

UNFSSC
UN FUND FOR SOUTH SOUTH COOPERATION

United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation

Results report 2020-2021

Results achieved with our partners



UNOSSC



DECADE OF >>> ACTION

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About this report

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

The report presents the accomplishments of the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) through its projects, initiatives and dedicated facilities in 2020 and 2021. It serves as the progress report on the Fund, ensuring transparent and accountable reporting on resources contributed and results achieved with UNFSSC financial support.

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FOREWORD

Adel Abdellatif

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



The years 2020 and 2021 were defined by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, corollary health crises and devastating socioeconomic ripple effects, especially in the countries of the Global South, further threatening the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this challenging landscape, an upswing in South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships enabled countries of the Global South to better tackle the crises that unfolded, from gaining access to urgently needed medications, vaccines and medical supplies, to expanding social protection floors, or support to small business' rapid digitalization, to planning for long-term recovery efforts.

The United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) – as the main UN trust fund for promoting and supporting South-South and triangular cooperation – mobilized and strategically allocated resources to contribute to a range of pandemic responses. It also continued its support to overall progress towards Agenda 2030.

UNFSSC project activities ranged from facilitating city-to-city connections and knowledge exchanges and the deployment of a donation of 2.45 million masks through the Cities Project of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC); to harnessing high-level events such as the South-South Cooperation Directors General Forum for Sustainable Development for peer learning and capacity development among practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation to address the COVID-19 crisis; to contributing to the growing body of evidence and knowledge on issues pertinent to South-South cooperation during the pandemic through the South-South Global Thinkers initiative; and offering fellowships for COVID-19-related research through the Youth4South Programme.

Furthermore, the UNFSSC-supported knowledge-sharing and partnership-brokering platform, South-South Galaxy, has provided opportunities for developing countries to connect, learn and collaborate with potential partners, including on COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. A number of COVID-19-related South-South good practices have been codified and added to this global repository. A range of virtual knowledge-sharing events and workshops on thematic priorities were also held via South-South Galaxy in collaboration with UN agencies and development partners.

In 2020 and 2021, UNOSSC further strengthened and utilized UNFSSC to better respond to the demands of Member States and partners. It used the Fund as a key framework to mobilize resources in achieving the planned results of the Office, in alignment with its Strategic Framework.

Building on the achievements made to date and lessons learned, UNOSSC will continue its efforts to further strengthen and utilize UNFSSC together with Member States and United Nations agencies to engage partners and pool resources to better contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and BAPA+40 recommendations while responding to the challenges and overcoming the setbacks posed by COVID-19. In accordance with the UNOSSC strategic framework, 2022–2025, UNFSSC will contribute to the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development, 2020–2024, and its action plan.

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

Achim Steiner

Administrator, United Nations
Development Programme



It is critical to advance South-South and triangular cooperation to find ways to help countries build back better from the pandemic while accelerating progress on the SDGs. The United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) has been highly responsive in mobilizing and distributing funds to support collective efforts of the Global South in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, translating urgent demand into action. Building upon the achievements we have made so far, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will continue to work closely with UNOSSC to fully harness the potential of UNFSSC, toward the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the BAPA+40 recommendations.

H.E. María del Carmen Squeff

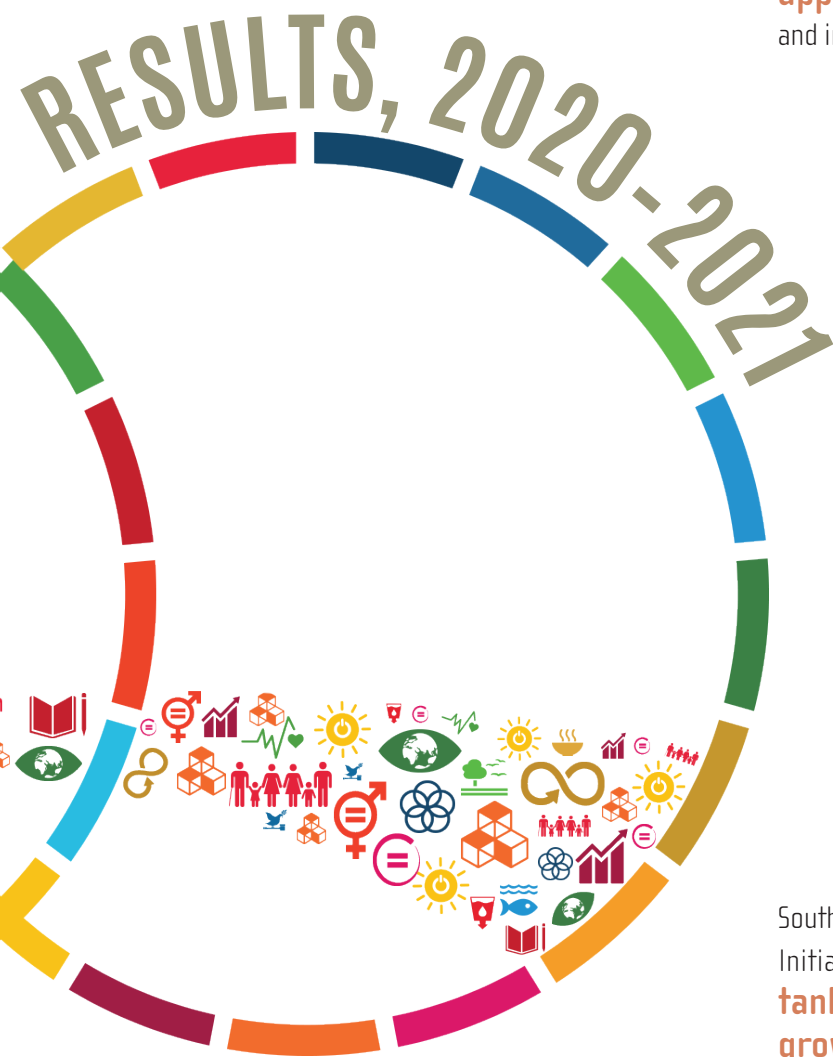
Permanent Representative of the Argentina to the
United Nations and President of the High-level
Committee on South-South Cooperation



South-South cooperation is even more significant owing to the heightened need for solidarity, multilateralism, partnerships and regional cooperation in COVID-19 response and recovery, as well as climate change. The United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC) has demonstrated very important results in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation. We would like to express our congratulations on the results achieved through UNFSSC so far and encourage United Nations Member States in a position to do so to partner with the Fund.

Pre-launch of the hybrid (virtual and in-person) **Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) 2022** on harnessing South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable COVID-19 recovery.

14 countries from the Asia-Pacific region received **capacity-building support on electron beam applications** in agriculture and industrial sectors.



Scope of support to South-South and triangular cooperation expanded through **connecting cities in the Global South to advance implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by leveraging the opportunities and resources offered by the Belt and Road Initiative.

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

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

ABOUT UNFSSC

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

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

RATIONALE FOR FURTHER ADVANCING UNFSSC



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



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



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



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



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

UNFSSC GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

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

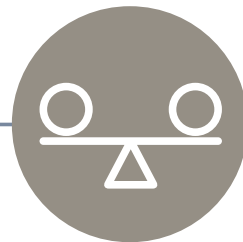
South-South cooperation is, above all, based on the principle of solidarity.



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



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



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



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



South-South cooperation benefits all partners engaged.



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



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



RESULTS OF UNFSSC PROJECTS, 2020-2021



Supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, youth in Paraguay take action to prevent sexual abuse.

KNOWLEDGE-SHARING AND PARTNERSHIP-BROKERING THROUGH A GLOBAL DIGITAL PLATFORM

In 2019, UNOSSC, along with its development partners, established a global, digital, interactive knowledge-sharing and partnership-brokering platform, South-South Galaxy, to respond more systematically and effectively in supporting developing countries' demand to connect, learn and collaborate with potential partners to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through South-South cooperation. The platform complements, rather than substitutes for or duplicates, existing national and regional institutional arrangements. Its development was based on consultations with over 15 United Nations entities.

Powered by artificial intelligence, the platform can help to better “learn” about the interests and behaviours of the users of the platform in order to provide the most relevant content, data and solutions so as to enhance user experience. Its objective is to lower a significant barrier to entry that many partners of the South currently face in accessing a reliable, diverse range of knowledge, information and partners.

In 2021, South-South Galaxy was rolled out and training was provided to all UNOSSC regional offices and partners so that they could serve as the regional focal points to promote the Galaxy with UN regional commissions, hubs, UN country office teams, governments and other development partners.

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

One-stop shop to communicate, connect and share solutions

South-South Galaxy is increasingly serving as a one-stop shop for all partners to communicate and share solutions to address common challenges and serve as a matchmaker by connecting solution providers and seekers. Southern countries and other interested development partners can locate concrete good practices, share their knowledge and initiatives, collaborate with potential partners digitally and explore funding opportunities. By the end of 2021, over 800 solutions had been shared to the platform by partners, with a growing number of monthly visitors accessing the online platform. Beyond the user-generated solutions, South-South Galaxy offers the most direct search function to access all relevant digital repositories of good practices and innovative solutions in South-South and triangular cooperation for the achievement of the SDGs ●

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

416+ institutions including 140 government agencies; 72 UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies and Country Offices, and 150 development partners were registered at the end of 2021.

A steadily expanding database of good practices with over **800** development solutions contributed by partners.

Facilitated knowledge exchange with partners, including spotlighting South-South cooperation in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

Multi-stakeholder engagement

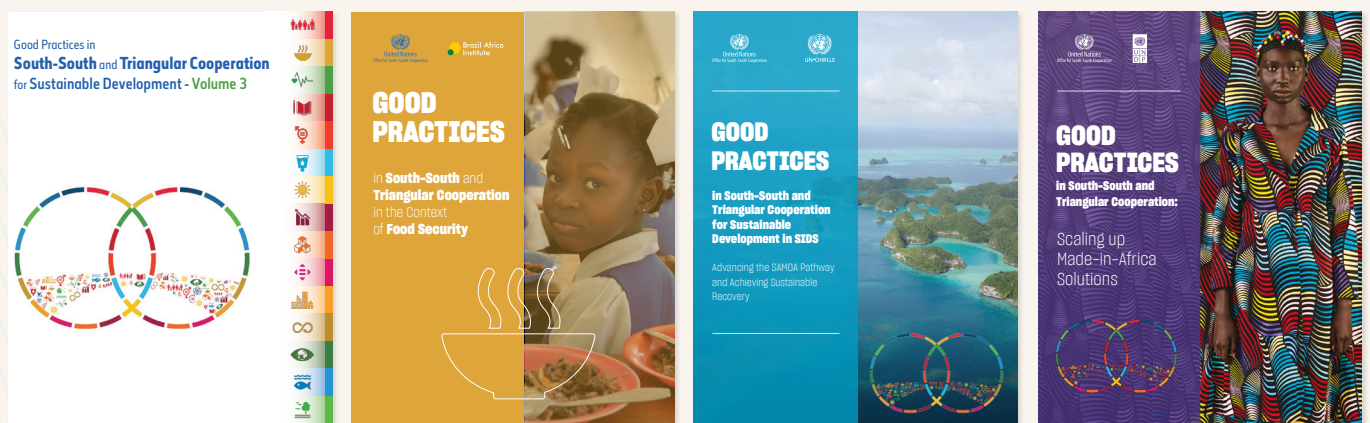
South-South Galaxy has made significant strides in growing the South-South community; fostering knowledge exchanges, learning and opportunities for collaboration; and showcasing concerted South-South and triangular cooperation efforts towards achieving the SDGs. As of December 2021, over 416 organizations had institutionally registered on the Galaxy; they comprised governments, United Nations entities, the private sector, think tanks, academia, international financial institutions/development banks, regional/intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs) and foundations that are actively contributing to the platform, enabling them to connect with one another directly, making it easier to build partnerships digitally.

In 2021, South-South Galaxy was rolled out and training was provided to regional partners in collaboration with UNOSSC regional offices so they can serve as the regional focal points to promote the galaxy with UN regional commissions, hubs, UN Country Office Teams, governments and other development partners.

The South-South Galaxy good practices database is steadily expanding to feature many more innovative initiatives from the Global South that have led to the cross-country transfer of knowledge and experience. Thematic and special editions of publications were produced including volume 3 of *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development*; *Good Practices in South-South and*

Triangular Cooperation in the Context of Food Security; *Sustainable Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development in SIDS: Advancing SAMOA Pathway and Achieving Sustainable Recovery*; *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Scaling Up Made-in-Africa Solutions*; and *Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goal on Good Health and Well-being*. Good practices and knowledge on South-South and triangular cooperation have been actively disseminated through various channels.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, a range of virtual knowledge-sharing events and workshops on thematic priorities were held successfully via South-South Galaxy in collaboration with UN agencies and development partners. South-South Galaxy also hosted major initiatives such as the COVID-19 Digital Innovation Challenge on the platform. The Challenge was launched by UNOSSC in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to identify Southern innovative digital solutions that could be scaled up to enable countries, societies, communities, institutions and individuals of the Global South to deal with the cascading effects of the pandemic. South-South Galaxy is also hosting a virtual exhibition space that was launched in November 2021 for the eleventh Global South-South Development Expo to enable partners to showcase their work and successful development solutions and initiatives on South-South and triangular cooperation ●



Thematic and special editions of good practices publications were produced in 2020 and 2021.

Making the exchange of South-South solutions more horizontal

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

Given the interactive nature of South-South Galaxy, the organizations are connecting and collaborating with one another through peer learning, replication of good practices, joint research and learning from experiences. Over 40 partnerships were facilitated through the Galaxy during the period under review. For example, the Governments of Bangladesh and Ghana connected to share experiences of developing e-government services; the Government of Colombia (Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia) connected with the World Food Programme

(WFP) to learn about COVID-19-related food security projects. The platform also connected over 90 city-level institutions from the Global South to engage on the platform and facilitate dialogues on selected thematic clusters.

UN entities such as the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, under its initiative titled Promoting South-South Cooperation in Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism, uses South-South Galaxy as a platform for an online network of Southern experts and stakeholders for voluntary knowledge exchange and learning to promote cooperation in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

South-South Galaxy will be serving as an e-facility for South-South cooperation for the partners to enable cross-border cooperation. It currently houses the Virtual Secretariat for the Group of Seven Plus (g7+) Parliamentary Assembly, bringing 20 parliaments to provide support to one another in matters relating to peace, resilience and development ●

👉 Lessons learned

- Establishing a dynamic, demand-driven digital knowledge-sharing system for different stakeholders is impactful in improving South-South cooperation. It is important to tailor the approach to knowledge-sharing, especially within regional, interregional and subregional organizations.
- Partnership-building is one of the most valuable means of sharing information. The sharing of institutional knowledge by two or more organizations can spur innovation and create greater impact through complementing one another's efforts.

➡ Way forward

- South-South Galaxy will continue to develop the currently used engagement modalities and foster engagement and collaboration with existing and new partners within the United Nations system and beyond by:

- a. continuing to map, document and disseminate good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation to enable South-South knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and technology development and transfer, including from trust funds managed by UNOSSC; and
- b. identifying and brokering knowledge, capacity and technology needs across the South, including through the UNOSSC-managed trust funds, on a demand-driven basis.



SHOWCASING DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS

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

The GSSD Expo celebrates South-South and triangular cooperation successes, shares knowledge and lessons learned, and explores new avenues for col-

laboration while contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In November 2021, the pre-launch of the GSSD Expo 2022 was announced. The GSSD Expo 2022 will focus on the overarching theme of “Advancing South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable COVID-19 recovery: towards a smart and resilient future”.

The GSSD Expo 2022, designed to showcase evidence-based successful development solutions and initiatives, will be co-hosted by the Government of Thailand and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in September in Bangkok, Thailand ●

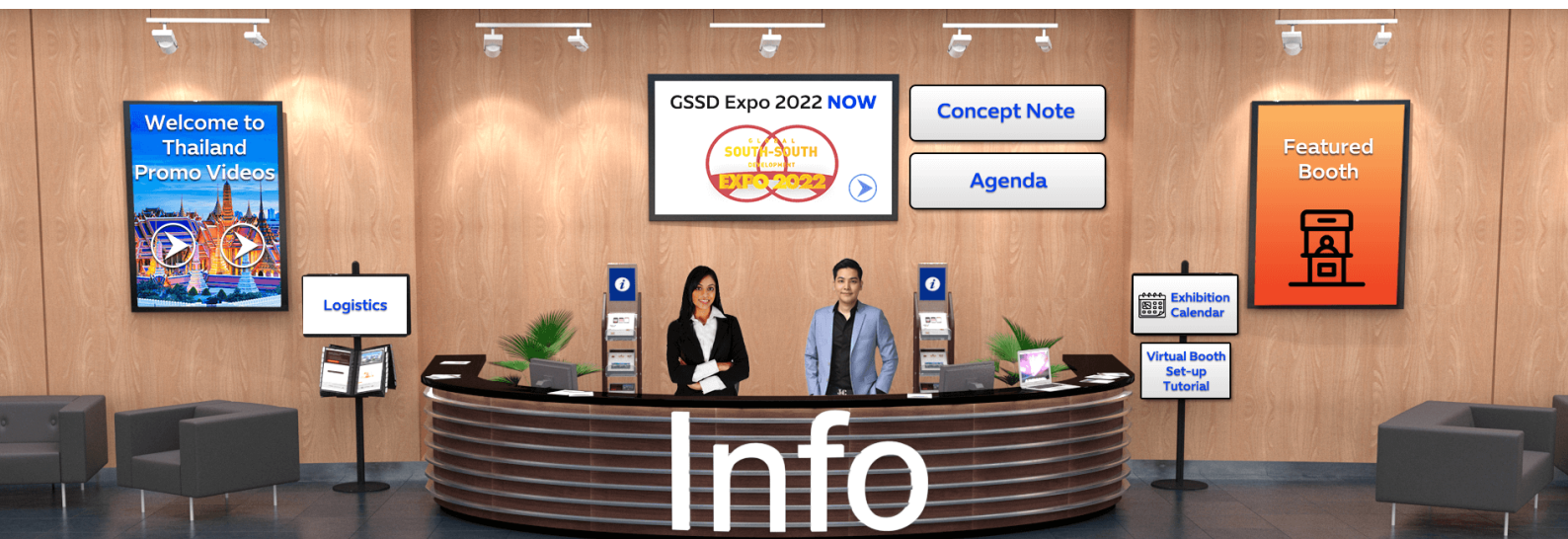
RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

Pre-launch of the eleventh GSSD Expo with its overarching theme of “Advancing South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable COVID-19 recovery: towards a smart and resilient future.”

First Expo to offer hybrid (virtual and in person) participation and engagement through leveraging digital technologies.

Virtual exhibition set up on the South-South Galaxy platform will enable all Member States, UN agencies and institutions to showcase their South-South and triangular cooperation solutions and initiatives online.

A virtual exhibition platform was launched to showcase South-South and triangular cooperation good practices and initiatives.



The Expo aims to:

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

A virtual (3D animated) exhibition platform has been launched to showcase South-South and triangular cooperation good practices as well as the latest initiatives by partners, making this the first Expo to offer hybrid participation and engagement leveraging digital technologies. Over 35 virtual booths have been set up on the South-South Galaxy platform in partnership with

different UN agencies, Government agencies and other partners.

This virtual exhibition will enable all Member States, UN agencies and institutions to showcase their South-South and triangular cooperation solutions and initiatives online, with the aim of promoting knowledge exchanges and partnerships ●

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👉 Lessons learned

- Existing digital platforms and technology can be effectively harnessed to organize and plan activities for the GSSD Expo 2022 in tackling the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through hybrid participation and engagement, the GSSD Expo can ensure global participation by representatives of local government agencies, the private sector, national experts and civil society together with Member States and multilateral institutions to make the thematic discussions and knowledge exchanges more substantive and lead to meaningful South-South and triangular cooperation and partnership-building.
- Effective engagement and participation of young experts and young entrepreneurs from the developing countries in the GSSD Expo to share their initiatives and good practices can empower and provide them with innovative, concrete opportunities for access to potential knowledge, solutions and financing.

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👉 Way forward

- The GSSD Expo will be designed as a package of integrated services – along with the South-South Cooperation Directors General Forum for Sustainable Development and Regional Mechanisms, South-South Galaxy and the Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for South-South Cooperation – for Member States to share lessons learned on developing and/or enhancing national institutional mechanisms, strategies and ecosystems for South-South cooperation.
- A range of hybrid activities are planned through 2022 leading up to the Expo in coordination with the host Government and other partners. Pilot initiatives generated by the Solutions Lab at the Expo will be launched and the physical exhibition will be organized in Bangkok in September 2022.

A HIGH-LEVEL FORUM FOR ADVANCING SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

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

Taking stock of South-South and triangular cooperation since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

The twelfth annual DG Forum, held online from 17 to 19 March 2021, was the first DG Forum to take place in the context of the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The overarching theme of the Forum was “trends, opportunities and challenges on the path to sustainable development: strengthening South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in the COVID-19 context”.

The Forum provided specific recommendations on how to move forward the South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation agenda for sustainable development through actionable and results-oriented solutions, particularly in the context of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and how to strengthen the institutionalization of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation for effective implementation of the recommendations in the outcome document of the second High-level United

Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40).

The DG Forum provided an opportunity for development cooperation practitioners to dialogue on how South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation had performed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Building on the outcomes of the 2019 DG Forum, during which extensive discussions had been held on the importance of stronger institutional arrangements – or national ecosystems – for South-South and triangular cooperation, the event provided an opportunity to assess progress towards implementing the BAPA+40 outcome document recommendations and exchange views on ways and approaches to strengthen South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, taking into consideration the new trends and opportunities as well as evolving challenges that development cooperation might face in the medium to long term ●

👉 Lesson learned

- The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated that South-South cooperation is instrumental in building resilience and facilitating the development and implementation of key solutions to overcome severe crises. The 2021 DG Forum provided many specific examples of lessons learned by Southern countries addressing those crises. High-level events such as the DG Forum serve as important platforms for peer learning, capacity development and partnership mobilization.

➡ Way forward

- The co-organizers of the DG Forum and attendees are encouraged to start initiatives and activities for the implementation of the recommendations of the eleventh and twelfth DG Forums within the overall ambit of the outcome document of BAPA+40. The next DG Forum will provide an opportunity to report on the implementation of those activities and for peer-to-peer learning.

APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION

From 2016 to 2021, the Republic of Korea and UNOSSC implemented a demand-driven initiative responding to partner countries through the Republic of Korea-UNOSSC Facility/Programme for Capacity Development for Poverty Reduction through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Science and Technology, Phase 2. It included: (a) a knowledge platform to provide development solutions and policy guidance for specific sectoral areas requested by partner countries; (b) a consortium, with a focus on implementing an integrated pilot project focused on information and communications technology (ICT) for business and social development of women, entrepreneurship, agriculture, school health, water management and energy/environment (The knowledge platform and consortium projects were implemented in Cambodia and Indonesia); and (c) a scaled-up project to strengthen capacities for electron beam application and establishment of electron beam facilities for food irradiation and removal of industrial effluents in the environment in 14 countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2021, UNOSSC oversaw the end of the implementation of Phase 2 of the Republic of Korea-UNOSSC Facility/Programme, its independent evaluation and closing. Overall, the Facility/Programme served as a vital mechanism in strengthening human and institutional capacities of stakeholders from the partner countries and the Republic of Korea, promoting cooperation among participating countries by sharing knowledge and experiences. It showcased, transferred and localized innovative development solutions, technologies and practices in partner countries based on South-South and triangular cooperation modalities ●

Project highlights

The Directory of Institutions and Experts for Science, Technology, and Innovation in Asia was published, profiling relevant science, technology and innovation as well as ICT institutions and experts. Specifically, those institutions and experts are from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations plus

China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ASEAN+3) and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries. Institutions are categorized as research institutes, government agencies, and non-profit or private organizations. Data on academia include university courses and research centres. For some organizations, background information including their mandates and international scientific collaborators were included.

The integrated village development pilot projects in Cambodia and Indonesia demonstrated how multi-stakeholders including Republic of Korea institutions, partner governments and local institutions can collaborate to enhance living standards of communities. The Government of Indonesia decided to create the South-South centre of excellence for village innovation (SSCEVI), building on that pilot and the Government's own well-funded village development project. UNOSSC, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), prepared a good practice document on village innovation in Sukabumi. This is the first case study among other Indonesian village innovation practices to be captured to support the work of SSCEVI.

The scaled-up electron beam project strengthened the application of South-South cooperation between Asian countries through advancing joint research and technical exchanges on the application of electron beam technology in diverse areas such as degradation of industrial effluents in water, and food preservation and production. For instance, Sri Lanka provided the wires and cables to Malaysia for the data collection for a feasibility study on the industrial application of electron beam technology. Indonesia provided Mongolia with irradiated oligochitosan and biofertilizer to be used for an experiment in the growth of sweet pepper and tomato plants. The experiment showed sweet pepper fruit with a 100 per cent increase in yield and tomato plants with a 263 per cent increase. India offered education to fellows from Myanmar through onsite training in food irradiation and value addition to polymeric materials for industrial applications.

Through the project, 14 countries, consisting of 1 developed country, 10 developing countries and 3 lower-income countries, participated in technical-exchange and knowledge-sharing activities. The project served as a platform for equal partnership among three or more parties as well as for scaled-up capacities of all stakeholders. Seven electron beam facilities were established in India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand and Viet Nam, and six expert missions were carried out ●

Phase 3 of the project begins implementation

Following the successful completion of Phase 2, UNOSSC, the Republic of Korea and the Mekong River Commission launched the collaboration project titled Triangular Cooperation on Sustainable Development in the Lower Mekong Basin based on the Water-Energy-Food (WEF) Nexus in September 2021. The project, also known the Republic of Korea-UNOSSC Facility, Phase 3, aims to strengthen access to water, food and energy for vulnerable communities living in the Lower Mekong Basin (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam) through strengthening development approaches and management in these sectors. It will take integrative and multisectoral approaches in the application of high-demand technologies with regard to water, energy and food to improve the livelihoods of the people based on South-South and triangular cooperation modalities ●

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

Science, technology and innovation (STI)-related knowledge products and advisory services delivered to participating countries. Integrated village development pilot projects in Sukabumi, Indonesia, recognized as a good practice in village innovation.

The Government of Indonesia committed to setting up a **South-South centre of excellence on village innovation**.

14 countries from the Asia-Pacific region received **capacity-building support in electron beam** applications in agriculture and industrial sectors. **7** **electron beam facilities** were established.

Following the successful completion of Phase 2 of the Republic of Korea-UNOSSC Facility/Programme, Phase 3 was launched in September 2021 to **support integrated water, energy and food management and technologies** in the Lower Mekong Basin countries.

Supported by the Republic of Korea-UNOSSC Facility/Programme for Capacity Development and Poverty Reduction, Indonesian women entrepreneurs are trained to produce banana chips.





Middle school students in Sukabumi drinking clean water filtered from Gravity-Driven Membrane (GDM) system.

👉 Lessons learned

- The project has successfully re-confirmed the importance of regional technical cooperation for the successful implementation of key activities for the socioeconomic development of the region.
- The effectiveness of online methods of working on the project during the pandemic, including Republic of Korea-UNOSSC Steering Committee meetings and webinars, points to a new normal of reduced costs for development activities even after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Partner government representatives reiterated in several meetings that the Facility had been driven by the successful sharing of knowledge on STI with different actors ranging from policymakers to community members including women and youth.

➡ Way forward

- The Facility played a vital role in promoting South-South and triangular cooperation and piloting new approaches in fostering science, technology and innovation partnerships for poverty reduction. The next phase will address the impact of climate change and livelihood development in the Lower Mekong Basin.

FOSTERING COLLABORATION AMONG CITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In response to the increasing demands from the cities and potential partners, UNOSSC and the China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE) expanded the scope of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation among Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities for Sustainable Development Project (Cities Project) in early 2019 to focus on the advancement of SDGs at the city level through leveraging the opportunities and resources offered by the Belt and Road Initiative. In 2020 and 2021, the Cities Project continued advocacy and partnership-building efforts and substantially increased its visibility to development partners in addition to responding to requests for South-South cooperation support from cities across the Global South. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cities Project has further defined and demonstrated its value proposition, expanded focus areas and gained stronger momentum ●

Demand-driven needs assessments

A manual on needs assessment and pilot project implementation was developed. Four needs assessments were completed to understand development priority needs, capacity development demands, and collaboration interests among cities and institutional partners. Two calls for submissions of cities' innovative practices on COVID-19 response, environmental sustainability and climate action received a total of approximately 2,190 valid responses from local and national government officials, city-related organizations, and intergovernmental and civil society organizations ●

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

South-South Cities Clusters were launched on four cross-cutting thematic areas: sustainable transport and air quality; waste management, green cities and renewable energy; sustainable agriculture value-chain development; and disaster risk reduction and mitigation.

The Cities Project mobilized and deployed a **donation of 2.45 million masks and 20,000 coverall suits** to five developing countries and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

3 pilot projects were launched in partnership with UN agencies for local capacity-building and facilitation of city-to-city partnerships.



Through the Cities Project, Fujian Provincial Association donates 150,000 non-surgical masks to Koidu, Sierra Leone.

Capacity development and knowledge exchanges

In 2020, around 20 UN agencies and offices engaged in activities of the Cities Project, including the organization of knowledge-sharing and capacity-development activities.

In 2021, 26 cities exchanges, webinars and events were organized and facilitated by the Cities Project. Nearly 3,000 participants from over 1,100 cities from 155 countries and territories joined trainings to harness South-South cooperation in disaster risk reduction in the post COVID-19 era, jointly co-organized by UNOSSC with UNDRR-GETI and WHO/PAHO. Over 20 United Nations entities, more than 100 cities and institutions engaged under 7 thematic Cities Clusters and the 3 pilot projects on the ground ●

Partnership-building and resource mobilization efforts

Three on-the-ground pilot projects were launched in partnership with UN agencies for local capacity-building and facilitation of city-to-city partnerships and South-South mutual learning. They include a sustainable agriculture and value-chain development project in Khajura, Nepal, with WFP; a sustainable waste management project in Koidu, Sierra Leone, with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); and a project on sustainable tourism recovery and heritage preservation in Mexican World Heritage Cities with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Collaborations included city-level partnership-building between Xiamen and two cities in Latin America – Santiago and Buenos Aires – for collaboration on trade and economic activities, youth development, transport, and exchanges on COVID-19 experiences. One pilot project facilitated dialogue and exchanges of experiences between 16 cities in China and Mexico on inclusive and sustainable tourism. Another pilot project facilitated the city-to-city partnership between Koidu in Sierra Leone and Kushtia in Bangladesh on sustainable waste management.

In response to the pandemic, in the spirit of South-South solidarity and to facilitate mutual support among cities and development partners, the Cities Project mobilized and deployed urgently needed medical supplies from development partners in China to support local COVID-19 responses, with the coordination efforts of the United Nations Resident Coordinator Offices in China and Fiji and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Offices in China, Lebanon, Nepal and Nigeria.

In 2020, the Cities Project mobilized donations and facilitated the deployment of over 1 million masks, benefiting people in 22 countries. In 2021, it mobilized and deployed a donation of 2.45 million masks and 20,000 coverall suits to five developing countries and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention ●

Launch of South-South Cities Clusters

South-South Cities Clusters are digital platforms, hosted on South-South Galaxy, that bring cities together to interact and engage in exchanges with UN specialized agencies, experts and partners in order to facilitate city-to-city horizontal cooperation and exchange. They offer interactive spaces where local government officials, institutions and experts can access the latest thematic news and updates as well information on capacity development opportunities, good practices from the local level and other opportunities for knowledge exchange in a free, demand-based manner.

In 2020, sectoral and thematic South-South Cities Clusters were further conceptualized through 41 online capacity development and knowledge-exchange workshops with more than 80 development partners, including the private sector, UN agencies, international financial institutions, civil society and academia, and 18 city-to-city partnerships were brokered and/or facilitated. In 2021, South-South Cities Clusters were launched on four cross cutting thematic areas: sustainable transport and air quality; waste management, green cities and renewable energy; sustainable agriculture value-chain development; and disaster risk reduction and mitigation ●

Building reach and visibility

The Cities Project reached a global audience through a variety of advocacy, outreach and communications activities.

In 2020 and 2021, the Cities Project disseminated a range of over 120 advocacy and knowledge products and built visibility through 14 events through

UN agencies and other partners and other media channels. Online real-time views of the 41 webinars reached over 3.2 million people and their playback views reached close to 1.8 million.

In 2021, 118 cities' good practices in South-South cooperation were mapped and documented in the areas of cross-border e-commerce, cities' responses to COVID-19 and environmental sustainability ●

Lessons learned

- The project-level resource mobilization and cost-sharing approach worked because of strong partner engagement, capitalizing on synergies in China mobilized by CICETE and the responsiveness of the project team.
- Project-level multi-stakeholder and participatory approaches achieved maximum results through consolidation of partners' comparative advantages. Partnerships with the UN system, notably through UNOSSC, enable increased engagement in South-South cooperation through ensuring increasing engagement of domestic and international networks.
- The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the diverted focus of partners, particularly local authorities, regarding project implementation and planning. Financial resources to support the joint implementation of the pilot projects are likely to be further challenged owing to the foreseen negative impact of COVID-19 on the global economy. A flexible project management modality and contingency planning would help to better address the risks and challenges faced during the uncertainties.

Way forward

- In 2022, the Cities Project will continue prioritizing requests received in the area of COVID-19 response and recovery efforts and work with specialized agencies in different regions on enhancing collaborations and developing capacities of cities and institutions in public health preparedness, emergency response and socioeconomic recovery.
- Agriculture has continued to be a key area for support, especially now with COVID-19 impacts on the agriculture supply chain and post-harvest loss. The Cities Project will continue focusing on this thematic area and implementing capacity development, knowledge- and good-practice sharing, and pilot and demonstration activities with partner agencies in this area.
- The Cities Project will continue facilitating and deepening collaborations among cities and institutions in partnership with specialized agencies in the areas of sustainable agriculture value-chain development, e-commerce, digitalization and the smart city, youth volunteering, sustainable tourism, heritage protection, the creative economy, and disaster risk reduction and mitigation in resilient cities. New development demands have been identified in disaster risk governance and sustainable transport at subnational levels through potential pilot projects for cooperation formulated with UNDP Country Offices in China, Chile and Lebanon.

ADVANCING RESEARCH FOR AN EXPANDED KNOWLEDGE BASE ON SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

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

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

Joint research implemented

In 2021, the South-South Global Thinkers initiative supported the development and finalization of over 20 research papers focusing on areas that are important to South-South and triangular cooperation through the collaboration with Southern think tanks, institutions and academics. The research papers address topics mentioned as important areas in the BAPA+40 outcome document and aim to foster new thinking and evidence-based research and seek to inform policy dialogues and discussions. Research topics ranged from trade; investment; digitalization; climate change; regional integration; science, technology and innovation; institutional arrangements and frameworks for South-South cooperation; and impact assessment of South-South cooperation; to big data; financial inclusion; least developed countries (LDCs); and

South-South cooperation. The papers were launched and disseminated during several virtual events, the South-South Global Thinkers platform, social media efforts and the distribution of newsletters sent to UNOSSC networks.

In addition to producing the above-mentioned publications, the joint initiative is currently working with Southern think tanks in producing research papers that address pressing issues for the Global South mentioned in the resolution of the twentieth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, such as post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery policy options and South-South cooperation opportunities, South-South and triangular cooperation for global and regional public goods, South-South cooperation technology and digital transformation, and trade integration. They are expected to be completed in mid-2022 ●

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

Over 250 think tanks from across the Global South working together to strengthen and scale up South-South and triangular cooperation.

20 research papers developed and disseminated in 2021 that focus on areas that are important to South-South and triangular cooperation through collaboration with Southern think tanks, institutions and academics.

Serves as a gateway to **Southern think-tank knowledge and expertise on South-South cooperation.**

Expansion of the research hub

The platform has added three additional networks: South Centre, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) Programme think-tank network. They will strengthen and enhance knowledge and research contributions of the global coalition to include expertise in poverty eradication, regional integration and trade, among other topics.

Additionally, owing to substantive research developed by the project, the Government of Norway, through the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec), contributed \$60,000 towards the development of research papers that will further contribute to the enhancement of South-South Global Thinkers to become a research hub on South-South and triangular cooperation.

In efforts to enable South-South Global Thinkers to be a research hub on South-South and triangular cooperation, new research, articles, news and events from the think-tank community are shared and disseminated via various channels including quarterly newsletters and social media. To date, over 260 publications on South-South cooperation have been shared on the platform ●

Policy dialogues convened

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



South-South Ideas

Institutional frameworks for South-South Cooperation in Latin America:

Lessons from Argentina, Brazil and Mexico

The South-South Ideas Paper draws on the work of researchers from Argentina, Brazil and Mexico.



Gateway to consultations with Southern think tanks

The UNDP Human Development Report Office used the South-South Global Thinkers platform twice in 2021 to organize consultations with the Southern think tanks. The first consultation was to inform their special report on human security, which brought together 15 think tanks that shared their perspectives and inputs regarding that topic.

The second consultation was for the 2021/2022 Human Development Report. An e-discussion along with a virtual consultation on South-South

cooperation in a context of uncertain times and unsettled lives was facilitated to seek contributions and insights from Southern-based think tanks on how South-South cooperation could play a role in addressing issues related to inequalities and uncertainties, which include technology and prospects for and implications of economic, social and political decisions. Over 26 think tanks from 16 countries, representing all five regions, participated, representing member think-tank networks and institutions ●



Lessons learned

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



Way forward

- The first phase of the South-South Global Thinkers project will conclude in December 2022. Building on the achievements and lessons learned of the phase one, a second phase of the project will be developed and implemented
- UNOSSC, in collaboration with UNDP, will continue strengthening the sharing of knowledge and research on South-South cooperation in partnership with the think-tank communities and academia. The aim is to advance thought leadership and produce evidence-based research to inform policy dialogues and decision-making on South-South cooperation in the context of sustainable development.
- UNOSSC will continue its efforts to better incorporate the voices of the Global South into the Human Development Reports and other United Nations flagship publications through working closely with the South-South Global Thinkers networks in capturing required inputs and perspectives from think tanks in the developing countries.



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

The Global South-South Development Center (GSSDC) Project was jointly initiated by United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the China International Center for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE).

The GSSDC Project (2019–2024) builds on the achievements of the ten-year journey of the China South-South Development Center (SSDC) project and reprofiles itself as a global network of centres of excellence for South-South cooperation in advancing SDGs. It aims to engage Southern centres of excellence outside China and build sub-centres of excellence in line with regional priorities in order to become a globally focused platform to facilitate and implement South-South and triangular cooperation.

Focus areas of the project include:

- **Think-Tank:** knowledge products to conduct demand-driven, sector-specific research/analysis, document good practices, and place greater emphasis on two-way knowledge-sharing between China and other developing countries;
- **Do-tank:** Small grant projects and capacity development trainings to support promising small grant proposals to facilitate technology transfer and capacity-building among developing countries; and
- **Hub for South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships:** to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development; leverage partnerships with various stakeholders from multilateral agencies, civil society, the private sector and think tanks; and align the GSSDC effort with the SDGs and other global development frameworks ●

RESULTS HIGHLIGHTS

5 institutions joined the GSSDC Network in 2020 and 11 in 2021, bringing the **total number of member institutions in the network to 46.**

The small grant projects showed multiple effects, such as on poverty alleviation, women's participation in development and environmental protection. Four small grant projects were successfully completed in 2021.

Advocacy and outreach activities were carried out, reaching over 3 million views globally, substantively increasing project visibility.

Responding to the needs of developing countries through small grants

Four small grant projects supported under the GSSDC Project covered a variety of thematic areas including agriculture, forestry, energy, cultural exchanges and informatization; met the needs of countries of the Global South; and facilitated their access to practical technology, knowledge and skills in areas where China's comparative advantage had been well demonstrated. The small grant projects showed multiple effects, such as on poverty alleviation, women's participation in development, and environmental protection while improving the capacity for international cooperation of participating institutions in China and abroad. They also extended the scale of funds, representing a success in the intention to explore the public-private-partnership cooperation model, thus ensuring the sustainability of the project ●

Capacity development and knowledge sharing

During the pandemic, online technologies and platforms were leveraged in scaling up capacity development and knowledge-sharing impacts and efforts. Online capacity development and knowledge-sharing exchanges/webinars were organized in areas including South-South and international development cooperation in the post-COVID-19 world, sustainable agriculture, environmental protection and energy efficiency, which facilitated dialogue and exchanges of experiences between UN specialized agencies and partner institutions.

Capacity development and knowledge-sharing exchanges and online webinars were organized with the aim to advocate for Southern interests and the development agenda related to South-South cooperation in advancing SDGs, consolidating good practices and gaining inputs from policy and corporate perspectives.

The GSSDC Project facilitated the development of several publications, including Fighting COVID-19: 100 Q&As with the Centre for International Knowledge on Development, 500 copies of which were disseminated to foreign embassies in China, the UN system in China and other partners. Advocacy, knowledge and research products were developed and finalized in addition to the identification and documentation by participating countries of a number of good practices and lessons learned to be disseminated as South-South and triangular cooperation knowledge products. Many good practices were featured in the thematic and special editions of the UNOSSC publications on good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation.

GSSDC identified and supported the research of three think tanks in line with its focus areas to connect the related research expertise of China SSC Network members and facilitate exchange and joint research: (a) the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI), based in Pakistan, on South-South and triangular cooperation for regional digital trade integration: the case of SAARC region Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; (b) the Economic Research Forum, based in the United Arab Emirates, on how

South-South cooperation can help to address the issues of inequality and digitalization in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a special focus on the Arab States region; and (c) the Institute of New Structural Economics, based in China, on South-South cooperation on technology and digital transformation under the Belt and Road Initiative.

In 2021, advocacy and outreach activities were carried out, reaching over 3 million views globally (including webinar views, video replays, and views reached through communication and advocacy), substantively increasing project visibility; among them, 55 advocacy products were developed, and good practices and project results were fed into policy dialogue and informed policymaking discourse at the country and local levels through supporting the participation of UNOSSC and CICETE senior management at high-level events ●

Serving as a hub for South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships

The GSSDC Project brings together resources and expertise from various industries and sectors to enhance and leverage global partnerships for sustainable development with various stakeholders from multilateral agencies, civil society, the private sector, and think tanks and academia. Five institutions joined the China SSC Network under the auspices of the GSSDC Project Office in 2020 and 11 in 2021, bringing the total number of member institutions in the network to 46.

The GSSDC Project strengthened engagement and collaboration with 13 UN system agencies and international organizations; participated in exchanges with 33 think tanks, academia, government institutions, diplomats and private sectors; innovated working approaches to conclude the UN inter-agency agreement with WFP and with ITU, respectively; and brokered new partnerships for partner institutions to facilitate concrete collaboration ●

👉 Lessons learned

- The GSSDC Project can serve as a catalytic agent in building a solid foundation towards cohesive public-private-sector collaboration, a shared vision for increased capacity in the recipient countries through South-South cooperation, and common accountability in eventual, broad effective results.
- The small grant projects can serve as an effective delivery mechanism to deliver services to the target population as well as to establish a good level of collaboration with UN agencies in expanding South-South cooperation.

👉 Way forward

- The GSSDC Project will continue to emphasize the promotion of South-South cooperation principles and a demand-driven approach to help to address national and regional development priorities. Several demand-driven proposals for small grant projects were received from partner institutions and are expected to be implemented in 2022.
- As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, it is critical that the GSSDC Project make informed and compliant decisions to successfully navigate through these uncertain times, including the uncertainties relating to the conduct of fact-finding missions abroad and to the organization of off-line capacity-building events, among others, and plan for a new normal.

Through the GSSDC Green Bamboo Agro-industry small grant project, youth in Rwanda are equipped with bamboo planting skills.



UNFSSC INITIATIVES, NEW PROJECTS AND DEDICATED FACILITIES, 2020-2021



The Cities Project enabled transfer of expertise between Yuxi and other cities in China and Khajura in supporting the green agriculture development of Khajura.

UNOSSC AND APC-COLOMBIA PARTNERSHIP

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

Key milestones include co-organization of policy dialogue and knowledge- and experience-sharing events and platforms; identification of good practices; and support of networking activities of APC-Colombia for strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In July 2021, as a side event of the United Nations high-level political forum on sustainable development, APC-Colombia and UNOSSC jointly organized a webinar titled “The digitization of knowledge platforms: a tool for recovery in the Decade of Action”. The side event shared various digitization initiatives for knowledge-sharing and to generate a space for dialogue about the contributions of South-South cooperation to the digitalization of knowledge management in the

post-pandemic recovery to accelerate progress in the Decade of Action towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The new South-South Cooperation Knowledge Hub of APC-Colombia was launched at the event.

In celebration of the 2021 UN Day for South-South Cooperation, APC-Colombia, in partnership with UNOSSC, organized two virtual sessions to focus the spotlight on successful South-South cooperation projects in Africa, the Caribbean, Central America, South America and Southeast Asia that have contributed directly to the social and economic recovery of the countries in the Decade of Action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Participants included representatives from national and multilateral cooperation agencies from Africa, Asia and Latin America; multilateral agencies; national and territorial agencies in charge of South-South cooperation; trade associations from each region; members of academic and research institutes of the Global South; and academicians.

The work of APC-Colombia in South-South and triangular cooperation was also featured on the South-South Galaxy website ●

YOUTH4SOUTH PROGRAMME

The Youth4South: Advanced Young Leadership Programme was launched by UNOSSC together with its partners in November 2017 to support the South-South exchange of knowledge and mutual learning among young people globally; provide capacity-development opportunities for youth as well as access to expertise, mentorships, resources and networks; and promote dialogue between youth and development stakeholders.

A pilot Youth4South fellowship was operationalized with China Agricultural University, with two fellows from Uganda and Sierra Leone each receiving a full scholarship to the International Programme of China-Africa Cooperation in Agriculture post-graduate programme with a focus on South-South

and triangular cooperation in global agricultural governance and rural development management.

A partnership between UNOSSC and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) offered fellowships for early-career female scientists from the Global South for South-South exchange visits at ICGEB laboratories in India and South Africa or at other institutions to perform research in biotechnology and related fields, including COVID-19-related research (infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases), sustainable and effective agriculture, industrial biotechnology and renewable energy. A panel of experts reviewed 58 applications received from scientists

from Africa (37), Latin America (10) and Asia (10) plus one application from the Russian Federation, and fellowships were awarded to five women scientists from Bangladesh, Colombia, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and the United Republic of Tanzania in the research areas of COVID-19, malaria and cancer as well as plant biotechnology.

The Youth4South Programme continues to create multiple platforms to support youth entrepreneurs to present, innovate and scale up their initiatives and good practices. As part of the series of activities of the International Youth Day 2020 Campaign, the UN Resident Coordinator Office in China selected three entrepreneurial initiatives (out of the 455+ applications received) that were presented at the International Youth Dialogue on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, with the engagement of key partners.

The Youth4South Programme also supported youth forums to enable them to share their insights

and propose good practices at events such as the high-level event titled “Social Business, Youth and Technology: Social Business towards Sustainable Revival of Post-COVID-19 Era”, which brought together officials from Cabo Verde, France, Nigeria and the Yunus Centre as well as young academic leaders and business, social and young innovators from more than 110 countries to share their insights and propose good practices.

Furthermore, the Youth4South Programme was invited to provide input into strategic youth-focused frameworks. In 2021, the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth invited contributions from the Programme in its exercise on the implementation of Youth2030 – the first-ever UN system-wide strategy on youth to guide joint UN action for and with young people globally – and the development and launch of UN entities reporting scorecard, which was launched at the 2022 Economic and Social Council Youth Forum ●



EMPOWER Fellowships

A South-South and Triangular Cooperation programme for women scientists from developing countries

Fellowships were offered to early career female scientists from the Global South, through the Youth4South Programme.

Providing a platform for youth entrepreneurs at the GSSD Expo

In the lead-up to the upcoming GSSD Expo 2022, the Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition was launched in line with the GSSD Expo theme to support recovery efforts, particularly in addressing extreme poverty, food insecurity, vaccination inequality and other global challenges through South-South and triangular cooperation jointly with the Government of Thailand, ESCAP and the Office of the Secretary General's Envoy on Youth. The competition received 228 applications from over 80 countries. From those applications, more than 20 young entrepreneurs from 15 developing countries will come together for the first-round pitching of the Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition on 23 and 24 June 2022.

The top 10 entrepreneurs with the most environmentally friendly and financially sustainable projects will have an opportunity to pitch at the GSSD Expo in September and will participate in a series of training exercises, dialogues and networking sessions.

To provide space for the young entrepreneurs, youth participants during the GSSD Expo, and other agency specialists and experts, the Youth4South networking lounge was developed and launched, leveraging the GSSD Expo offerings of virtual participation and leveraging digital technologies. This platform will be used for the engagement of all the youth participants and the selected young entrepreneurs during the GSSD Expo 2022 ●



Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition

Co-organized by



Join us on 14 September 2022

at the

GSSD Expo in Bangkok, Thailand

CR-3, UNCC

For more information, email: Youth4South@unoss.org



The Youth4South Entrepreneurship Competition received 228 applications from over 80 countries.

CLIMATE CHANGE

UNOSSC continued supporting Member States in strengthening the global commitment to South-South and triangular cooperation on climate change. It focused its efforts on promoting knowledge-sharing on South-South and triangular cooperation related to climate change and environmental sustainability by developing a series of initiatives highlighting good practices and experiences in the Global South to tackle the challenges of climate change in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

UNOSSC reports on environmental sustainability and climate change provide insight into practical and effective development solutions adopted by Southern countries to combat climate change and foster sustainable development. The report “City-to-city partnerships and South-South and triangular cooperation on sustainable urban development”, co-authored with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, was launched in June 2020 at the UNOSSC webinar titled “South-South cooperation between cities for climate action” that brought together experts, decision-makers, scientists and researchers from cities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China and India to share their experiences in responding to climate change. The discussion centred on how Southern cities are using innovative and collaborative approaches to tackle the challenges posed by climate change as well as the role of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as catalysts for climate action. Also, for the launch, UNOSSC developed a promotional video, “City-

to-city cooperation for global action”, and a website with interviews of all the co-authors of the report.

On the sidelines of the UN Biodiversity Summit and the Climate Week NYC in September 2020, UNOSSC organized a webinar titled “Nature-based solutions for a low-emission and climate-resilient recovery” with the participation of UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The webinar brought together experts, scientists and researchers from national, regional and international organizations from Africa, Asia and Latin America to share their experiences in developing, using and promoting nature-based solutions in countries of the Global South.

In 2021, in partnership with UN-Habitat, the UNOSSC Cities Project opened a call to invite city stakeholders to share innovative experiences in environmental sustainability and climate change. Twelve cases were selected and included in the report “Innovative experiences of cities on environmental sustainability and climate action through South-South and triangular cooperation”, which provided useful insights on practical and effective solutions to inspire, replicate and scale up South-South and triangular cooperation at the sub-national level towards addressing climate change and fostering environmental sustainability in different contexts. The report was launched during a webinar organized in the context of the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) ●

UNOSSC PARTNERSHIP AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

The BAPA+40 outcome document encouraged UNOSSC to support South-South cooperation efforts by undertaking resource mobilization initiatives to facilitate the effective and efficient use of financial and in-kind resources for UNOSSC while avoiding the fragmentation of financing arrangements. In the spirit of that recommendation, UNOSSC developed a comprehensive partnership and resource mobilization strategy to better implement its strategic framework, 2018–2021. The strategy assess-

es existing partnerships and resource mobilization efforts, identifies challenges and opportunities, and provides a forward-looking plan for UNOSSC to better implement its mandates on promoting South-South and triangular cooperation activities for sustainable development. It also aims at setting up approaches, including building a diverse funding base, for resource mobilization to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation towards achieving the SDGs ●

CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUMAN RESOURCES THROUGH SECONDMENT

UNOSSC is increasingly receiving in-kind human-resource contributions through secondments from Member States and partners. Following a decision adopted by the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its eighteenth session, UNOSSC piloted an initiative in its Regional Office in Bangkok to receive human-resource secondments from Member States and partners. Fiji,

Indonesia, Thailand and the Pacific Islands Development Forum have contributed human resources to UNOSSC using that mechanism. Through those secondments, UNOSSC has increased its capacity and gained a great deal of experience from highly qualified staff from Member States and partners who bring their own networks, thus increasing the effectiveness of the UNOSSC operations ●

INDIA-UN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND

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

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

The Fund has also demonstrated speed and responsiveness during disasters and crises such as the COVID-19 global pandemic. In 2020, the Fund received \$22.4 million in contributions, and 22 projects were approved inclusive of fast-track COVID-19 response initiatives. In 2021, the Fund, with support from UNOSSC, leveraged established partnerships to facilitate support among countries of the Global South to contain the spread of COVID-19 in 13 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Trinidad and Tobago.

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

A detailed report on the India-UN Fund including results and achievements is available at The India-UN Development Partnership Fund website (indiaunfund.unsouthsouth.org) ●

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW OF THE UNFSSC PORTFOLIO

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

A. Contributions received and allocated through a dedicated facility: the India-UN Development Partnership Fund

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

2020-2021

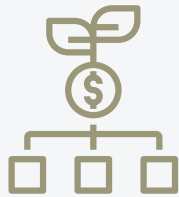
Revenue

\$33,000,000



Allocations

\$29,408,339



Contributor

Republic of India



2017-2021

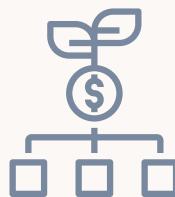
Revenue

\$58,000,000



Allocations

\$48,713,637



Contributor

Republic of India



B. Contributions* received and used through the UNFSSC pooled funding mechanism

2020-2021

Revenue
\$ 7,829,007



Expenditures
\$4,357,132



Contributors
3, including Member States and partners



2012-2021

Revenue
\$ 31,675,655



Expenditures
\$29, 975,592



Contributors
3, including Member States and partners



All contributors to the pooled funding of UNFSSC, 2020–2021

Contributor	\$
People's Republic of China	5,880,000
Republic of Korea	1,087,609
Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia (APC-Colombia)	89,000
Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec)	60,000
Republic of Turkey	40,000
Yingke Law Firm	30,000
Gratia Christian College	15,397
People's Republic of Bangladesh	15,000
Republic of Kazakhstan	4,000
Independent State of Samoa	1,000
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam	1,000

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

10 largest contributors to the pooled funding of UNFSSC, 2012–2021

Contributor	\$
People's Republic of China	15,755,000
Republic of Korea	6,375,155
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	2,019,628
World Green Economy Organization (WGEO)	900,000
APC-Colombia	734,316
United Nations	590,000
Government of Qatar	564,506
Zayed International Foundation for the Environment	465,000
African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)	384,950
Beijing Qiaonyu Foundation	300,933

C. In-kind contributions

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

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



Mobile health clinic at work in Sao Tome and Principe, supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE UNFSSC PARTNERS

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





Supported by the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, health technician in Cabo Verde processes COVID-19 tests.

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