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# **Informal meeting of Geneva-based and Rome-based UN agencies and partner organisations in preparation of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40)**

*Geneva, 1 November 2018*

## **Summary of key messages emerging from the informal meeting co-hosted by ILO, South Centre and UNCTAD**

### **I. Background**

The first UN Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC), held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1978, which gathered 138 countries from the Global South, marked a milestone in the history of South-South Cooperation (SSC) and South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC). The Conference adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), a framework for promoting and implementing TCDC by the United Nations (UN) and its Member States.

In preparation for the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (“BAPA+40”), to be held in March 2019 in Buenos Aires, the ILO, UNCTAD, and the South Centre organized, on 1 November 2018 in Geneva, a brainstorming session on South-South and triangular cooperation with the participation of a number of UN system specialized agencies, including bodies from Geneva, Rome, and Bern, and one IGO: FAO, IFAD, ILO, IOM, ITC, ITU, SUN, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNEP, UNISDR, Unitaid, UNITAR, UNOSSC, UPU, WHO, WIPO and the South Centre.

### **II. Preamble**

*Recognizing* the Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation of 2009, which stresses that “South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South”;

*Recognizing* that many different dimensions and modalities of SSC and SSTC co-exist and can cross-fertilize each other to achieve sustainable development, through peer learning and good practices,

*Recognizing* that SSC and SSTC take place at several complementary levels – cooperation between developing countries (involving two or more countries from the Global South), regionally through regional consultative processes, the regional economic commissions (RECs), regional coordination mechanisms (RCMs), and regional inter-governmental organizations such as ASEAN, MERCOSUR and the AU. SSC and SSTC also take place inter-regionally (CPLP, BRICS, IBSA, etc.) and globally through the United Nations development system.

*Reiterating* that SSC and SSTC are a complementary cooperation modality, and not a substitute for North-South cooperation,

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*Reaffirming* the need to strengthen the institutional framework of, and to allocate adequate resources to, SSC and SSTC throughout the UN system and its specialized agencies and bodies, including the UNOSSC.

### **III. Recommendations**

The participants in the informal meeting propose the following converging recommendations to the consultative process for BAPA+40, and express the hope that the draft points proposed below will be taken into account in the BAPA+40 outcome document. Individual entities are welcome to propose their respective recommendations and narratives.

#### **III.1. Recommendations concerning the UN development system**

- 1.** Encourage UN agencies, Member States and partners, including workers' and employers' organizations to continue to pursue triangular cooperation. As recognized by the UN Secretary-General in his report A/73/383, triangular cooperation can open up new opportunities for cooperation, offering a mix of funding and knowledge that can complement South-South exchanges. All partners can learn and benefit from triangular cooperation.
  - 2.** Develop a UN system-wide, comprehensive strategy for facilitating SSC and SSTC on the basis of –
    - (a) recognition of the importance of South-South Cooperation for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
    - (b) UN assembly resolutions and agency board decisions on SSC and SSTC.
  - 3.** Contribute to the various modalities of SSC and SSTC between developing countries at different levels of development, including support to local economic development through City-to-City cooperation.
  - 4.** Encourage research and policy analysis on the role of SSC and SSTC in fostering sustainable development in developing countries.
  - 5.** Reinforce the dissemination of development solutions from the countries of the South as a way of achieving the SDGs, namely in the fields of employment, social protection, gender equality, and women's empowerment, combating child labour and forced labour, as well as contributing to poverty reduction.
  - 6.** Contribute to education, training and skills, health, trade, science, technology transfers and innovation, intellectual property system, structural transformation, investment and enterprise, agriculture and food security, nutrition, rural development.
  - 7.** Further reinforce good practices sharing in the fields of industrialization, financing for development, migration and human mobility, disaster risk reduction and resilience, ICT development, universal access to physical communication and e-commerce, financial inclusion, climate change adaptation, reduced inequality, social cohesion and inclusion, as well as sustainable cities and other relevant domains from individual entities' perspectives.
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### **III.2 Recommendations for the Geneva and Rome based UN agencies**

- 1.** Continue mainstreaming SSC and SSTC into policies, programmes, strategic frameworks and other planning instruments, with appropriate indicators and methodologies.
  - 2.** Take note of the need to engage SSC and SSTC initiatives to contribute to the achievement of each of the 17 goals and 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as emphasized in Goal 17 (Targets 17.6 and 17.9).
  - 3.** Provide support for the exchange of good practices on innovative policies and approaches between developing countries.
  - 4.** Recommend that the knowledge achieved by developing countries in the administration and management of the intellectual property system, as an engine for economic growth and improved competitiveness, be shared among them to complement and increase their existing capacities for mutual benefit.
  - 5.** Encourage UN system organizations to foster subregional and regional South-South cooperation in addressing transboundary development challenges, especially those related to global health, decent work, climate change and sustainable agriculture, forestry, and fishery.
  - 6.** Expand the use of SSC and SSTC as a complementary modality, allowing the UN and its Member States to bring together the talents, expertise and resources of the Global South.
  - 7.** Adopt SSC and SSTC solutions in the trade, investment and finance for development at the policy, institutional and enterprise levels.
  - 8.** Agree to continue informal discussions to create a platform to facilitate dialogue on SSC and SSTC between UN programmes, funds and agencies in Geneva and Rome with a view to supporting the BAPA+40 process and beyond.
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