effective way to achieve greater development impact; the SSTC-ADFS partnership initiative should, therefore, consider gender equality as one of its core driving principles; and,
- Each participating country will aim to implement a set of practical activities within the SSTC-ADF partnership initiative to fully harness the practical benefits of South-South cooperation, including through increased efficiency in the use of resources, access to affordable expertise from the global South, access to new technologies and know-how, ability to promote their own national expertise and further optimization of implementation of ongoing and new large-scale loan and grant projects with the international financial institutions. Such practical activities will be implemented through the SSC Country Component, financed by resources from the SSTC-ADFS partnership initiative, national budgets, and other relevant sources.

Practical activities by each participating country for the period of January-December 2017 would include:

- a) documenting and packaging, through the online solutions portal <http://agro.southsouthworld.org> or through printed or online publications, at least 10 home-grown innovative, low-cost solutions in the field of agricultural development and food security, where a country possesses expertise and could provide expert advice to other countries in the global South for mutual benefit;
- b) related to (a), mapping the national centres of excellence with expertise in agricultural development and food security and demonstrate the willingness to share their knowledge and experience with other countries. They could be listed as potential providers for the Islamic Development Bank's reverse linkage mechanism; b) formulating South-South cooperation country components for practical activities, matching the capacities needed with those available in the field of agricultural development and food security, including the financing plans for those activities;
- c) taking stock of all financial resources available from various national sources to promote national experts and consolidating the information on financial resources available to all national centres of excellence to improve opportunities for demand-driven South-South expert exchanges; and,
- d) based on cooperation among the ministry focal points on SSTC-ADFS partnership initiative, institutionalizing the inter-ministerial network and community of practice on South-South cooperation supported by the UNOSSC, IFAD and IDB, focusing on mutually beneficial exchange in agricultural know-how and expertise and leading to specific South-South Cooperation projects beyond the partnership initiative.

It was also agreed to convene the next High-level Ministerial Meeting at the end of 2017 to take stock of the progress made through respective country components and identify the next practical steps on the SSTC-ADFS partnership initiative.

**First Regional Networking Forum for the Arab States, Europe and the CIS: The Role of South-South (East-East) Cooperation in Advancing the Achievement of National Development Priorities in Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Coordinator: UNOSSC Regional Division for Arab States, Europe and the CIS, UNDP and IsDB)**



## Background

The first Regional Networking Forum was organized by UNOSSC in collaboration with UNDP and IsDB within the framework of the Global South-South Development Expo 2016. It aimed to provide an opportunity for national focal points on South-South Cooperation and Directors-General for Development Cooperation from the Arab States, Europe and the CIS, as well as other parts of the world, representatives of relevant regional groupings and think tanks, the United Nations, and other key global and regional multilateral institutions to exchange approaches to formulating national South-South Cooperation strategies as a means to further improve the national-level coordination of South-South and triangular cooperation activities. It also sought to establish new partnerships and agree on joint projects and innovative practical solutions that might be implemented bilaterally, multilaterally and within the diverse institutional partnerships and networks so as to best contribute to implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in the Arab States, Europe and the CIS. The day-long forum brought together over 50 participants from both regions and beyond.

## Welcoming Remarks

The forum began with warm welcoming remarks by the master of ceremonies, **H.E. Mr. Abdullahi Sheikh Ali Ibrahim, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Somalia**. He welcomed all distinguished participants and guests and expressed particular appreciation to UNOSSC and the Zayed International Foundation for Environment for their significant efforts in organizing the Global South-South Development EXPO 2016.

**H.E. Mr. Ali Ibrahim** introduced the five distinguished speakers inviting them to welcome the audience: **Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary General of SSC and Director, UNOSSC, Mr. Oliver Adam, Deputy Regional Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, Mr. Khaled Abdelshafi, Director, UNDP Regional Hub in Amman, Mr. Riad Ragueb Ahmed, Head, Reverse Linkages Division, Capacity Development Department, IsDB, Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment and Mr. Alikhan Baimenov, Chairman of the Steering Committee, Astana Regional Hub of Civil Service.**

The distinguished speakers highlighted some key issues. **Mr. Jorge Chediek** used the opportunity to call for UNOSSC to establish strong partnership with the Zayed Foundation and encouraged participants to identify practical solutions and initiatives to implement in the future. In their speeches, the high-level panelists acknowledged the uniqueness of the forum in bringing together governments, international organizations and civil society to collaborate on streamlining SSC policies. The two regional reports were at the heart of the speeches, with emphasis on the regions' extensive information regarding the countries' South-South cooperation efforts, emerging trends and facilitators in the process, knowledge-sharing practices and recognition of the role the centres of excellence play in supporting South-South exchanges. The speakers acknowledged the support and contribution from the regional groupings and countries, namely the Gulf countries, as well as the emerging actors who can significantly contribute to promoting knowledge exchange, such as the Astana Regional Hub of Civil Service.

**Mr. Edem Bakhshish, Chief of Division for Arab states, Europe and the CIS, UNOSSC**, lay the groundwork and spoke on the expected outcomes of the forum. He emphasized the objective of the Forum as a platform for networking intended to create an open and conducive setting for knowledge-sharing to support the participants in further improving their understanding of trends and opportunities in the process of pursuing South-South and triangular cooperation in the Arab States, Europe and the CIS. He pointed to the concept of South-South (East-East) cooperation as a complementary cooperation model, which broadens opportunities for partnerships and coalitions among development stakeholders in the two regions.

He stated that tangible, evidence-based and experience-driven arguments for and examples of when South-South (East-East) cooperation could be considered the most appropriate cooperation model in fostering sustainable human development in the two regions would be presented during the forum. Moreover, the Forum provides participants the opportunity to present concrete South-South (East-East) cooperation mechanisms that have proven effective in implementing national South-South cooperation strategies. It also serves as a platform for generating ideas on possible specific South-South cooperation initiatives among the participating member states.

Among the expected outcomes, the speaker highlighted the commitment to strengthen efforts to promote national and regional South-South cooperation agendas, practical recommendations on improving cooperative efforts between the various stakeholders in the two regions in applying South-South and triangular cooperation towards the implementation of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and practical recommendations on implementation of the UNOSSC Regional Strategy in Support to the Advancement of South-South (East-East) and Triangular Cooperation for Development in the Arab States, Europe and the CIS.

### **Session 1: Practical Dimension of the Support from Regional Groupings And Multilateral Institutions to National Coordination Authorities**

Moderator for the session was, **Ms. Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Kuwait**.

At the outset of the session **H.E. Amb. Ramil Hasanov, Secretary General, Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States**, gave an overview of the principles of the Turkic Council, based on equality, mutual respect and mutual benefit. Amb. Hasanov focused on the wide range of areas the council covers, including: foreign policy; economy and sustainable development; transport; customs; tourism; education; media; youth; and sports. He noted that this approach enables the Council to contribute to the promotion of both South-South and East-East cooperation among its Member States and in the region. The speaker stated that the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States will closely cooperate with UNOSSC and emphasized that the regional groupings and multilateral institutions play a vital role in promoting this unique model of cooperation and supporting the efforts of national authorities in this direction.

**H.E. Dr. Maya Morsy, President of the National Council for Women (NCW), Egypt**, focused on the NCW's main projects and that represent solutions for adaptation by other 'South' countries. She highlighted the Gender Equality Seal as a model that provides Egyptian companies with

guidance on addressing challenges being faced by women, ensuring work-life balance and access to leadership positions. The Seal also provides tools to help local private firms reformulate their policies for addressing gender equality and capitalize on business value by becoming a Gender Equality-certified business. Dr. Morsy also mentioned the One Village One Product strategy implemented in Egypt, the major outcomes and benefits for women generated by the Village Savings and Loans Associations, and the Social Innovation Hubs and Camps, a model partnership between NCW, UNDP and Microsoft Egypt aimed at empowering young women and men by fostering the use of ICT-based tools throughout the country.

**Mr. Kanan Nazarov, Deputy Secretary General, the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)**, emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation for development in both regions and beyond. He noted that a change in thinking is required to advance South-South cooperation. Countries should rethink cooperation in terms of what they can share and what expertise can be transferred to meet the demand of partner countries.

**H.E. Amb. Musa Kulaklikaya, Director General, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)**, introduced the centre and its activities, including SESRIC's mandate, cooperation modalities and activities in supporting South-South cooperation. His presentation captured the content of the proposals related to the effective national South-South cooperation strategies initiated by the centre, such as support to develop national demand-driven policies and launch cooperation opportunities among OIC and UN institutions.

**H.E. Amb. Merzak Belhimeur, Director General, Economic Relations and International Cooperation, National Coordinator for South-South Cooperation (NCSSC), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algeria**, delivered a speech on Algeria's vision of South-South cooperation as a national priority. The presentation highlighted Algeria - UN cooperation integrated in the 2016-2020 Strategic Cooperation Framework signed between the Government of Algeria and the United Nations System (UNS). He also emphasized a major breakthrough in Algeria's cooperation with African countries under the strategic partnerships for development.

Amb. Belhimeur noted that Algeria is a founding member of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and that within this framework, the country supports the completion of the trans-Saharan highway as the backbone to further integrate landlocked neighbouring countries and link them to the Mediterranean Sea. Algeria also supports construction of the Trans-Saharan gas pipeline (Algeria, Niger and Nigeria).

## Session 2: Outcomes and recommendations of the two regional studies on the Value Added Of South-South And Triangular Cooperation towards Sustainable Human Development



The project on developing the two regional reports on the value added of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development in the Arab States and in Europe and the CIS was initiated by the Division for Arab States, Europe and the CIS, UNOSSC, within the core services provided to the Member States. The idea and the process were supported by the regional UNDP teams in Arab States and in Europe and the CIS.

Moderator of the session, **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Team Leader, New Partnerships and Emerging Donors, UNDP RBEC**, gave an overview of the two reports and the process of their development. He stressed the models of SSC in both regions, consultations held with the respective countries in the two regions and the importance of the reports at this time in the wake of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

**Ms. Karin Costa Vazquez, Lead Author of the regional report, “South-South Cooperation: Towards Sustainable Human Development In the Arab States”**, briefly highlighted the main outcomes and recommendations of the regional report for the Arab States. She began with the objectives and shed light on the key areas: MDGs Achievement Index for Arab States; security and peace; attaining national development priorities through South-South cooperation; the SSC landscape in the Arab States; models of cooperation in the region at national and regional levels; and recommendations on advancing the SSC in the Arab region, considering the existing disparities within the sub-regions.

- According to the author, the main barriers for South-South cooperation in the Arab States include:
- HICs: policy challenges related to aligning SSC with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- MICs and LDCs: institutional and operational issues, such as funding and coordination;
- Fragile States: limited capacity to translate development needs into sound SSC initiatives, thus affecting their own capacity to demand expertise from other countries.

The main recommendations on advancing cooperation at the national and regional levels focus

on facilitating SSC in the areas, priority for the region, strengthening policy, institutional and operational structures for advancing SSC, and bridging the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development in the process of South-South cooperation.

**Ms. Astrid Schnitzer-Skjønsberg, Lead Author of the regional study, “South-South Cooperation: Towards Sustainable Human Development in Europe and the CIS”,** emphasized that the report represents the first publication on the processes of South-South cooperation development in the regions and is based on an in-depth study of the situation, considering current political, economic and social transformation processes. She spoke about the process involved in developing the study, which was based on a highly participatory approach with the governments and UN agencies represented at national and regional levels. The survey, which constituted part of the process, collected 34 cases of South-South cooperation that contributed data for the analysis. The national reports on trends and opportunities for advancing South-South cooperation, based on the national stocktaking exercises in Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, and Tajikistan in 2015 and 2016 supported by UNOSSC upon request from UN RC offices, were also used as information sources for the study.

The main findings captured the current transformations in the region and articulated the essential needs, wealth of activities and modalities related to South-South (East-East) cooperation, strong incentives for cooperation, and focus on knowledge-sharing. The speaker noted that South-South cooperation trends in Europe and the CIS are more technical and ad-hoc in nature compared to other regions, while reflecting a high level of national ownership and interest in intensifying both intra- and cross-regional South-South cooperation.

She also mentioned the modalities for advancing SSC in the region, such as EU twinning, IsDB Reverse Linkage, knowledge platforms, networks and centres of excellence (Agricultural Trade Expert Network and Astana Regional Hub of Civil Service) and on-demand facilities, such as Romania’s Mobility Fund for Government Experts. The recommendations address the key challenges faced in advancing South-South cooperation as a complementary tool for attaining sustainable development. They include:

- Develop a strategic framework at the national level (e.g. include SSC in the national SDG action plan);
- Strengthen national capacities for SSC;
- Build partnerships and get involved by proactively sharing information;
- Capitalize on existing and new funding opportunities (e.g. new providers of development cooperation, new trust funds, traditional donors supporting triangular cooperation);
- Consider allocating seed funding for SSC (e.g. low-cost mobility funds);
- Leverage national funds through pooling resources at national and regional levels;
- Include the private sector more systematically in SSC; and,
- Offer tailor-made capacity development support.

Summarizing the presentations, Mr. Mariyasın called on representatives from the two regions to share the evidence-based and experience-driven arguments and examples from their respective countries and organizations on South-South (East-East) cooperation initiatives that could be considered as the most appropriate cooperation model for fostering sustainable

human development. The moderator also invited participants to contribute their comments and suggestions, which would be useful for finalizing the reports. He acknowledged the role of the advisory team of UNOSSC's Division for Arab States, Europe and the CIS in preparing the reports.

The invited speakers contributed their examples, opinions and suggestions related to the issues raised in the regional studies.

**H.E. Amb. Dragan Zupanjevac, Coordinator for ECOSOC and UN Economic System, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and National Focal Point for South-South cooperation**, acknowledged that Serbia did not take part in the study directly, but provided insight and in-depth feedback and recommendations:

- to clearly formulate addressing of sustainable human development, as part of sustainable development concept;
- Recognized that although South-South cooperation principles and processes are in “the DNA of the eldest generation in Serbia”, efforts should focus on raising awareness among younger people on the opportunities provided by SSC and existing practices of the cooperation that Serbia was involved in (e.g. Serbia and Azerbaijan);
- Acknowledged that all references to Kosovo<sup>1</sup> are correct.

**Ms. Mirela Oprea, Secretary General of ChildPact and Acting Advocacy Director, World Vision Middle East and Eastern Europe**, spoke on the aspects of SSC that highlight the importance of addressing demographic challenges mentioned in Chapter 3.2. She called for investing in children in the region and elaborated on the involvement of region-wide non-governmental institutions to this process, offering the examples of ChildPact and World Vision. The approach was reflected in the establishment of the child protection index to provide countries with achievable standards, nurture networks and find non-sensitive areas for cooperation.

**Ms. Pelin Musabay Baki, Projects Director, Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States**, in her feedback, acknowledged that the development priorities and the thematic approach are addressed well and correspond with the approach of the Turkic Council in defining areas for annual activities. The speaker welcomed partnerships and the support of international organizations to establish these partnerships (e.g. UNOSSC put Turkic Council in touch with IsDB, which enabled them to initiate joint activity to establish a research centre in Azerbaijan).

She recommended that the gender dimension receive additional emphasis gender dimension, particularly to reflect that the tourism project being implemented by Turkic Council targets over 50 per cent female staff in tourism sector. Ms. Musabay Baki also recommended that more analysis be provided regarding the SSC models and to attribute the activities of Turkic Council to the Eurasian Model II. She also suggested that financial resources receive more emphasis because the lack of such resources constitutes a challenge for SSC. She also encouraged addressing the need for coordination among regional organizations so that measures can be develop to better understand the effectiveness of the work, particularly in the area of regional cooperation.

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<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of the Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

**Ms. Cristina Gangan, Senior Advisor, General Directorate for Policy Coordination, External Assistance & Central Public Administration Reform, State Chancellery, Moldova, and National Focal Point for South-South cooperation,** shared the trends and opportunities in advancing SSC in Moldova with a focus on development objectives such as poverty reduction, macroeconomic stability, sustainable growth, modernization of public services and favourable investment climate. Ms. Gangan referred to the stocktaking exercise conducted with support from UNOSSC at the request of the UN RC office in Moldova, the main findings and recommendations of which were reflected in the national report.

**Ms. Danijela Žunec Brandt, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia,** acknowledged the report as a guiding set of recommendations. She also proposed that the activities of the Croatian Center of Excellence/Advisory Committee for Transitional Processes (SEECCEL) be included in the report, as well as more details in the executive summary.

**Mrs. Sanja Zografska-Krsteska, Assistant Director for Economic Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,** found the checklist proposed in the report to be a useful tool for governments in formulating demand for South-South cooperation and elaborating the dedicated strategies. She also offered to send written comments.

#### **Summary of the discussion on the two reports:**

1. The two regional studies have been well acknowledged by the audience and considered to be a step forward in promoting SSC in the context of the 2030 Agenda;
2. The deliberations emphasized the importance of the participation of all countries of the two regions in the national consultations and the review process of the two reports;
3. Before launching the two reports, the comments from UNOSSC HQ, as well as the recommendations and feedback received during the regional networking forum, should be consolidated in the final versions of the two reports;
4. The Forum offered the countries a unique opportunity to review and contribute to the regional studies;
5. The key speakers underscored the gender dimension, which should receive additional emphasis in the two reports; and,
6. It has been recommended that the countries from both regions take practical steps towards advancing South-South (East-East) and triangular cooperation.

### Session 3: Country Level Progress and stronger vector towards Sustainable Development

Moderator of the session, **Mr. Ghulam M. Isaczai, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in the Republic of Azerbaijan**, stressed the purposes of the session and invited the participants to speak on the achievements of and practical solutions to of advancing South-South (East-East) cooperation towards sustainable development.



**H.E. Amb. Hazem Mostafa Ibrahim, Director, Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD)** confirmed that the political will is one of the major aspects towards advancing South-South cooperation. He highlighted the mission and the vision of EAPD, as it engaged in technical cooperation at regional level through establishing innovative partnerships to support countries of the South, especially, African countries. The Agency organizes training programs, provides aid and humanitarian assistance; seconds experts, and supports economic integration between Egypt and African countries. The EAPD established partnerships to provide regional solutions with a global perspective under the umbrella of SDGs. A numbers of projects and programs run to achieve goals 2, 3, 5, and 16 such as delivering capacity building programs in irrigation techniques for water conservation, integrated pest management for agriculture and small scale fresh water fish management. EAPD has launched an initiative to establish an African Disease Control Hub.

**H.E. Amb. Hazem Mostafa Ibrahim, Director, Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD)**, confirmed that political will is key to advancing South-South cooperation. He highlighted the mission and the vision of EAPD, as it engages in technical cooperation at the regional level by establishing innovative partnerships to support countries of the South, especially, African countries. The Agency organizes training programs, provides aid and humanitarian assistance, seconds experts, and supports economic integration between Egypt and African countries. The EAPD established partnerships to provide regional solutions with a global perspective under the umbrella of the SDGs. Projects and programs designed to achieve

SDGs 2, 3, 5, and 16 include delivering capacity-building programs in irrigation techniques for water conservation, integrated pest management for agriculture and small scale fresh water fish management. EAPD has launched an initiative to establish an African Disease Control Hub.

**Mrs. Dima Al-Arqan, Deputy Programme Manager, Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Occupied Palestinian territory,** stated that PICA serves as a public diplomacy tool and delivers development cooperation and technical assistance to developing countries with the aim of sharing Palestinian know-how and promoting South-South cooperation in international development, education, health, agriculture and rule of law. She also confirmed that PICA aspires to promote positive international interaction with the Palestinian cause and to create a more equitable world through international cooperation and development. The main fields of South-South cooperation are agriculture, education, health, engineering/infrastructure, law and the environment. The private sector is one of the main partners which open channels for Palestinian capital to invest and support small to medium enterprises. PICA is working in the Arab world, Europe, North America and Canada, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Mrs. **Al-Arqan** highlighted the activities the PICA intends to implement: creation of a specialized database of experts from the Arab states to support implementation of cooperation projects which would create more jobs and investment opportunities; and promotion, of knowledge exchange in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank through the Reverse Linkage modality.

**Mrs. Sanja Zografska-Krsteska, Assistant Director for Economic Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,** and National Focal Point for South-South cooperation, stated that TfyRM is at the initial stage of establishing development cooperation as an activity and an important instrument of foreign policy to be systematically coordinated by the MFA. She confirmed that implementation of the agreed SDGs opens new avenues for development cooperation, so countries need to exchange experiences and good practice to achieve sustainable development. TfyRM is ready to share the national experience that will be gained in the process of achieving the SDGs. The MFA had finalized a draft law on development policy and begun to acquire additional information and knowledge on developing a strategy on development cooperation. The strategy entails identifying areas of national expertise that TfyRM could share with other partner countries and defining its geographical and thematic priorities. Mrs. Sanja Zografska-Krsteska confirmed that the country stated its intention to expand cooperation, including exchange of development solutions with the Arab States and other Southern countries in various areas, in particular in the area of customs administration and corporate social responsibility where the country has achieved significant success.

**Mr. Elnur Humbatov, Director of International Relations Department, State Agency on Public Service and Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan,** stressed that Azerbaijan has integrated the SDGs into its national strategies, as reflected in the development concept, "Azerbaijan 2020 – Vision for the Future", approved by the president. The leadership of Azerbaijan launched comprehensive reforms, including in the field of public administration. The core objective of these reforms was to increase the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of public services. The establishment of ASAN Service was the success story of this modernization process. ASAN Service has created an innovative model of public service

delivery. Both government agencies and the private sector now deliver multiple services from single physical locations called ASAN Service Centers. Azerbaijan has been actively engaging and transferring its best practice to countries seeking to modernize their public service delivery systems. Focusing on national efforts within the framework of the South-South Cooperation, ASAN Service and its several successful projects have been included as best practices on the UNOSSC Mechanisms and Solutions Mapping Portal. In July 2016, Azerbaijan and Afghanistan signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation to establish advanced public service delivery mechanisms in Afghanistan. ASAN is ready to continue sharing its best practices with other countries in the form of South-South and triangular cooperation.

Mr. Humbatov also emphasized the need to direct development assistance from international donors to projects and programs that fit the South-South and triangular cooperation formats.

**Ms. Oksana Gryshkevych, Deputy Director of Investment Department, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine**, delivered a speech on the successful example of the Ukrainian experience in tackling economic development problems. In her presentation, on “Advanced and Transparent Public Investment Management (PIM) as a Basis of Effective PPP” she highlighted the government’s approach to ensure feasible and transparent decision-making and effective and results-oriented financing to enable private companies to invest in socially and economically significant projects. The new approach addressed such as challenges as uncertain priorities, the “manual mode” of allocating public investments, fragmentation of financing, low management capacity and lack of monitoring and evaluation of public projects. During 2014-2016, as a result of the amendments to the Budget Law, the allocation of public investments was harmonized with the budget procedure, providing for unification of legal and operational framework for appraisal, analysis, selection, criteria, and monitoring. Significant number of projects were implemented under the new approach and this approach is ready to be transferred to and shared with other countries.

During the discussion, moderated by Mr. Isaczai, questions were raised on the role of UNDP in facilitating cross-regional cooperation South-South cooperation. The UNDP representatives provided clarification on the role of UNDP, as defined in the 2008-2011 strategic plan, which emphasized South-South cooperation as a key contribution to national and local capacities in supporting human development and to the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The strategic plan also accorded particular importance to South-South partnerships and solutions in addressing challenges that cut across regions and national boundaries, challenges that are often very difficult for individual countries to deal with effectively. Mindful of these and other development challenges, the present framework provides a results-oriented strategy for UNDP to promote and accelerate sustainable human development through South-South and triangular cooperation.

Several projects implemented under UNDP facilitation were provided as examples. They included transferring Brazil’s experience in social protection to Africa and transferring the Korean experience on integration to three other countries. Capacity-building within the public and private sectors in advancing South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as the progress evaluation, were mentioned among the main reflections of UNDP’s role in SSC.

## Session 4: Learning segment aimed at experience and Capacity Development in the elaboration of Effective National SSC Strategies



**Ms. Jennifer Colville, Team Leader, Innovation, UNDP Amman Regional Hub**, moderated the session, during which the resource persons shared successful examples of developing and implementing elements of South-South cooperation strategies supportive of national development priorities.

**Mr. Eid S. Bin Eid, International Economic Specialist, Saudi Fund for Development**, spoke on his country's role in supporting international development. As the major oil and gas exporter in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia contributes through the Fund to over 22 international organizations, including the IsDB, World Bank and African Development Bank, and provides formal and informal humanitarian assistance. In 2005-2014, SAR 165 bln were provided, 95 of which was allocated in the form of grants, mostly to LDCs. Trade facilitation and cooperation for food security are among the main areas that the Fund considers priorities.

**Mr. Mohamed Essawy, Head of South-South Development Academy, Business Development & Training Director, OUDA, Egypt**, gave an overview and historical background of the Academy, founded in 2014. He focused on its structure and main objectives, with the emphasis on sharing ideas and innovative ICT-related solutions to help resolve issues on regional and global levels. The Academy supports South-South exchanges by providing mentoring and peer review, networking, organizing trainings and workshops, and documenting and facilitating the replication of successful solutions. The speaker also presented examples of documented successful solutions.

**Mr. Zurab Chinchaladze, Senior Economic Policy Advisor, Department of Policy Analysis, Strategic Planning and Coordination, Government's Administration, Georgia**, explained the country's vision of engaging in South-South and triangular cooperation from the perspective of foreign policy priorities of European integration. Georgia works intensively with partners from Eastern Europe and the CIS in the format of East-East and triangular cooperation. The South-

South (East-East) cooperation has played a crucial role in helping the country make progress towards EU integration, completing the visa liberalization action plan with the EU, strengthening relationships both with neighbouring countries and other regions, and building democratic institutions and social equality.

With the successful experience in reform, Georgia stands ready to share its expertise and solutions in areas such as public administration reform, including anticorruption, open government partnership, as well as tax reforms and other areas.

**Mr. Habib Hadj Othman, Director of Recruitment, Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation**, stressed the agency's role in advancing South-South cooperation. The agency supported seminars and trainings in African and non-African countries. The speaker acknowledged the contribution from IsDB and provided examples of support from Tunisia to Ivory Coast in the health sector (with over 1,500 patients covered) and Mauritania (medical trainings). Future plans focus on supporting trainings in tourism and education.

**Ms. Danijela Žunec Brandt, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia**, underlined Croatia's new role as a provider of development cooperation. She emphasized the 2016-2020 national strategy for development cooperation, which includes South-South and triangular cooperation as one of its core method of implementation. Croatia's development cooperation is based on knowledge transfers rather than financial transfers - "small input – big impact" projects with a focus on human aspects and national/local ownership.

In the EU framework, Croatia constantly stands for visibility of non-traditional EU donor states and their economic and political transition experiences. Croatia possesses first-hand experience of being both a recipient and a donor country in the past 25 years, with successful experience of post-war political, judicial and economic transition with all its social dimensions. This is highly sought-after both within the immediate region and the wider world.

Croatia's model of integrating Islam as one of the equal state religions is gaining recognition in the EU, as well as raising interest among development partners. The experience serves as a successful example of tackling social challenges. The speaker provided practical examples of South-South cooperation projects supported by Croatia, including projects on reintegrating war veterans, humanitarian demining (**Bosnia & Herzegovina and Ukraine**), women and girls' empowerment, police cooperation (**Afghanistan and Myanmar**), legal assistance in EU integration processes to candidate countries, as well as transition processes to EU neighbourhood (**South East and Eastern Europe**), as well as collaboration with UNDP and triangular cooperation partners. South-South cooperation combined with the classic ODA might be the best tool at hand.

**Mr. Kairat Torebayev, Director, Department of Multilateral Cooperation, Ministry of National Economy, Kazakhstan**, spoke on Kazakhstan's role and vision in supporting countries' development through South-South cooperation mechanisms with the example of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme initiated by the Republic of Kazakhstan and officially announced at the VI Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development of the Asia-Pacific region in Astana in 2010. The mission of the Green Bridge is to develop partnerships among countries in Europe, Asia and Pacific to manage of "green" economic growth through transferring knowledge, innovations and technologies in the field of the "green" economy. The Green Bridge Partnership

Programme is expected to become an effective mechanism to demonstrate the best world achievements and trends in solar energy, wind, biogas, marine and thermal waters.

**Ms. Simona Marinescu, Director/Chief Development Impact Group, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP**, spoke on UNDP strategy and corporate initiatives to support South-South and triangular cooperation. The approach is built around three main objectives: enabling environment at country and regional levels; global dialogue and system-wide coordination; and the development solutions exchanges. Ms. Marinescu presented UNDP's initiatives aimed at facilitating South-South knowledge exchange at the global level: the SSMart for SDGs, a global "marketplace" and an end-to-end service to provide broad access to demands and supply in development solutions to address challenges in achieving the SDGs; and, the South-South Global Thinkers, a coalition of think tank networks, which can best tackle the knowledge gaps that are hindering the scaling-up of SSC and the maximization of its impact on sustainable development. She also stressed the regional initiatives supported by UNDP globally and highlighted corporate progress in mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation. Capacity-building among national stakeholders is one of the key directions implemented by UNDP in support of advancing South-South cooperation.

**Mr. Vitali Shumski, Deputy Director for Multilateral Diplomacy, Head of Economic Cooperation and Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belarus**, underlined that Belarus considers South-South cooperation as an important element of global architecture of development cooperation, which supplements and enriches traditional formats of technical assistance and cooperation. The potential of the country's participation in South-South and triangular cooperation has yet to be fully realized. The national strategy of sustainable socioeconomic development for the period until 2030 encourages all state bodies and stakeholders to participate in global development partnerships in all forms, including SSC. Exchange visits, intergovernmental meetings and visits are being considered as important steps towards engaging Belarus in SSC. Belarus is ready to share its knowledge and experience and good practices in all areas that may interest other countries, including education, agriculture, energy, and environment.

**Ms. Ayşe Örün, Expert, Foreign Affairs and Partnerships Department, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA)**, spoke on the priorities of Turkey's development cooperation and policies on South-South cooperation. Turkey's role in contributing to the global development agenda in both North-South and South-South cooperation formats was underlined. The main features of the Turkish model of cooperation were stressed as follows: demand-driven; low transaction costs; flexibility in nationally-defined priorities; responsiveness to local capacity-building; human/partner-centered approach; cooperation with NGO's and private sector; no political conditionality; transparency; and a results-based perspective. Turkey collaborates with UN agencies and other international partners, as well as regional organizations and development cooperation agencies.

## Closing session:

**Master of the ceremony was, H.E. Mr. Abdullahi Sheikh Ali Ibrahim, Deputy Minister of Planning and International Cooperation, Federal Republic of Somalia.**

**H.E. Mr. Abdullahi Sheikh Ali Ibrahim** underlined that it was a great opportunity to bring participants from the two regions under one umbrella to share regional knowledge and expertise in promoting the SSC agenda, giving the concrete example of SSC solutions. He expressed his gratitude to the Islamic Development Bank, the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, UNOSSC and its Regional Division for Arab States, Europe and the CIS for organizing this event. He also thanked UNOSSC for support in identifying trends and opportunities in SSC in Somalia through the stocktaking exercise conducted with the engagement of the advisory team of the Division for Arab States, Europe and the CIS.

**Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin, Team Leader, New Partnerships and Emerging Donors, UNDP RBEC,** addressed the audience on behalf of Mr. Olivier Adam, Deputy Regional Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS to articulate the summary of the draft Joint Statement of the First Regional Networking Forum aimed at further promoting South-South and triangular cooperation in support of the participating Member States' national priorities. This document is a joint expression of the stakeholders' ideas for promoting all of the SSC recommendations for more effective coordination of SSTC at the regional and national levels, in particular, to develop and streamline national South-South cooperation strategies. Further, Mr. Mariyasin thanked all participants and the organizers for taking an active role in the Forum and confirmed UNDP support for the SSC agenda.

**Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and UNOSSC Director,** closed by emphasizing the essential role of South-South cooperation in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to achieve national development priorities and the importance of national counterparts' contributions to it. He confirmed the commitment of UNOSSC to provide support to the stakeholders in advancing SSC and, more specifically, to continue cooperation with the UAE, which is keen to share home-grown solutions. He thanked the Expo host, organizers and participants and wished everyone good luck in their endeavours.

### **Dubai Joint Statement on South-South Cooperation as the Outcome of the First Regional Networking Forum for the Arab States, Europe and the CIS**

The First Regional Networking Forum was intended to create an open and conducive knowledge-sharing setting to advance SSTC in the Arab States, Europe and the CIS.

While the overarching theme of the Forum was the role of South-South cooperation in achieving national development priorities in implementing Agenda 2030, it focused more specifically on ways to develop and streamline national South-South cooperation strategies as a cornerstone of effective coordination of SSTC at the national level.

It presented tangible, evidence-based and experience-driven arguments for and examples of South-South cooperation as the most appropriate cooperation model in the two regions, the Arab States and Europe, with the CIS. It provided participants an opportunity to showcase concrete South-South cooperation mechanisms that have proven effective in implementing national South-South cooperation strategies and provided a platform for networking and generating ideas on possible specific South-South cooperation initiatives among the participating Member States.

The participants agreed on the following recommendations:

In order to fully harness the practical benefits of South-South Cooperation, including through increased contributions coming from the national budgets and other relevant sources, in response to issues and concerns raised by participating Member States, in areas related of population and development, UNFPA would provide advisory and support services to interested Member States.

Regional organizations including the Cooperation Council of the Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council), and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) that took part at the First Regional Networking Forum, as well as other interested regional organizations could be instrumental in supporting their Member States in promoting SSTC as practical platforms for the implementation of regional South-South Cooperation strategies,

It is essential that more support is provided to the regional organizations in this regard with special attention paid to raising awareness on their relevant activities including South-South knowledge and experience exchange.

Practical activities by each participating Member State and interested regional organizations for the period of January-December 2017 would include:

- a. Developing common operational and results frameworks, as part of a fully-fledged SSC architecture at the global level, that would lay the foundation for SSC partners to design and implement impactful SSC operations, as well as measure and report on results in a cohesive, meaningful and transparent manner.
- b. Documenting and packaging – through the online solutions portal <http://southsouthworld.org> and/or otherwise through the SSMart system, and printed or online publications – of at least 10 home-grown innovative, low-cost solutions in the areas where a given participating Member State possesses expertise and could provide expert advice to other countries in the global South for mutual benefit.
- c. Formulating a mapping methodology to identify SSC solutions based on robust criteria, which would enhance stakeholders' collective ability to identify relevant, impactful and replicable SSC solutions.
- d. Related to the above, elaboration of detailed mapping of National Centres of Excellence and of relevant think tanks that possess proven expertise in a certain area of common interest, and demonstrate willingness for expanding dedicated research and sharing their knowledge and knowhow with other countries and peers.

- e. Developing, on the basis of the above, at least one specific proposal to be considered for funding through the IDB Reversed Linkages Initiative and substantiated by national-level in-kind/financial contributions as a result of regular results-oriented interaction with the management of the National Coordinating Authorities on SSC in potential partner countries.
- f. Taking stock of all the financial resources available from various national sources to promote national experts positioning a country as a source of valuable expertise in certain area of common interest; consolidating the information on financial resources available to all national centres of excellence with a view of increasing their chances for demand-driven South-South expert exchanges.
- g. Implementing, where relevant, national-level stocktaking on trends and opportunities for SSTC in a given participating Member State with advisory support from UNOSSC and UNDP.
- h. Developing, where relevant, national strategic frameworks on SSTC with the advisory support from the UNOSSC, UNDP and the Islamic Development Bank.

Since gender equality is a core development objective in its own right and is also a smart way to achieve greater development impact, to enhance productivity, improve development outcomes for the next generation, and make institutions more representative, it is one of the cross-cutting priorities in implementing all these activities in general, as well as needing attention to sourcing gender-disaggregated data on SSTC.

It has also been agreed to convene further regional networks to take stock of progress through respective national activity plans and to identify next practical steps within the Regional Roadmap Networking and Collaborative Initiative.

# High-level Closing Ceremony



*High Level Closing Ceremony of the GSSD Expo 2016*

The High-Level Closing Ceremony for the GSSD Expo 2016 included remarks by Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of UNOSSC, and H.E. Ambassador Richard Nduhuura, President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.



*A leadership award was presented by Envoy of SG on SSC to H.E. Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, in recognition of Zayed International Foundation's leadership and contribution to promoting South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development.*



*H.E. Prof. Dr. Mohammed Ahmed Bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, addressed at the Closing Ceremony.*



*Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General of Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, spoke at the Closing Ceremony.*

## Closing Remarks of Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation



This has been the biggest Expo ever! More than 90 Member States are here; over 650 participants, including CEOs of private sector and civil society and academic organizations, more than 40 media representatives, and tens of thousands of others who participated through social media. 70 booths showcased impressive and ambitious work being undertaken by all partners on the Exhibition Floor. We have had 16 solution forums highlighting the contributions of South-South cooperation to sustainable development in the focus areas of poverty eradication, food security, public-private partnerships, green technology transfer, economic growth, industrial innovation, global health, youth empowerment, and peacebuilding; and, today, the High-level Forum of National Directors-General for Development Cooperation showed us what national leadership and ownership in South-South development really means.

This Expo has truly been a collective response to Member States' demands 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. To all the moderators, panelists, interns and each and every participant, thank you. We organize this Expo for you, and you have made it a great success. We will work with you in the coming months to ensure robust follow-up to what you have all worked on here. In this regard, the Zayed Foundation has offered to work closely with my Office to publish as a special edition of our South-South In Action series: UAE Solutions: South-South and Triangular Contributions to Sustainable Development. UAE Solutions will highlight the leadership of the UAE in the sharing of South-South cooperation for effective development and will include a collection of all the solutions, strategies and lessons learned shared here at the Expo. Finally, I wish to thank my entire GSSD Expo Team for your hard work and professionalism. We hope to return to Dubai in the very near future!

## Closing remarks by H.E. Ambassador Richard Nduhuura President of the High-level Committee on South-South-South Cooperation



*H.E. Mr. Richard Nduhuura, President of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations talks about the event's success at the closing ceremony*

Thank you again for the privilege of joining you this week. I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment for graciously hosting us this week on behalf of the Government of the United Arab Emirates. I would also like to thank the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation for organizing this year's Global South-South Development Expo, facilitating the exchange of knowledge in the application of South-South and triangular cooperation towards achieving internationally agreed development goals by a diverse set of development partners.

This year's Expo has afforded us the opportunity to witness the development impact of South-South and triangular cooperation on many fronts. We have heard from representatives of government, civil society and the private sector who are committed to finding, innovating and developing solutions to the challenges facing their communities. The many partners who have traveled so far to present proven Southern development solutions are testimony to growing significance of South-South alliances in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

As President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, I am pleased to see how the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in partnership with other United Nations organizations and agencies, has rigorously responded to the expectations of Member States in supporting the use of the Global South Development Expo as a forum for the establishment and strengthening of closer linkages among Southern institutions and

centres of excellence, as well as regional and sub regional economic groupings to serve as an effective tool for operationalizing the plans and goals on South-South cooperation as set out by Member States in the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the Nairobi outcome document of 2009.

The United Nations system continues to play a catalytic role in facilitating knowledge exchange, creating synergies between various actors and enhancing collaborative networks that are key to achieving development outcomes. Over the past four days, we have heard that the contributions of South-South cooperation exceed the realm of development cooperation. We learned of the important nexus between peace and security and development, but were reminded of the absence of a South-South cooperation framework in the realm of peace and security despite its enormous contributions and potential. We also learned about the efforts and successes of a number of developing countries in improving public service delivery through effective public sector reform and enhancement of management practices. This reinforces the fact that despite many criticisms, developing countries care about governance issues – and South-South cooperation offers meaningful solutions in improving transparency, accountability and responsiveness. I am grateful to have been a part of this important event together with all of you, which has truly served to showcase development solutions created in the South to address the cross-cutting challenges presented by Agenda 2030. Thank you.

# Conclusion: Key takeaways and lessons learned

More than 25 United Nations agencies and 124 other institutional partners took part in the 2016 Expo. Almost 700 delegates from over 90 countries attended the more than 30 sessions, which included six high-level plenary sessions, a regional workshop, a ministerial meeting, 16 solution forums, a high-level Directors-General forum, four side events and multiple networking and partnership sessions.

Tens of thousands participated through social media in the Expo, which presented and showcased more than 70 concrete Southern-grown solutions and initiatives to help to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In particular, participants discussed thematic topics related to SSTC: the future of work; poverty eradication; food security and agricultural innovation; trade and investment; climate change and environmental protection; youth and women's empowerment; public service delivery; economic transformation; research on South-South cooperation for SDGs; skills development; peacebuilding; promoting youth entrepreneurship; public private partnerships; SS-Mart for SDGs; green technology transfer; green economies; tobacco control; and global health.

Seventy exhibitors from national governments, international organizations, regional groups, academia and the private sector-using multimedia materials relevant to South-South cooperation including posters, audiovisual presentations, printed materials and product prototypes-showcased more than 90 Southern-grown solutions, technologies and initiatives on the exhibition floor.

In addition, the Expo featured the high-level Forum of Directors-General for Development Cooperation, during which over 150 representatives from more than 35 developing and developed countries, as well as United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, think tanks and academic institutions, exchanged best practices on global development issues and discussed new proposals for further scaling up and mainstreaming SSTC.

Over 100 national government ministers, senior officials and development practitioners from the Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States regions took part in the Regional Networking Forum and the Ministerial Meeting on SSTC for Agricultural Development and Enhanced Food Security. Practical ways of promoting successful home-grown solutions and national expertise of the participating countries were presented, discussed and shared.

Close to 40 bilateral partnership meetings were reported during the GSSD Expo 2016; many more informal ones took place on site, and participants reported that they signed riders to memorandums of understanding and letters of intent.

# 2016 High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum)

***“Strengthening Policy and Management for the Implementation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation towards the Attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”***

Co-organized by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation  
and the Japan International Cooperation Agency



*DG Forum participants.*

## I. Welcoming Remarks

- **Mr. Jorge Chediek**, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

In 1978 in Buenos Aires and later in 2009 in Nairobi, the countries of the world committed to make SSC central towards sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Members States committed to strengthen SCC cooperation programmes and projects, capacity development enabling mutual learning and inclusive innovative partnerships. Members States now also emphasize the role of SCC for the SDG 2030 agenda, the framework for disaster reduction, the Addis Ababa Finance Cooperation Agenda, and the Paris Agreement of the United Nations framework on Climate Change which comes into effect tomorrow.

SCC and Triangular Cooperation continues to play an increasingly important role in international affairs. Investment in this type of cooperation aims to support rapid economic growth and to improve human conditions in developing countries. SCC and Triangular Cooperation has increased in recent decades. As the Secretariat of the 2016 South-South Development Expo and co-organizer of this High-Level Forum we are honored to continue facilitating your dialogue for the purpose of mutual learning, partnership building and scaling up.

My office will compile the results of this forum in a report which will be distributed around everyone for reference of the development community. In addition, we will continue supporting the process of working together with many development agencies of the South and North, so to strengthen the capacity and expand the scope of SCC and Triangular cooperation.

We look forward to hearing from you how our Office can best support your individual, bilateral and collective efforts so we can achieve SCC ull potential in building a better world.

## Opening Session

<b>9.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m.</b>	<b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E. Mr. Richard Nduhuura, President of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations</li><li>• Dr. Meshgan Al Awar, Secretary General, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment</li><li>• Mr. Yasushi Kanzaki, Vice President, JICA</li><li>• H.E. Mr. Ramil Hasanov, Secretary-General, Turkic Council</li><li>• Mr. Getachew Engida, Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</li></ul>
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- **H.E. Mr. Richard Nduhuura**, President of the United Nations General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations

The Member States of the United Nations defined the Sustainable Development Goals and the subsequent 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As we head towards implementation and localization of the agenda in each region, sub-region and country, it is noteworthy that the geography and nature of development cooperation is changing. The world is now characterized by a stronger presence of South-South and triangular cooperation in development cooperation. It is important to assess how South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation can play a role in helping people, countries and our global home meet development challenges. This question is even more pertinent for the countries that are lagging behind, for communities that are disadvantaged and vulnerable to economic shocks and natural disasters.

If these modalities should help us to reach the full potential of South-South and triangular cooperation, we must resolve some of the issues that may stand in the way. These include strengthening policies and frameworks under which South-South and triangular cooperation operate; building the capacities of the development cooperation institutions that lead South-South and triangular cooperation and facilitating extensive tools such as regional funds and methodology for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation.

Fortunately, a number of countries and intergovernmental institutions have already started testing and documenting their experiences in strengthening the management of South-South and triangular cooperation. The Global Expo and this Forum is a chance to share lessons.

The DG Forum in 2008 recommended a project to strengthen capacities for Management of South-South and triangular cooperation. This project has been implemented from 2012 and conducted training and follow-up events based on the demands of the trainees. There is a pipeline of issues and countries that are requesting training services. This meeting will recommend a new phase of the capacity building programme as the 2008 DG Forum.

SSC is critical to the attainment of the SDGs. We must continue responding questions, overcoming challenges and working together towards meeting the goals.

- **Mr. Yasushi Kanzaki**, Vice President, JICA

The adoption of the Agenda 2030 provides an opportunity to renew its values, potential and important roles of the South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation to address various development challenges. The realization of the world “Leave no one behind” requires global partnership, mobilizing resources and expertise at the country, regional and global levels to address the broad social, economic, and environmental issues.

The publication by the UNOSSC “Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development” testifies that the mode of cooperation can contribute directly to the attainment of each Goal of the SDGs. It encourages knowledge sharing and creates a space for mutual learning and joint solution discovery. The South has accumulated valuable experience in

overcoming difficulties and constraints and it can develop and provide effective development solutions that are relevant to other countries. It facilitates the mobilization of resources and expertise from around the world to address common challenges. The SDGs requires regional and global approaches as many challenges go beyond national borders. Under such situations, the SDGs emphasizes on global partnership involving the North and the South, as well as multi-stakeholders such as the private sector, academia, and the civil societies.

In order to facilitate such developments, JICA attaches importance on the following three factors in our Triangular Cooperation. First, it is important to formulate institutional arrangements that enable effective knowledge creation or sharing. Second, long term capacity development is needed not only for beneficial countries but for pivotal countries. Third, in order to create effective knowledge sharing among the South and then produce development impacts through it, the North has vital roles to play. Japan concluded the “Partnership Program” with 12 key Triangular Cooperation partners to offer a platform for systematic joint programming and implementation. It includes a mechanism for matching supply and demand, establishment of “Centers of Excellence” that have developed prominent solutions and delivery methods to assist other countries. It also serves to share our experience in management of cooperation with the partners. Through the Program, for instance, JICA partners with Mexico, Chile, and Indonesia for development of Capacity in policy making, project management, and knowledge management. JICA also organized a workshop on management of the Triangular Cooperation in collaboration with the UNOSSC and Brazilian Cooperation Agency.

This forum will showcase best practices and lesson learned and mark a new milestone of international efforts for promoting better South-South and Triangular Cooperation. I would like to reiterate Japan’s commitment to continue our efforts to tackle development challenges with our partner through the Triangular Cooperation to attain the SDGs.

- **Dr. Meshgan Al Awar**, Secretary General, Zayed International Foundation for the Environment

During this concluding session of the South –South Global Expo, it is important to remark that this is the first time that the expo is hosted for a UN Member State of the United Arab Emirates. Zayed Foundation has hosted many events of the United Nations such as of those on desertification and many others. We always want to promote collaboration. We call for the alliance of the southern countries so they can enhance the sustainable welfare of the South, also through SCC.

During the past few days, we have discussed the importance of new and old partnerships to help us to achieve the SDGs. No matter what partnerships are, the reality is that the government in each country plays a critical role in pulling together resources, the collective efforts of citizens, communities, civil society and the private sector. Building bridges, connecting the dots for these local partnerships, is not easy. I’m pleased that this forum will help us thinking how to best coordinate and make partnerships fit for purpose to lead development cooperation. The DG Forum is an opportunity to exchange ideas and knowledge. I hope that after these deliberations, we will have some tangible proposals that will help to strengthen the management and implementation of SSC. The discussions have had clearly show that SCC and Triangular are at

the center of strategies to achieve the SDGs. I hope that each government continue to promote capacity building to enable us to achieve the objective of “Leaving no one behind”.

- **H.E. Mr. Ramil Hasanov, Secretary-General, Turkic Council**

The nature of global challenges that we face today have become more complex, inter-dependent and transboundary. These challenges include serious issues from extreme poverty, food crisis and financial crises, climate change, environmental challenges, scarcity of water and natural resource, irregular migration to increased violent extremism. Facing these hurdles, we need to enhance the cooperation within the international community for more than ever. These global challenges require collective responses.

In this context, South-South and triangular cooperation serves as a key instrument that is complementary to the other traditional cooperation schemes worldwide. This cooperation framework has a special spirit: It is more dynamic, practical and result-oriented based on the equal footing of all actors involved and for the benefit of all stakeholders concerned. South-South cooperation plays a key role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, shortly Turkic Council, since our establishment in 2009, attributes utmost importance to the enhancement of South-South and triangular cooperation that is an important element of international collaboration for development. Our Member States -namely Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey-individually contribute to strengthen this cooperation.

As a regional inter-governmental organization with a comprehensive and inclusive approach, in our wide range of activities from foreign policy, economy and sustainable development, transport, customs, tourism, education, media to youth and sports, we implement the dynamic, cooperative and result-oriented spirit of South-South and triangular collaboration. While doing so, the Turkish Council locates the human and productive capacity-building, experience sharing, technical assistance and exchange of good practices at the core of our working mechanism

As an example, since December 2013, as an initiative of the Turkic Council, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey has shared its waste experience on service sector through the vocational training programmes that it carries out for the tourism employees of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Through these programs, Turkey’s rich know-how and experience in the tourism sector have been transferred to other Member States. Until now, more than 900 tourism employees benefited from these vocational trainings. Almost 50% of these trainees were female. These trainings were instrumental in developing skills for high-quality hospitality services in these countries through experience sharing. They also contributed to generate decent jobs in our Member States addressing to the number 8 of the SDGs on Good Jobs and Economic Growth.

At the international conference co-hosted with the UN Alliance of Civilizations on 20-21 October 2016 in Istanbul on the role of youth in preventing and countering violent extremism, the importance of capacity building on this particular area was also strongly mentioned. UNOSSC and UNDP were among the partners of the conference that was attended by more than 300 participants and speakers coming from 40 countries from Africa to Central Asia. The Turkish Council will launch soon a train-the-trainers programme to empower youth in preventing and

countering violent extremism with the involvement of our Member States, partner countries and relevant international organizations.

As an observer to Economic Cooperation Organization, the Turkic Council enhances its existing fruitful relations, day by day, with the UN and its specialized agencies and bodies. Meanwhile, it bolsters its close ties with Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Islamic Development Bank, Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization, World Customs Organization and Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Memorandums of Understanding that we signed with UNOSSC, UNDP, UN World Tourism Organization and UN Alliance of Civilizations to “walk together” and “act together” for the successful implementation of South-South and triangular approach. The Turkish Council will work together with UNOSSC and with other relevant UN bodies through mutually beneficial projects and expand SSC modalities. Action speaks louder than words.

- **Mr. Getachew Engida**, Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The 2030 Development Agenda calls for new systems thinking, new operating, and new technologies that focus on finding innovative solutions to today’s complex problems. With the changing dynamics in development cooperation processes, such as the downward trends in total aid to education, which has declined by 8% since 2010, new types of innovative South-South and triangular cooperation will be needed if we are to reach the SDGs targets.

The issue of how to further strengthen the financing of South-South cooperation, as well as the need to improve both qualitative and quantitative measures, is particularly important when developed countries growing slower than developing countries, which is impacting traditional aid dynamics. Cost projections in the 2015 GMR show that the annual financing gap was estimated at US\$ 39 billion over 2015- 2030 for reaching universal pre-primary, primary and secondary education of good quality in low and lower middle income countries. While domestic resource mobilization is becoming more important and achievable for some countries, external aid will continue to play an important role in countries where domestic resources fall short. New emerging donors from the global south will therefore have an important role to play in filling this gap. New types of innovative, multi-stakeholder South-South Cooperation partnerships will be needed to mobilize the private sector, philanthropists, multilateral development banks and other innovative sources of financing to make real progress towards SDG achievement. This is the aim of the SDG 4-Education 2030 Steering Committee led by UNESCO – a multi-stakeholder partnership which provides strategic guidance to Member States and the education community, 3 makes recommendations for catalytic action, advocates for adequate financing, and monitors progress through the Global Educational Monitoring (GEM) Report on SDG 4 and related education targets.

Dedicated South-South cooperation partnerships, such as UNESCO’s partnership with China to provide targeted support to 8 African countries to enhance teacher education to bridge the education quality gap are a part of our initiatives. An additional 12 million USD has been leveraged through this partnership. Another example is the Malala Fund for Girls’ Right to Education, which

focuses on increasing access to education and learning opportunities, improving retention and completion rates and eliminating discrimination against girls in the learning process.

Developing countries recognize that in order to leapfrog onto a sustainable path of development, increased investment will be needed to develop the required knowledge base and human capital. With this aim, UNESCO is working to strengthen national capacities in science, technology and innovation, on a demand driven basis, to meet this challenge. UNESCO is supporting the development of STI enabling environments through our work to develop robust STI policies and systems that aim to meet the rising demand for qualified scientists, engineers and technicians and to promote sustainable industries and foster innovation.

UNESCO is also engaged in mechanisms such as the technology facilitation mechanism and the LDC technology bank, which aim to support technology transfer and build STI capacities in developing countries through South-South and triangular cooperation. UNESCO is also working with partners, like ITU, to fully utilize the power of mobile broadband - the fastest growing technology in human history – to accelerate progress in meeting key education challenges: on equity, on inclusion, on access and on quality. The number of mobile phone subscriptions now exceeds the world's total population of around seven billion, and active mobile broadband subscriptions exceed 2.1 billion – three times higher than the 700 million wireline broadband connections worldwide. Even more encouragingly, most of this progress has taken place in the developing world, which has accounted for 90% of global net additions for mobile cellular and 82% of global net additions of new Internet users since early 2010. More South-South and triangular partnerships are needed to increase the educational potential of information and communication technologies, particularly in developing countries where books and schools may be scarce. The innovative use of such technologies can also support efforts to respond to natural disasters. One such example is the gaming application “Tanah”, for the prevention of natural disasters. Created by UNESCO in response to the tragedies in the Asia Pacific region, such as the 2004 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean, it has now been adapted into Spanish and launched in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, following the earthquake in Ecuador.

Finally, the importance of promoting culture for sustainable development through South-South and triangular cooperation cannot be overlooked. Culture-based sustainable development strategies can contribute to sustainable economic growth, opening up new pathways for job creation and locally-owned economic development. Worldwide, some 30 million jobs depend directly on the cultural sectors, most of which are in cities. It will be vital to work together to fully exploit the potential of South-South and triangular cooperation to support the implementation of the SDGs to ensure that no one is left behind on our common quest for a sustainable future.

## II. SESSION 1: Experiences in policymaking and the institutional setting for South-South cooperation towards 2030 Agenda

<p><b>10.00 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.</b></p>	<p>Session 1. Experiences in policymaking and the institutional setting for South-South cooperation towards 2030 Agenda</p> <p>This will include national practices covering South-South and triangular cooperation in national development plans, national strategies/visions and national 2030 agenda implementation strategies. The need for improvements in both qualitative and quantitative measures will be discussed.</p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Sabina Maghanga, Director of Planning, Macro Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, Kenya</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Paisan Rupanichkij, Deputy Director-General, Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand</li> <li>• Ms. Cristina Gangan, Senior Advisor, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, State Chancellery, Moldova</li> <li>• Ms. Florence Nazare, Head, Capacity Development at NEPAD Agency and Ms. Orria Goni Delzangles, South-South Advisor, UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa</li> <li>• Mr. Noel González Segura, Coordinator of Multilateral and Regional Fora and Mechanism of International Development Cooperation, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, Mexico</li> </ul>
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- **Mr. Paisan Rupanichkij**, Deputy Director-General, Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

The TICA is a new agency of Thailand, which is becoming and emerging donor. TICA wants to be a development partner in many parts of the world, Asia and also Africa and Latino America. TICA have numerous projects especially with JICA and many parts of the world in Asia and also in Latino America. Promoting SCC is vital for us.

In this presentation, we will present the project TICA project Thailand-Cambodia development project in sufficient development villages and fisheries. The objective was to promote community development model and sufficient economy based on the application of the “Sufficiency Economy Philosophy” (SEP) model of Thailand. These communities are not far from the Thailand-Cambodia border, they are inhabited by mainly farmers and fishers. TICA first did fact finding missing and found that they don’t have development plans, no transport, no resources and no technology for farming and food processing. There were also lack of community participation and the using local wisdom. We engage with local governments in communities and supported them to set up participatory development plans. TICA supported the organisation of visits for the participants to see actual application of the SEP in other communities, as well as trainers-for-trainers and transfer of knowledge activities.

The partnership and participation of communities and government together in planning is the most important aspect in carrying us this project, aiming at improving production by household, enforcing workforce, increase production for consumption, selling products to local markets. Also the objective was to develop eco-tourism. At the same time, the project wanted to ensure in women empowerment, improving their standard of living and applying local wisdom and help them towards local consumption. Building the healthiness of the communities by transferring knowledge to and with communities’ members was central. This was done in the areas fish farming, agriculture growing such as coconut, banana, mango, natural resources conservation along the coast line of the community among other topics. The project also succeeded setting up a learning centre towards sharing knowledge and created market place where the villagers are now able to sell their products.

It’s important that all project work is based in good governance and democratic participation so they the villages can produce their own products and farming, while creating spaces for developing planning and resolving issues with local solutions.

Finally, this project has achieved a number of development goals, importantly because of the application of the “Sufficiency Economy Philosophy” (SEP). It is about transforming the economy of exploitation to the economy of moderation, with the view to have a balance between the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of development. The key ideas of this concept are balance, moderation, reasonableness and prudence integrally interrelated to ensure sustainable development.

- **Ms. Cristina Gangan**, Senior Advisor, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, State Chancellery, Moldova

The presentation is on some SCC trends and opportunities in the Republic of Moldova. Despite several challenges, Moldova economy performance in the last two years has been strong but also it faces risks. Some challenges remain, for example, reducing poverty through macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth. This needs modernisation, liberalization of the economy and investment in development, support of medium size business, investment in infrastructure, and diversification of expert promotion, creation of jobs and social protection to vulnerable people. These objectives include the achievement of SDGs. These are included in the government plan and policies.

SCC is driven by the integration with European Union, and in particular, the agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union. One main effort is to implement the Moldova 2020 Plan. Moldova takes part in a number of Eastern European Cooperation Mechanism, for example “Eastern Partnership” launched in 2009. Moldova partner of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and is committed to track progress in relation to the commitments agreed within this framework. In particular, Moldova aims to track progress effective development cooperation through a monitoring framework including 10 indicators. These indicators includes, for example, strengthening development institution, increasing transparency, enhance gender equality, guarantying civil society participation and promoting, private partnerships. The framework now is being revised in order to align with the SDGs and its targets. Most of Moldova’s SCC interactions relates with neighbours, particularly, Rumania and others due to similarities in relation with culture, history, proximity and process of accession to the EU. Realising the SDGs will require further mobilisation of all type of development resources and creating partnership with more actors, in particular, if we consider SDG 17.

In relation to this, Moldova wants to present our “Aid Management Platform”, launched in 2013 with the support of UNDP. It’s an aid platform enabling the management of development assistance in the country. It tracks all donors’ commitments; it’s accessible and is standardised with codes for all projects and maps. It shows a breakdown on total assistance from countries, starting from the past decade. Moldova might install a SCC module within the platform so to avoid double monitoring and make sure tracking is properly done at different government levels and priorities. Moldova came with the solution of developing [www.moldova2030.gov](http://www.moldova2030.gov), focusing on monitoring all targets of the SDGs. It will consider the country common aims and people’s needs and will include tracking SCC cooperation efforts. Moldova will launch a national wide campaign to publicly share information regarding international cooperation programmes and efforts. This will be done with the involvement of civil society organisations, UN agencies and the media. Everyone will be invited to share and learn about SDGs and will be able to see progress towards meeting the SDGs goals, while expressing opinion on this for Moldova.

In the future, Moldova wants to increase its commitments towards SCC, ensuring that we formulate it in this way. There is a need to introduce policy framework and coordinate actions now named as SCC. There is potential for Moldova’s engagement and for this it’s necessary to raise awareness through a SCC strategy, more solid and strongly dedicated to the South.

- **Ms. Florence Nazare**, Head, Capacity Development at NEPAD Agency and **Ms. Orria Goni Delzangles**, South-South Advisor, UNDP Regional Service Center for Africa

Africa has a long history of SCC. Over time has been used by many countries. At this point, is necessary to join the dots, creating more coherence for sustainable development in the region. It is important to highlight that Africa faces various challenges: it requires strong institutions, financial resources, skills sets, good knowledge base from evidence. In relation to SDGs, Africa had a common position. Africa identified key priorities from different regional African regions and tried to align these priorities. Africa have many plans but it was thought that it was central to come together so we gave a big push to align forces mainly around economy development, the

addition of value to natural resources and how to build Africa oriented to social inclusion. Africa identified a conversation of two agendas: wealth Creation, Socio-economic transformation and social inclusion and prosperity. There is now convergence and an intention to align resources which is important for the future. Africa vision is of prosperity driven by our people and the expansion of Africa trade.

Africa has a breath of partnership with India, Brazil, JICA, and China. All of them needed consolidation and scaling up. Africa needs to leverage international resources towards development and regional integration, which is decisive mechanism agreed by the Head of States towards economy of scale. In relation to SCC in Africa and based on the various plans, the 2009 plan developed post- HM meeting in Mexico, gave Africa the policy direction on how to build more coalitions to promote SCC and triangular cooperation around economic development, enhancing cooperation at the intra African level, including exchanges to promote internal learning and capacity development for mutual benefit.

Africa has a focus around “institutions”. For example, Africa has a joint programme with UNDP to promote regional mapping of SCC and increase the scale based on evidence and identified trends. There is also an intention to enhance Political dialogue as part of the South-South Cooperation, not only looking at the technical aspect of SCC. And also focus on the development of in order to ensure success. Most time African countries have SCC policies but de-linked with planning, processes, implementation and M&E aligned with national development plans. Africa wants to create more linkages between these areas, making sure that whatever is funded relates with the national development plans. In this regard, Africa is also assessing if SCC should be within Ministry of Foreign Affairs or others ministries, for example, economy, trade, social affairs, etc. Africa is focusing on being a more coherent programme.

Secondly, the presentation evolves around the presentation of the “African Solution Platform”. We have conducted a mapping assessment of the specific solutions that many African countries have to share. We are using the African Development Effectiveness Platform (the Update Platform) in order to showcase those good examples. It’s the beginning of a good story. We have 700 solutions mapped and it’s an open platform: [www.southsouthworld.org](http://www.southsouthworld.org). It’s possible to click by country and get all the list of solutions, also by sector, for example, climate exchange. It also present information regarding which are the countries involves, the ministries involved, different stakeholders, the budget, how and why the solution might be replicable considering proper adaptation to each country. The platform has been developed with the support of the UN SCC Office. It’s linked with the SSC platform and will also be linked with the UNDP “Smart platform” which encourages partnerships.

The main objective of the initiative undertaken in this area with NEPAD is that we want African countries become SCC providers. This enabling environment -which is open to new countries-, should support this growth in SCC cooperation partnership. UNDP and this initiative is to make sure that everything is gathered and driven by African countries oriented to the attainment of the SDGs agenda.

**Mr. Noel González Segura**, Coordinator of Multilateral and Regional Fora and Mechanism of International Development Cooperation, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, Mexico

The presentation is the experience of Mexico in systematizing the SCC that the country provides. The Mexican Development Cooperation is quite new (2009). The five pillars of Mexico International Cooperation plan are as follows: a) legal- law, b) managerial pillar, which is about the office itself in charge to coordinate all the ministries efforts on SSC and international cooperation, c) financial pillar, which is to manage a trust fund to support and implement SCC activities and strategies, d) strategic pillar to monitor a six years plan for each government. Every plan is reviewed every two years, e) Programme for International Cooperation in Mexico

The Mexican agency belongs to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having the responsibility for fostering SCC but also focus on cultural and economic promotion. Mexico established a council to align all activities of SCC from all ministries, and there are three working groups with civil society organisations, private sector representatives, local governments and high-level partners who add value to the planning and implementation of SCC. Mexico has a dual character, as provider and supporting own national capabilities thorough bilateral and multilateral channels.

In relation with the measurement of SCC, Mexico has established by law a system to monitor and register everything in relation to development cooperation provided by the federal government. Mexico is a federation of 32 states and Mexico has various ministries that belong to the federal government. All those ministries are reporting to the central system, including, for example total amount of human and financial resources invested on SCC. There are focal points responsible to register everything in an electronic platform, including monetarizing the support provided –and not only travel but also what it's called “cost of opportunity” for developing our own national capabilities (experts sharing experiences outside of their national responsibilities). This is measurement is done in relation with each expert salary.

Specifically, what Mexico measures are different types of activities on technical cooperation but also financial resources provided. For example, loans, debt forgiveness, scholarship, contribution to international organisations dealing with development (not defence or other issues), humanitarian aid and, of course, operational costs.

Mexico is holding dialogues and conversation on how to better systematize SCC, for this the joint with the SEGIB and PIFCSS is central as it's helping our countries to monitor. The role of ECLAC and the Global Partner for Effective Development are also central to systematize and discuss international cooperation policies. Mexico believes that the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BA Plan of Action in 2018 will be a great chance to further dialogue and strengthening SCC.

### III. Q & A Session One

#### - QUESTIONS

- **Question 1, Ms. Lucy Mungai, Lawyer, UNEP, Kenya:** I would like to understand how in the African context, we are trying to balance the push towards growth and economic development and the safeguarding of natural resources. Africa has lots of investors and the natural capital is being exploited with no return, affecting the sustainability and also violating human rights the name of economic development. I would like to hear more on these issues.
- **Question 2: Mr. Marcela Suezo, Global Director, South-South Cooperation, UNFPA:** I found very interesting on the Thai model on Sufficiency Economy. If we all work with this approach as being presented from the South- what would be the results? And finally, is Thailand working with young people in order to implement this sufficiency model?
- **Question 3, Mr. Pascal Tchiwanou, Director, Centre de Partenariat et d'Expertise pour le Développement Durable (CePED), Benin:** I would like to understand how the communities elaborated their plans specifically. In relation to Moldova, I would like recommendation in how to get investments and internal support to develop such a framework a SCC framework. In relation to the presentation from NEPAD and the database, I think it's a very interesting work since this is done with the UN agencies and in coordination with NEPAD. Synchronization is vital to improve investments. These two examples of platforms are central and we need to give them all the resources.
- **Question 4, Mr. MD Ashadul Islam, Director General, NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office, Bangladesh:** to Thailand, I would like more details on what is the idea of this new self-sufficiency philosophy? To Moldova: Moldova: who are the partners for this platform?
- **Question 5, Ms. Sanja ZOGRAFSKA-KRSTESKA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Assistant Director for Economic Multilateral Relations Economic Diplomacy Directorate, Macedonia:** Macedonia is in initial phase to establish international cooperation and therefore initially systematizing our practice. This is the first time that we are participation in the Expo and it's been very enriching. The question is about the tools at disposal of countries working with SS, so I would like to ask to Mexico if they have looked at some catalogue of tools and financial manual which could be helpful for us as well.

#### - ANSWERS

- ✓ **NEPAD response to the question about Africa and economic development:** "SCC is mobilising more resources at both domestic and international levels. We have to link them together so we can work better".
- ✓ **THAILAND response:** "The youth involvement in our community development is very important. We give scholarships and engage with them in many areas, including volunteering. The communities are involved in their planning for development so they

can do it themselves. Sufficiency economy is about thinking with an alternative to sustainable approach so we become a develop country but aware that resources are not sufficient. There must be a new paradigm path for development: moderation is necessary”.

- ✓ **MEXICO response:** “SCC is not a new practice that can be traced back to 1950... but the amount has increased immensely. There is leap of 23 billion dollar, probably 50% of the total ODA. The number of instruments to manage this flow has been increasing and we are trying to systematize as much as possible. In Mexico there were not “ready-made” solutions, we had to create our own systems and we took whatever available from OECD countries and also from other countries. We are building these tools right now and we have a key role to play. In the context of Iberoamerica context, we are making huge efforts. We need to get together an exchange about these tools for systematizing our work”.

### - Final round-up panellists

- **THAILAND:** “In our stand outside we have all the documentation about the sufficiency economy. Please, do come and learn with us”.
- **MEXICO:** “SCC is part of a boarder of a big international architecture. We need to contribute from our capabilities in each region. It’s great to see the developments in Eastern Europe. This discussion is expanding and triangular cooperation is also helping in this expansion”
- **AFRICA- NEPAD-UNDP:** “On the importance of mapping and knowledge management: this is important for the regions to assume a leading role in capturing data and knowledge and start reporting on SCC. For example, NEPAD agency in collaboration with SEGIB are now partnering to work on that and aim to gather the knowledge on this also with UNDP. But also to drive this process of capturing at the national level.
- **MOLDOVA:** “Our platform is a sophisticated tool which holds info on all existed programmes including those in preparation. It shows also regional allocations and disbursements made. It shows the location of each project and it generates reports with graphs. It provides with in-depth description and contact details of each initiative, so you can contact them directly and request an exchange. Finally, I would like to agree with the Benin representative and others representatives on how important is to raise awareness’ on SCC. We are organising more and more activities to share info on SCC and how they are benefiting the country”.

## Session 2: Strengthening capacity development in the management of South-South and triangular cooperation

<b>11.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.</b>	<b>Session 2. Strengthening capacity development in the management of South-South and triangular cooperation</b> <b>Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E. Mr. Dragan Zupanjevac, Ambassador in Sector for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Serbia</li></ul> <b>Panelists</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ms. Ana Ciuti, General Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Argentina</li><li>• H.E. Ms. Litia Mawi, Roving Ambassador/High Commissioner to Pacific Island Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fiji</li><li>• Ms. Michiko Umezaki, Chief Advisor of “Capacity Development Project for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (CADEP)” in Indonesia, JICA</li></ul>
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- **Ms. Ana Ciuti**, General Director of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, Argentina

For Argentina SCC plays an important role within the overall foreign affairs policies. Through SCC we want to consolidate partnership and share best practices, technology and knowledge in order to promote development in our countries. With this aim, Argentina developed the “Fondo Argentino de Cooperacion Internacional” (FOAR) which has more 25 years. Through the programme, Argentina implements SCC bilateral and triangular project. Today, Argentina has more 150 projects in 40 Latino America, the Caribbean and African countries. Argentina works in two main themes, for example, one of them is “Industry, science, innovation and technology”. The Agenda 2030 is a transversal component to all SCC projects. This is because, we aimed work towards the achievement of the SDGs. Including the SDG 17 which involves Argentina Ministry of Foreign Affairs joint work with the private sector, academia and civil society organisations.

Argentina has bilateral agreements, for example with Colombia, which is the project that is going to presented in this session. The objective of this project is to collaborate in the identification of disappeared people. Argentina has been developing this project for several years. In order to implement this project, Argentina brings together and promote joint collaboration between several ministries, for example, the Ministry of Science, Education and Technology which holds the national genetics database and the civil society organisation “Equipo Argentino de Antropologia Forense” which has work in several countries trying to identify disappeared people since 1984.

The ONGs started working after Argentina dictatorship, identifying people disappeared by the dictatorial regime. Since then, this organisation has become an important role in supporting other countries, such as Vietnam, Thailand, South Africa, Bolivia, and many other countries, as well as, Colombia as in this case. It's a worldwide recognised organisation with expertise in the problems of disappearances and the political sensitives related with contexts of violence, crisis, conflict and of gross human rights violations in every country of the world.

In the case of Colombia, it is important to note that the promulgation of the national law 975 law, allowed for the increase of the processes towards identification of disappeared people in Colombia. In this context, the Colombian government needed to have a scientific and specialized structure dedicated to identify disappeared people. In 2010, it was created the genetic profile database in coordination with activities to search for disappeared people. One of the Colombia challenges was to create an institution responding effectively to this new context and respond with the requested respect and sense of dignity to the families of the victims. Argentina and Colombia signed a MoU to start the project. Following this countries and various partners, started implementation. Considering this, the first phase of the project was to create a database; the second phase was the establishment of protocols of identification in cemeteries where unrecognised people were found (NN). The third phase focused on organising exchanges between Argentina and Colombia, also taking into consideration, for example, that private laboratories in Argentina needed to learn about ISO normative. Colombia has great expertise in this area and was able to reciprocate to Argentina on this respect. The exchange of knowledge continues as well as the identification and support from "EAF".

With this case, Argentina wants to highlight the importance of coordination between multiple stakeholders, including of those non-governmental actors attending problems of Global South countries. The SCC cooperation and these examples demonstrate that Global South countries are ready to share expertise and resources and align projects to the SDGs agenda. In this respect, Argentina wants to emphasise the importance of this project for peacebuilding purposes in other countries and regions.

For Argentina, International Cooperation is central to the foreign policy. Argentina values spaces as this one aiming at to create trust, promote new ideas banks and generate more alliances for sustainable development.

- **H.E. Ms. Litia Mawi**, Roving Ambassador/High Commissioner to Pacific Island Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fiji

In the presentation the aim is to raise awareness and focus our analysis on the need to tackle the great drama of climate change and how affects small islands like Fiji and many other small islands. It's important to discuss this considering that the planet is a "global village". If the book were a global village with 100 people, there would be 61 Asians villagers, 13 would be Africans, 13 would be Americans, 12 would be Europeans and the remaining one will be from Oceania, also called "The Pacific" (including Australia and New Zealand). The number is so small compared with other regions. It's necessary to keep this as part of our context when understanding Oceania.

The panellist manages 11 countries in the Pacific in 6 territories of the US and the French. The mission is to explore all possible ideas to develop SCC in these countries and territories and involving Fiji. This includes match-making ideas and ensuring that all of them are oriented towards sustainable development. The leaders of the Pacific met in 2011 and recognised that in this region, there were 3 sectors able to produce commodities and increase exports. These three sectors were which fisheries, agriculture and tourism. When you see the space of sea and understand the enablers for these sectors to grow, it is remarkable that there are 3 sectors which are also important: energy, transport and also capacity building of people and institutions.

In relation to SCC and triangular cooperation in Fiji, it's important to note that Fiji is a hub of the Pacific because of the technology and what is expected by "smaller brothers and sisters" (other islands in the region) in terms of "looking after". Fiji is a South-South partner to the smaller islands nations around the country. Now we have the SDGs and this will be the footprint for Fiji's work in collaboration with smaller islands. For example, Fiji has may MOUs with various islands, all focusing in capacity building. Now Japan is coming as a triangular partner but the country needs more partners to sustain our work.

One of the project example, is the Kiribati and Tuvalu, where we are focusing on human resources development as they are "sinking nations". They will no longer be there in a few years. In this context, Fiji is supporting projects looking at "migration with dignity". Fiji is developing capacities for people to be integrated in new countries where they could work. It's a sensitive topic. So far, the project has been successful with more than 134 participants from 6 countries trained on relevant topics. The contents of the trainings were based on consultation and surveys at local level in order to adapt better to peoples' needs. The challenges are that, for example, it is necessary to contextualize. This is a radical change from the way international cooperation projects operates sometimes. Also there is a need for collaboration with private sector, civil society and others.

In this context, Fiji asks to new potential partners to join us in order to add value to what we are already doing, not only thinking about scale or size. People of these small island people –that one person-needs your support as the world journey towards the SDGs, always considering the five underlying principles: people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnerships.

- **Ms. Michiko Umezaki**, Chief Advisor of "Capacity Development Project for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (CADEP)" in Indonesia, JICA

Firstly, the presentation focus on the historical development of JICA works in Indonesia, implementing SSC and triangular Cooperation. JICA works in Indonesia started in the 1980 due to the Asian Financial Crisis and has been expanding in the last decades. Indonesia became a G20 member and Middle Income Country (MIC). Thus, Indonesia is now also a provider of SSTC. SSTC was included in the national plans in 2010. This demanded for Indonesia to establish ways of working and to create an overall picture of this type of policy. It was assess that a main problem was that SSTC was implemented in a very fragment manner. In this context, it was considered necessary to integrate National Coordination Team (SCT) in 2010 based, with a Ministerial

Decree. This team would bring together 4 ministries (Finance, State Secretary, Foreign Affairs) so to coordinate all actions with countries and partners.

JICA has been supporting Indonesia since 1981. JICA has long history of bilateral cooperation, for example, with the establishment of various centres of excellence. JICA provides technical advice and quality assurance support for SSTC. JICA initiated support for capacity development, in particular on SSTC management, focusing on mainstreaming SSCT to national policy, enhancing human resources and improving quality of SSTC.

CADEP project focuses on enhancing human resources for better SSTC policies. With this objective, a study of SST baseline was conducted in order to understand what the SSCT situation was. Since then, the programme had many achievements in particular the M&E guidelines. The study revealed that there were lack of understanding of many concepts and tools linked to SSTC. The project purpose is to expand effectiveness based on the findings.

However, it is found difficult to produce immediate specific and tangible long-term outcomes due to the lack of capacity development. In this sense, the project developed the evaluation guidelines with the intention that everyone has more capacity for M&E management. Considering this, it was decided to organise a seminar in relation to evaluation guidelines. The agencies were telling that they don't understand the guidelines and it was heard very frank feedback from implementing agencies. We learnt, for example that SSCT and M&E guidelines were too big, there were different ways to understand how to use it and why and how to submit reports. With this, the aim to remark that capacity development is not an easy a task. The Guidelines are just a tool but there is a need for on-going capacity development until partners can do things by themselves.

This is the space when development partners can work together with you. Development partners, like JICA, has a lot of history as trial and errors so is possible to learn and use for reference JICA's tools. It's important to find ways to collaborating as emerging partners and in the spirit of SDG 17.

## IV. Q & A Session Two

- **QUESTION 1, Mr. Abdullah Sheik Ali, Deputy Minister, Federal Court, Somalia:** “I want to share our experience on SSC in Somalia. As many of you know, we’ve been in conflict for 25 years. We are not an exception from other countries. Somali borders with Djibouti and Kenya have many kilometres and more than 50 million of livestock. It gives you the magnitude of the frontier, but thanks to our partners we succeeded in establishing a federal government and in 2014 we decided to establish the Ministry of Planning. I was called for that. In this context, we needed to establish a National Development Plan based on a consultative process. It took us nearly 2 years to come up with the plan also considering the SDGs and the selection a few indicators to implement our plan. What we did was to take stock of what are Somalia’s challenges especially in relation to economic oppression and SSC together with the regional Bureau of the Arab States. You can find the report in the UNSSC website. The successes that Somalia can share are important for post-conflict countries and connected with conflict management and reconciliation. Somalia is both an Arab and African country, so what we suggest is that the two regional organisations and the UNSCC should cooperate together and assist us strengthening the capacity of our offices”.
- **QUESTION 2, Mr. Murilo Vieira Komniski, Advisor to the Director, Brazilian Cooperation Agency, Ministry of External Relations, Brazil:** “Firstly, I would like to salute all three presenters. I wish to make a question on the issue presented by Argentina regarding cooperation on genetics and enforced disappearances; the connection between technical cooperation and the issue of human rights, namely right to truth and memory is very important for Brazil and the whole region. I wish to highlight the importance of this topic as part of SCC for all regions and our region. I wish to ask the interaction regarding Colombia, Argentina and the region, how we move towards regional cooperation receiving knowledge from Argentina in this aspect in the forensic technology. How this bilateral cooperation interacts with regional bodies such as MERCOSUR and how you improve the regional with the bilateral?”.
- ✓ **Response from Argentina:** “For Argentina this project is very important because Argentina and Brazil and many other countries we have a biased in SCC. This means that we do more SCC related with industry and agriculture. Now, this project started becoming more important and being demanded by other countries including Africa and Asia. So the government of Argentina supports it a lot. The engagement with Colombia is important. We also engage with the Red Cross in other regions and we put you at your disposal to take it beyond Latino America. This relates with the maturity of SSC in our countries and how this links with peacebuilding and peace transformation. Is an important step for SCC to engage in peacebuilding”.
- **QUESTION 3, Mr. Noel Gonzalez, Coordinator of Multilateral and Regional Fora and Mechanism of International Development Cooperation, Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, Mexico:** “Congratulations to the presenters. I would like to ask to Fiji... I remember that when the Mexican of Foreign Affairs looked to the financial support provided by our country to the Pacific Islands, we realised that it

was less than USD 1000. So I would like to ask what it would be the appropriate channels to improve cooperation between Mexico and Fiji / Pacific Islands. To the representative of JICA and in relation to capacity building... Mexico has also this kind of projects and we find them very useful. But from your perspective, I would like to understand more why is JICA so interested in promoting SCC? It used to be an issue of the countries of the South and now JICA is very engaged. Why?"

- ✓ **FIJI RESPONSE:** "I thank you for your responsible global citizenship approach. I would like to think that the globe is standing for us. I have here with us the director General for the Pacific Islands and you should all engage with him and us in order to continue promoting cooperation between our countries. I would like him to help me to provide more information to Mexico and everyone".
- ✓ **PACIFIC ISLANDS RESPONSE.** Mr. François Martel, Secretary General, Pacific Islands Development Forum: "I would like to thank you for this question. The Pacific Islands Development Forum is the leader for SCC collaboration between the Pacific Islands and other countries. We are a very new organisation but we want to be a channel especially in relation climate change".
- ✓ **JICA RESPONSE:** "Maybe I could mention two factors on why JICA wants to help more - 1) we have a lot of assets on technical cooperation for example between JICA, Indonesia and Mexico. We can reproduce applicable knowledge and by supporting emerging partners we can ensure that we scale up the effective tools and approaches. 2) JICA has experience and lots of programmes and failures, so all are faced with the same kind of problems so if we can all share we can help each other to find solutions. JICA, as a partner, can help facilitate this knowledge sharing"

## - Final remarks from all the panellists

- **Argentina:** "I believe that the challenge of SCC is to create indicators showing impact and the added value of our cooperation projects. We are growing so we have the challenge to create these indicators to monitor and evaluate the importance of our activities. We need to show the world the amount and relevance of activities for SCC".
- **Fiji:** "I've been in my role for 5 years. When I got into the game we had Barbados and Mauritius Plan of Actions but also we had the MDGs but there were no sense of ownership, they descended upon us from somewhere. For me is the mind-set where there it stands the centrality of SCC. We should help each other. Is the spirit of collaboration that we need to make real ideas a reality. We need to be together to go to the future, this is the plea that my generation is asking for the young generations... we have now have the SDG to become better global citizenship".
- **JICA:** "To me the most difficult thing when working based on the principles of SCC is to keep my positions as a facilitator. I do not have any clear or universal answer. So to enhance capacities of partners and countries, we have to be aware of ownership. Otherwise my partners will not achieve anything. At times, I have something to say in my mind, but I prohibit myself because the power is with our partners. We need to remember that we are facilitators".

## V. SESSION 3: Tools for strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation (both technical and financial tools)

2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<p><b>Session 3. Tools for strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation (both technical and financial tools)</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Murilo Vieira Komniski, Advisor to the Director, Brazilian Cooperation Agency, Ministry of External Relations, Brazil</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mr. Merzak Belhimeur, Ambassador, Director General, Economic Relations and International Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algeria</li> <li>• H.E. Dr. Hazem Fahmy, Ambassador, Secretary General of the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), Egypt</li> <li>• Mr. Anir Chowdhury, Policy Advisor, Access to Information, Prime Minister’s Office, Bangladesh</li> <li>• Mr. Jaime A. Garron Bozo, Programme Manager, Ibero-American Programme for Strengthening South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS)</li> </ul>
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- **H.E. Mr. Merzak Belhimeur, Ambassador,** Director General, Economic Relations and International Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Algeria

Cooperation between developing countries is an important factor to achieving socio-economic progress, bolstering development and strengthening our economic independence. The recent crises that shook the global economy, demonstrated more than ever, the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation and the need to reduce the dependence from funding of the North (often quite costly), and to redirect trade and investments to southern markets. Economic cooperation among developing countries can help to reduce distortions and gaps in the international economic system including in areas such as finance, trade, investment and technology.

Such cooperation needs to be based on more open partnerships between countries and aim at strengthening their institutional and productive capacities. The failures of the neoliberal economic paradigm reasserts the relevance of developing countries groupings also considered as “solidarity groups” such as the G.77 + China, the Group of 15 and the Non-aligned Movement, in which Algeria is proud to participate very actively. The challenges arising from the current international economic context requires, more than ever, to revitalize these groups so they contribute to the global debates on establishing a new, fair and sustainable, economic order.

Algerian vision of the South-South cooperation is based on the conviction that the development of the South is the responsibility of the South; and that development needs to be achieved on the basis of principles of fairness, social progress, respect for national sovereignty and equality in economic and political relations. These principles are considered by Algeria as the pillars of its political solidarity with Southern countries, its support to promoting complementarities between developing countries and its commitment for direct cooperation amongst countries of the South. To this end, Algeria has integrated South-South cooperation in its development strategy and considers it as an important contribution to the achievement of national, regional and international development objectives. Algeria's initiatives to promote south-south cooperation target all sectors without exception, starting from health, education, agriculture, environment, energy to food security and poverty eradication. It aims primarily to foster knowledge sharing, exchange on best practices, promoting trainings opportunities and transfer of technology. Mainstreaming of South-South and triangular cooperation is one of the major focus of the 2016-2020 Strategic Cooperation Framework signed between Algeria and the United Nations System.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the UN System is undertaking a review and evaluation of the results of Algeria's experience in terms of South-South and triangular cooperation during those two last decades. This review will set the grounds for establishing an inventory scheme of quantifiable database on actions undertaken by Algeria in this regard. An interim report has been prepared with the valuable collaboration of the office of South-South cooperation and is presented as a background document for this Forum. In order to rationalize our action to SSC, Algeria is about to complete -with the cooperation of UNDP Algeria- a study on the setting-up of institutional mechanism at the level of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the view to improve the coordination between the ministries concerned by SSC. This document will help us to evaluate trends and opportunities, success and failure in our way of dealing with SSC in order to draw lessons from our previous experiences.

On the African level, Algeria has been actively contributing to the development of the plan of action for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) that constitutes an adequate platform for a regional strategy to the socio-economic development potential of the Continent. This cooperation is aiming to contribute to the development of productive capacities for sustained growth and poverty reduction in the continent. As a founding member of the NEPAD, Algeria is very active in the implementation of regional projects, especially in the fields of agriculture, trade, industry, technology transfer, education and higher education. Algeria pays, as part of its good neighborly relations, a special attention to countries that shares common border and to special needs of landlocked developing countries. It has been very engaged in regional integration approaches in order to capitalize on existing opportunities for cooperation (trade, tourism, investment, and transport). In this perspective, it is supporting the realization of the Trans-Saharan Road as the backbone of further integration of landlocked bordering countries and linking them to the Mediterranean Sea. This road goes from the north of Nigeria, crossing the Sahara with two bifurcations toward Mali and Niger. This important project will foster greater cooperation between all countries located in this part of the African continent. In addition, this road will be complemented, in the future, by another regional project, the "Trans Sahara Gas Pipeline", covering Algeria, Niger and Nigeria, and which objective, once completed, will provide countries within the region prospects of strengthening the regional integration and energy supply.

Algeria is not limiting its effort to the African continent; it is also playing a significant role in strengthening relations between the Arab region and South America. Algeria is hosting the Arab-South American library to promote cultural exchanges between the two regions. It has also initiated, in collaboration with South Africa, Indonesia and Japan, the creation of the Network of University between Asia and Africa as a means to promote development and to reduce poverty through the promotion of science and technology. This initiative aims at strengthening intellectual linkages between the two regions, through the sharing of research, technologies and innovative solutions, in areas such as sustainable water management, renewable energy, empowerment of women in the fields of science and technology, ecosystems, food security and public health.

In the area of humanitarian assistance, Algeria has provided in 2010, food aid of 15,000 metric tons of rice worth \$ 10 million to six (06) African countries seriously affected by drought. In 2014, it has also provided food aid of 6,400 tons of rice to the Philippines, severely affected by the Typhoon Haiyan. Furthermore, Algeria has proceeded, since 2010, to the cancellation of the debt of sixteen (16) African countries which amounts for USD 1.4 billion. These concrete initiatives of mutual aid and solidarity are a cornerstone of Algeria's immediate solidarity towards developing countries, in particular in support of swift economic and social recovery efforts. Algeria will continue to provide support and assistance to poor countries and especially African LDCs. This support may take many forms (financial aid, debt relief, scholarships). I would like to highlight for instance that in terms of support to education, Algeria has provided over 31 0476 scholarships to students from the African continent in different academic specialties and sectors between 2000 and 2015. Algeria will maintain its direct support to developing countries efforts to fight against poverty, food insecurity and disease. Algeria is also committed to continue its support to southern countries through contributions to international and regional development and humanitarian funds and work of UN entities, such as UNDP, WFP, UNEP, IFAD and other international partners (OPEC, IDB, and ICRC). These are some concrete examples of the efforts and contribution of Algeria in order to revitalize, strengthen and expand South-South and triangular cooperation based on the principles of solidarity, mutual benefit, respect for sovereignty, noninterference and complementarity between Southern countries. Algeria intends to forge innovative and inclusive partnerships to launch concrete mechanisms for collaboration, to create appropriate mechanisms for a sustained economic and commercial cooperation between Southern countries, and to achieve the sustainable development goals.

- **H.E. Dr. Hazem Fahmy**, Ambassador, Secretary General of the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), Egypt

The presentation is divided into two parts. Firstly, the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD) will be introduced. Secondly, it will be presented a case study on medical projects which is about the establishment of three centres of excellence, which were opened in various countries with Egyptian support.

EAPD was established in 2014 after the Egyptian return to the African Union. We have been in business for 2 years, even though we had two important funds as predecessors: one with the support of Africa and another one with the support of the Commonwealth of Independent

States. EAPD does four main things: a) organise training programmes for African countries mainly. At the moment, Egypt is developing more than 155 programmes benefiting hundreds; b) provide humanitarian assistance in situations natural disasters or post-conflict situations, in particular, medical facilities, c) dispatch experts, at the moment more than 65 working in various African countries, c) support economic integration between Egypt and African countries. For example, now there is a negotiation for a free African trading block for the whole Africa which might be opening huge opportunities for investment. In this sense, for example, we hosted major conferences bringing together regional blocs which are discussing these trade agreements, including also the private sector. EAPD also organised, for example, an Investment Forum “for Africa, with Africa and within Africa” which was attended by ministries, companies and more than 500 key representatives from the continent.

The case study presented relates with responding the health problems faced by Egypt and all Africa, countries. So this case focuses on how to promote scalable and effective solutions towards health improvements in the region. It’s about the establishment of Centres of Excellence, in the medical field and with a global perspective. For this project, EAPD partner with national medical centres in Egypt. These centres transmit their knowledge to African brothers. For example with “The Magdi Yacoub Heart Foundation”, which is a globally recognised centre specializing in heart transplant, se set up a programme focusing on doing cardiac surgeries. This centre established the biggest heart transplant programme in the world. Now this is based in Egypt and we aim to reach to African countries so they can benefit of these services. The solution this centre implements is based on a particular method which is called “precise genetics”, where you analyse the genes of people and establish a database. It’s going to map genes of Egyptian and African. The programme does three main things with: a) provide training for African doctors, who come and learn with the centre experts who are many and the best from around the world; b) EAPD funds the travelling and take care for the whole training, c) EAPD provides treatment without charge for African patients; d) EAPD buys equipment for African countries considering the centre advise after visiting the country. They advised us what equipment to buy and they trained local doctors in the use of them. For example, this have been successfully undertaking in countries such as Ethiopia, Burundi and West Africa. For example, through this process, it was acquired a catalysis machine with this new machine. Whit this they can treat more people in less time: now they can do 20 operations every day, when before there were only 2 operations per day. EAPD is very proud to be partnering with this centre to provide high-quality health support to many African countries in the area of cardiology.

The second partnership is with “The Mohamed Ghoneim Urology & Nephrology” which is also very recognised. This a world class centre as well and extremely advanced, including providing training courses for European Doctors. EAPD ensures the realisation of training courses directed to African doctors with various batches per year. This is central considering that in many African countries there is no experience in kidney diseases and nephrology at all. The project provides a unique learning opportunity. EAPD also established a centre for dialysis. The same model is used: EAPD bought the best machines to various health centres in Africa and the best Egyptian doctors went to train the local doctors so they can use the new dialysis machines.

The last case is the hospital “The Children’s Cancer Hospital Egypt (57357)”. The largest children cancer hospital in the world and which is totally funded by donations through an amazing network of foundation. They have a brilliant network of fundraisers. Only 7% hospitals are automated, this is one of them. They are healing rate is very high and develop a joint master programme with various universities. The hospital treats patients for free no matter class or country. They have treated so far more than 100 African children for cancer. They also dispatch experts to train in the methodology they use including integrating clinical pharmacy within the curing process; many of them are African hospitals.

These examples related with SDGs 3 and SDGs 4. The point which is important to highlight is that EAPD does not put a lot of resources but it manages to leverage a huge amount of knowledge from the medical centres. Thus, is important to consider the “value for money” of these initiatives. If quantification of the value of knowledge is done, this would millions and millions of dollars. This knowledge now is provided for free. EAPD would be more than happy to be a liaison with these centres and expand this initiative to many more countries that could benefit from them.

- **Mr. Anir Chowdhury**, Policy Advisor, Access to Information, Prime Minister’s Office, Bangladesh

The presentation aims at sharing Bangladesh experience on designing and implementing a project which relates with SDG 16 which is “peace, justice and institutionalisation”. It will be explained how Bangladesh benefited from SSC cooperation, as a beneficiary, and how now the country can share lessons for successes as well as failures faced by the country. To start, it’s important to note the problem that the country’s farmers were facing: around 2000 farmers were suffering a lot from bribery and corruption practices. These practices were in existence in 1930 and basically because one of the normal official procedures was all just recorded in a piece of paper. Today, the government realised that it is possible to use SMS and record the process in an effective way. The government created a system enabling the farmers to use SMS to undertake this procedure: since then there are more people doing it, there is less time wasted and there is no chance to undertake bribery as everything is all duly recorded.

Another experience, which also went to massive, was done with a local institution called “Union Council”. In 3 years we scaled up to more than 400 locations in the country. The main objective is the use of technology to deliver government services as well as banking and other including e-commerce services, for example, passports and voter registration. Another initiative in using technology aims at providing to the citizens with their land titles. In the past this process was extremely slow, now that is done digitally the service is faster, simpler and avoids corruption. What it took at least 7 days, now it takes 10 hours; in fact, this also means a decrease in the overall cost of the procedure. The number of visits have been going up constantly as now there are people who can do this from anywhere in the country without the need to use transport or travel long distance to cities or capitals. It’s all digitalized and with the phones. The government re-named these initiatives as “Service Project Simplification” and is based on private sector good practices in this regard. This is very important for the government also because the civil servants opened up to innovation. It has created an alignment between different offices with a view to produce solutions which are citizens-centred. At the moment we are conducting an evaluation

on this process of digitalising government service delivery. So far with found that from implement around 23 e-services, the government have save billions of dollars. A dashboard was also established to compare service-delivery statistics among different offices and e-government services and it has created a healthy competition with supports further improvements.

This means about reduction of corruption and bribery, which, as mentioned link with SDGs 16. In this sense, for example, the government is also offering an open portal of public access in which provides information to over 3 million people per day. This includes, for example, opening digital centres across the country to provide with access to legal identity information, including birth registration. With digitalisation birth registration is much faster as well as school enrolment. As a consequence, for example, this also brings efficiency in the courts and the justice system.

It's important to mention that the Bangladesh is also implementing an "empathy training" for civil service which is an important learning process. Every civil servant has to feel what is to be in the shoes of a citizen when facing the need to undertake a legal and mandatory procedure. This is a huge which allows for civil servants to unlearn some practices that were jeopardizing efficient service delivery. Further, Bangladesh is also concerned with inclusive participatory decision-making. For this, the government is using social media in all our districts so citizens can publicly post all their opinions, concerns and suggestions related with service delivery and the government can respond to suggestions and issues detected by the citizens. In relation to non-discriminatory laws, the government has revised several procedures in order to ensure that is not discriminating anyone. For this, it is important also to mention that it was created a "SDG tracker" which enables the government to track progress against all SDGs and not only SDG 16 which is the focus on this presentation.

In conclusion, it's important to highlight that is important to link private with the public vision, using all the available technology to ensure effectiveness and efficiency for better citizenships and government control. In this regard, it's vital to sustain extensive partnerships with multiplier effect: to do more SCC to decrease costs, ensuring that we are not wasting time "inventing the wheel". In this sense, it is remarkable that, for example, we learnt from Egypt's experience on digital centres mechanism in Alexandria. From Singapore, we learnt about the "service simplification. From the UK, we learnt about the idea of "empathy" training. From South Korea it came the idea of government data portal, and so on. Now Bangladesh is supporting Bhutan, Maldives and other countries

In conclusion, it is important to mention what we learnt through the process of implementing SCC and triangular cooperation. These are five things: 1) First, there is a need to identify your own country problems, 2) learn what others are doing, 3) customise that to the local context, 4) Scaling up for sustainable impact, 5) Measuring impact of SSTC.

Bangladesh values the idea of creating SSCT Network of Public Agencies which will learn from each other, in order to solve our governance challenges, especially SDG 16. This idea was discussed in a New York session and the country understand this is central for public agencies don't waste time in inventing the wheel and pulling resources together for better governance solutions. Bangladesh opens an invitation to everyone to join this discussion and form this network.

- **Mr. Jaime A. Garron Bozo**, Programme Manager, Ibero-American Programme for Strengthening South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS)

The Ibero-American Programme for Strengthening South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS) is currently hosted by the El Salvador, and includes 20 countries from Latino America and it's been operational since 2010 out of a political mandate discussed in 2007 and approved in 2008. The programme focuses in capacity building, documenting and recording, analysing, generating knowledge on SCC. IT also develops methodologies and is the main liaison with strategic actors like those attending this forum.

SSC is not new development but what it is new is the momentum being experienced in the last 15 years. This is true particularly in the Latino America, where we have seen the success of many public policies linked with a more stable macro-economic context. Also triangular cooperation is a phenomenon which has scaled up in many ways. For example, the activities and projects recorded by the Iberoamérica report (last one); it's noticeable that it has increased by 6 times. Furthermore, the projects which are generated by demand more and more. Before, there were more projects driven by suppliers. This is changing and we are glad to this this change.

The focus of this presentation is a management guide for implementing triangular cooperation. This tool was developed based on a very interesting horizontal exercise involving joint discussions among and with all 20 countries of the region over the last four years. It started with a workshop in a Dominican Republic and followed by several other meetings. The management guide includes develop practices, principles, criteria on how to best manage triangular cooperation. IN 2015 was published.

The main motivation is to ensure common criteria for triangular cooperation management. This is necessary because there are at least three parties involved and, therefore, many institutions interlinking in complex operations –at least 6 parties involves including ministries, embassies, civil society, etc. Therefore, it's vital to have common criteria. It was also the need to promote leadership for the receipting partner. This guide gives lots of details. Another motivation is explaining how to scale up successful SSC and triangular cooperation and, finally, it shows case the added value of SCC. The principles (5) and criteria (16) identified are: mutual accountability, efficacy and efficiency, horizontality, mutual benefit, recipients' leadership, resource driven management, adaptability, consensus building, and visibility of all stakeholders, among others. The guide can be downloaded from the PIFCSS website. The guide is very detailed on how to improve management: for each cycle we develop practices recommended. For examples in the designing and implementation phase, there are various tools and approaches recommended for implementation. Finally, it is remarkable that this is a referential framework built in country-experiences and considering the heterogeneous policy environment which is useful for Iberoamerica and beyond.

## VI. Q & A Session Three

- **Question one, Mr. Amr Soliman, Chair, Environment Committee, National Council for Women, Egypt:** “My question goes to Bangladesh. I think the country is an example for all developing countries. My question is in relation to how did you manage to work against all the people who were making lots of money out of bribery?”
- **Question two, H.E. Mr. Bernard Ntahiraja, Ambassador, Director General for Africa, Asia and Oceania, Ministry of External Relations and International Cooperation, Burundi:** “I would like to highlight the presentation related to Africa: I appreciate the SSC because both Algeria and Egypt are playing a big role in Burundi in health, education, environment. You all highlighted the issue of respect of sovereignty... what you can say to some of countries in relation to this topic of respect of sovereignty considering the Bandung Conference? And for the representative of Egypt: Burundi benefits of training... how you can train us in various fields?”
- **Question Three, Mr. MD Ashadul Islam, Director General, NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister’s Office, Bangladesh:** “My question goes to Egypt: in your presentation you said that it increases 6 times (is it SCC cooperation or also triangular)? It was also mentioned the role of various hospitals and how you train other African countries...but if we don’t invest in public health services then SDG health goal is going to be unmet. How do you see investment in public system nationally and going beyond training?”
- **Question Four, H.E. Mr. Musa Kulaklıkaya, Ambassador, Director General, Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC):** “I would like to congratulate Egypt for establishing national development agency. We sign a MoU with Africa and in Egypt, back then, there were no agency. This is a very important achievement. I would like to invite Egyptian colleagues to support efforts to establish networking systems and establishing programmes with the OIC. I respect the efforts of Algeria to support northern Africa and also invite to join OIC work more proactively”.
- **Question Five, Mr. Alejandro Gamboa, General Director, Colombian Presidential Agency of International Cooperation (APC-Colombia):** “I would like to congratulate everyone. I would like to ask Egypt about sustainability. Your project requires a sustainable approach, how can Egypt continues this project considering the economic pressure and financial constraints?”
- **Question Six, Ms. Michiko Umezaki, Chief Advisor of “Capacity Development Project for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (CADEP)” in Indonesia, JICA:** “Congratulations to everyone. Egypt presented a very interesting case study as it provides equipment and facilities, it’s not only knowledge sharing. Do you have any special consideration on how best to do this: for example, selection of equipment, who to donate to; how you do the consultation projects with the partners in order to do this effectively?”
- **Question Seventh, Mr. Hakam El ASRI, Executive Director, ATOUTSUD, France:** “I would like to ask what criteria is possible to be used to make sure that the government becomes a sort of mediator to make sure that the knowledge of professional sector is linked with the society”.

- **Question eight, Mr. Murilo Vieira Komniski, Advisor to the Director, Brazilian Cooperation Agency, Ministry of External Relations, Brazil:** “The issue of sovereignty together with solidarity and the drive for SSC is something that Brazil has been championing for some time. What happens with sovereignty when it’s triangular cooperation and there is an owner of the money that makes more difficult to promote horizontality and solidarity? So how to ensure that you ensure horizontal common equal basis in all your projects?”

## - Answers

- ✓ **Algeria:** “Firstly, let me remind you that the Brazilian, Algerian and many other country members that we call the “third-world countries” in the 70 and 90’... there were a move in which we became a member of SSC as emerging donors. Now SSC is now part of our programmes and joint work: what is different of us is that it’s based in solidarity. But it’s true that sometimes that is Northern countries needs to provide support as they have the resources and they determine the priorities of the countries and how to help us. So these procedures are not a way of not respecting of national sovereignty. We have alternatives: the Southern countries as new donors are able to understand cooperation as we share the same problems. The fact that SCC has other principles is central, in particular, mutual accountability, non- interference and respect of national sovereignty. We are an African country and we also call ourselves an Arab country. This double affiliation generates our identity and it becomes a source for mutual support. We are member of the OIC. We are aware of OIC challenges and we are here to support the OIC by helping. Whatever decision you made, we will be with you”.
- ✓ **Egypt:** “We try to be as demand-driven as possible. With the triangular cooperation is much trickier, even we work mainly with JICA. It takes a long time to adapt, to see if the demand fits with their objectives. Triangular should be more effective in responding to national needs. Investment in public health is key: we make sure that what we invest is part of a public policy framework. We have a partnership with the Islamic Development Bank and they support some of our trainings and other activities. We would be more than happy to do more work with OIC, including mapping for us to offer our expertise to OIC members. Sustainability means that that we invest resources in the centres but the knowledge -which is very expensive- is for free being. Knowledge is being transferred by almost nothing. The drive from this centre is the main way to ensure sustainability. One area that is important is that they are a centre of data, all the research they do is also offered to the partners so they are also benefiting. On the equipment side, the doctors know what is necessary to buy as equipment. In each case and they also provide advise on how to do the maintainance and train people in the use of them. In relation to sovereignty: we try to do things with a demand driven approach as much as possible”.
- ✓ **Bangladesh:** “Corruption is a complex issue. We see a dramatic difference within the bureaucracy. It’s important the empathy training and dashboards to create public accountability. So all these tools have really helped. There was a sense of competition with the awards and this created a sense of positive competition which helped creating cultural change. The vested groups found alternatives sources of income. We worked very closely with these groups so they can also change practices. We have brochures

to help understanding the journey. In relation to tools: what is transferrable is the approach; the governance problem is that today is key the demand for information from the governments. So we need to redesign the government and our role. We find that the approaches from North and South are quite transferrable. It's possible to adapt even is not easy".

- ✓ **PIFCSS:** "Triangular cooperation was included as part of the increase in overall budget presented. One is the success of development success is how to do things: we are now suppliers of knowledge and not only recipients".

## VII. FINAL SESSION FOR UN AGENCIES

<b>12.30 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.</b>	<p><b>Session for the UN Agencies</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Katrin Taylor, South-South Cooperation Officer, FAO</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Peter Rademaker, Head of the Resource Mobilisation Unit (PARDEV-DPRU), Partnerships Department, ILO</li> <li>• Mr. Weixi Gong, Senior Coordinator for South-South and Triangular Industrial Cooperation, UNIDO</li> <li>• Mr. Nabil Gangi, Deputy Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</li> <li>• Ms. Carola Kenngott, Focal point on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Programme and Innovation Division, WFP</li> </ul>
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- **Ms. Yan JIA**, Program Policy Officer for SSC & Trilateral Cooperation, WFP China Office

WFP China Office is facilitating South-South partnerships towards zero hunger with Zimbabwe. The past three decades witnessed a significant economic transformation, remarkable progress in poverty reduction and social development in China. For dozens of years, China has also adopted a series of measures to address international food security through its foreign aid to foster South-South cooperation through various channels, including public and private foreign direct investments, knowledge-sharing, and direct bilateral and multilateral assistance. Recognizing the tremendous achievements and the importance of sharing China's experience on poverty alleviation and food security with other countries, and encouraged by Chinese leaders' commitments to fight hunger both at home and abroad, WFP and China signed an agreement in March 2016 to strengthen their partnership towards ending global hunger. The WFP China Office

will serve as a WFP Centre of Excellence to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation by sharing China's experience in food security, nutrition with other developing countries pursuant to Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17.

Three interventions on capacity building will be focused: a) expert advice and policy support to governments on food security and nutrition issues; b) knowledge sharing through study tours, training and technology transfers, on-line exchange platforms and others; and c) fostering leadership among a new generation of smallholder farmers. In 2016, WFP COE in China has successfully facilitated a policy dialogue for strengthening partnership. Based on this positive experience, a trilateral cooperation between China, Zimbabwe and WFP is underway, and concrete collaborative efforts on food security and hunger eradication in Zimbabwe are expected to be concretized. In the case of Zimbabwe, focused support is needed to help smallholders in Zimbabwe to make efficiency gains, engage in more sustainable practices and integrate into commercial value-chains. In order to explore triangular cooperation opportunity, a WFP-facilitated visit to China was organized in June this year targeting at policymakers and senior government officials for experiential learning and policy engagement. They were connected with Chinese decision-makers to understand how China fosters the policy and institutional environments in the advancement of hunger elimination. China's innovation and development experience, as well as capacity on project execution from central government to local authorities were also shared on this visit with Zimbabwe. As a result of the aforementioned guided tour in June, a Ministerial Visit from Zimbabwe to China was scheduled to take place this November to substantialize our collaborative efforts on food security and hunger eradication in Zimbabwe through SSC engagement. Looking forward, WFP Centre of Excellence in China will further facilitate the development of policy dialogues and research, new cooperative platforms and partnerships, carry out technical training, deploy experts, foster leadership among smallholder farmers, and implement other activities towards the goal of Zero Hunger.

The design and execution of SSC activities will be based on evolving needs and requests. Proposed activities would be: First, providing advice and consultations at policy level to support other developing countries to improve food security and nutrition situations through policy dialogue, high level visit and roundtable meetings. Second, Knowledge sharing at institutional level to enhance the capacity on harvest loss reduction, food processing and storage management, and rural livelihood improvement, value chain integrated development and poverty alleviation for small farm households. Besides, an On-line exchange platform will be established to showcase the successful experience of Chinese farmers in the process of rural development, providing information on pragmatic technologies affordable and applicable for small holders; and activate a platform for demand and supply interaction. Third, provide technical support at grass roots level to foster new generation farmer leadership through in-field technical demonstration, including Demonstration in Africa by Africans and similar activities in other countries. In conclusion, an inclusive partnership will be sought to conduct SSC and make sure a success of China COE operation. Supporting South-South cooperation also offers a key opportunity for the wider UN system and international community to combine our strengths and capacities in facilitating horizontal cooperation and to complement each other's efforts. We will further strengthen the collaboration with FAO and IFAD to fulfil our common commitment in facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation, building on each other's strengths to eliminate poverty and achieve zero hunger.

- **Mr. Nabil Gangi**, Deputy Regional Representative for the Near East and North Africa at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

SDG 2 is one of the most important goals FAO focus on but, of course, this interrelates with many others. It is known that SCC is important, however, with OED figures going record low that means that countries in the South must be supporting each other more than ever before. Beyond the rhetoric and since the Conference of Buenos Aires, FAO in the last 20 years has been working in more than 80 Southern countries and with more than 2000 experts who are on those spots sharing experience and expertise, developing SSC projects. A new initiative started during the Milan Expo, with hundreds of majors present: then FAO highlighted that most population are going to be living in urban centres –at least more than two thirds- so we needed to focus how to decrease poverty in cities. Accordingly, and following the Milan Pact and the major meetings in Rome, more than 50 majors decided to something about. They decided how to how to work together city to city.

The pilot phase started in 2016 and so far have been involved various cities working in diverse topics from urban gardening to education. The city-to-city cooperation starts with needs identification (city A) and then link with City B (provider of good practice). FAO is facilitating the match making needs and identified best exchange modalities. The second phase, after documenting the lessons learnt, will be at partnering with other cities to support this initiative over the next decade. It's hoped that many of representatives attending this forum can become future partners as SSC partners. Working from city-to-city it will become more and more important over time.

- **Mr. Weixi Gong**, Senior Coordinator for South-South and Triangular Industrial Cooperation, UNIDO

To start, a one simple question is shared with the participants: who does not know what is UNIDO? 100% participants know UNIDO. This is the United Nations organisation promoting industrial development. UNIDO deals are the leading agency dealing SDG 9: infrastructure, industry and innovation. The most important factor to remark is that there is no one single country in the world which has become high income country without industrialisation. It is not possible to promote growth and development if there is not highly effective process industrialisation, in particular, if countries need to move from low income to high-income. If there is an intention to increase income, then is necessary industrialisation. Therefore, there is a need for an organisation like UNIDO. Since 1971 there is a lot of talk a lot of SCC, now it's about how to doing it better and measure it so it is really feasible to measure how each member states links SCC with the SDGs on internal growth and development. In this regard, it's important to note that we need to be even more demand driven and help upscaling and measuring on how much SSC is doing and achieving. UNIDO has developed an operational strategy for SCC focusing on upscaling and reporting. UNIDO links with national development strategies and with excellence provides services for industrialisation based on true partnership. Please, utilise UNIDO services!

- **Mr. Peter Rademaker**, Head of the Resource Mobilisation Unit (PARDEV-DPRU), Partnerships Department, ILO

ILO focuses on SDG 8 which is decent work, however, as everyone remarked it interlinks with many others. The UN must work closer together with countries and organizations; ILO plays a part in this also integrating action with the private sector. However, it's notable that there are no CEOs of the private sector in this meeting. Neither there are representatives from the trade unions. This is central to reconsider in the future in order to have an integral strategy towards development. Also, there were a lot said about "being demand driven". ILO is available to listen what each country needs.

ILO incorporates a South-South and Triangular Cooperation perspective across its work. Examples of relevant ILO initiatives in support to achieving the 2030 Agenda are, for example: The ILO Academy on SSTC (Turin, Italy, June 2016) to discuss how the Decent Work Agenda with a SSTC perspective contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. Seven consecutive editions of the Social and Solidarity Economy Academy (Italy, Canada, Morocco, Brazil, South Africa, Mexico and Costa Rica), with a strong focus on the SSTC.

The Social and Solidarity Economy has been increasingly recognized as a very significant approach for promoting Local Economic Development and implementing the 2030 Agenda in the local level. The ILO has pioneered the concept of Fragile-to-Fragile cooperation (SSTC among Fragile countries) in partnership with the G7+ Group, including the topic of natural disaster risk prevention and management. ILO further supports City-to-City cooperation with a focus on Local Economic Development and cooperatives as mechanisms for achieving the SDGs. ILO has been directly fostering many SSTC projects across regions, focusing often on youth employment, green jobs, skills development, social protection, social dialogue and the eradication of child and forced labor. From ILO's side, learning from the debates at the GSSD Expo 2015, ILO see a number of important steps: a) need to further strengthen the cooperation among UN agencies to make sure actions are complementary and exploit synergies. The ILO stands ready to engage on this under the leadership of the UNOSSC; b) need to move beyond mentioning the private sector to really engaging them. The real private sector, the World of Work as ILO would call it, is largely absent from our audience today. At the same time, they are major drivers of SSTC. The ILO is the only UN Agency where the Member States are represented not just by their Governments but where the Employers and Enterprises as well as the Workers through Trade Unions have an equal voice. ILO will be happy to engage with other UN agencies and national development cooperation agencies to really reach out to those actors of the real economy. It is easy to say that we are 'demand driven'; it is a lot harder to do. UN agencies such as the ILO exist to serve their Member States. ILO will continue to put technical expertise and resources at the service of our constituents".

## VIII. Closing Remarks

- **Mr. Jorge Chediek**, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Again, thank you very much because here we are all committed to the cause of SSC. I think that SCC is cause (and more than a modality). This is because what we witnessed here, we reach the conclusion that SCC is more than a modality. It's an instrument with a profound content and directly link with the SDGs. SCC also has a moral dimension: for example, the dimension of solidarity which is sharing among those countries which, sometimes, don't have that much to share. So overall, it is important to recognise your effort to build a better world and my gratitude for this to all of you.

UNOSSC will make a strong effort on how to continue in the implementation of the ideas that were discussed and shared here. UNOSSC value the feedback we get from you, including with some initial conversation with Japan.

I want to finalise by saying that we wanted to close with a participant of the group of the process to given the final worlds. Alejandro Gamboa will have the last word because; it was presented a book which was a joint effort with APC in systematizing these 16 experiences giving us a hope also in the area of peacebuilding. Yesterday, Alejandro Gamboa gave us the dove of peace and as Colombia is making a last effort to put an end to a bloody process, costing a lot of lives. I wanted to have the voice of Colombia as a voice of peace, solidarity and creating a better world through South- South Cooperation. UNOSSC is at your disposal to help all of you.

- **Alejandro Gamboa**, APC, Colombia, speaking on behalf of Forum participants

I would like to deliver a summary of our discussions prepared by the Secretariat of the DG Forum. The participants noted that the DG Forum is an open Forum for all UN Member States and development partners where they can discuss South-South and triangular cooperation openly and without obligation.

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are important modalities towards our achievement of the 2030 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is therefore important to continue upgrading the policy frameworks, to step up capacity development and to develop tools that make South-South and triangular cooperation even better modalities for achieving the 2030 Agenda, even during periods of economic downturn and fiscal stress, as those faced recently by many of our countries.

The participants recognized the various efforts made by countries, inter-governmental organizations and support from UN agencies, other multilateral organizations and think tanks to strengthen South-South and triangular cooperation and noted that their presentation in the Forum is neither an endorsement nor embrace of the procedures; however, such efforts are helping exchanges of knowledge among development institutions. The participants noted that the scope of application of South-South cooperation continues growing as exemplified

by experiences in peacebuilding and public services delivery to mention a few. Participants noted that South-South and triangular cooperation should support innovation for scaling up development solutions, with clear focus on solving development bottlenecks and simplifying processes for development cooperation, through effective knowledge sharing. In this sense, value added knowledge sharing is critical, and a lot of work at the methodological and technical level needs to be done.

The participants commended the work undertaken by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, the Government of Japan, JICA and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) in implementing a programme for capacity development in the management of South-South and triangular cooperation. The participants noted that due to the demand for the capacity building through training and knowledge exchanges, it is recommended that these partners, as well as any other willing countries, like my country, Colombia, continue to collaborate under a new phase of the Capacity Development project which was first called for by this Forum in 2008. The Forum recognized the efforts of other partners including the UN agencies and commissions in supporting member states and urged them to scale up their efforts under the ownership and leadership of national institutions.

The Forum took note that the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) + 40, a 40-year anniversary commemoration of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action of 1978, should be a tool to review and recommend forward progress on outstanding South-South and triangular cooperation issues. In my own capacity as Director General for APC Colombia, I would also like to pledge our support for a future partnership with the United Nations Office for South-South cooperation and other interested partners in supporting peace building initiatives, through the effective exchange of initiatives and practical experiences, like those documented by experts from the South and showcased during the peace-building session organized yesterday in the afternoon here in this Expo. We thank the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and JICA for co-organizing the DG Forum and commend that the Directors General Forum should continue as a complementary arm for all efforts of exchanging knowledge on improving the management of South-South cooperation.





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