



South-South cooperation for development

Distr.: General
21 March 2025

Original: English

High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

Twenty-second session

New York, 27–30 May 2025

Items 2 and 4 of the provisional agenda*

Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme**

Summary

The present report, submitted in response to decision 21/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, provides a review of progress made in 2023 and 2024 in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. It is focused on activities of developing and developed countries, international organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations relating to the above-mentioned frameworks.

During the reporting period, South-South cooperation continued to evolve as a key modality for complementing North-South cooperation for development, fostering solidarity, knowledge exchange and innovative partnerships to address global development challenges. Thanks to strengthened institutional frameworks, deeper regional integration and expanded triangular partnerships, technical cooperation, technology transfer and capacity-building initiatives were scaled up, thereby

* [SSC/22/L.2](#).

** The present report was submitted for processing after the deadline for technical reasons beyond the control of the submitting office.



reinforcing collective action and shared progress. The report contains several recommendations emphasizing the need to scale up investments in regional financial integration, digital infrastructure, climate action, renewable energy and crisis response mechanisms to boost resilience, innovation and economic self-reliance.

I. Introduction

1. The present report, submitted in response to decision 21/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, provides a review of progress made in 2023 and 2024 in the implementation of the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the 1995 new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, the 2009 Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the 2019 Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

2. Over the past two years, South-South cooperation continued to evolve as an important modality for complementing North-South cooperation, fostering solidarity, knowledge exchange and innovative partnerships to address global development challenges. In response to complex crises, including the continuing impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, geopolitical tensions, debt distress, climate change and digital divides, the countries of the global South intensified their efforts to strengthen resilience and advance inclusive sustainable development.

3. The alignment of South-South cooperation with global development agendas, including the Pact for the Future, the outcome document of the Third South Summit of the Group of 77 and China, and the outcome document of the Group of 20 leaders' summit in Brazil, reinforced the role of South-South cooperation in accelerating progress towards shared prosperity and sustainable solutions.

4. Amid those developments, there were significant advancements in South-South cooperation in Africa with respect to economic integration, trade facilitation, climate resilience and gender equality. Thanks to strengthened partnerships, digital transformation, knowledge exchange and innovation in science and technology were expanded. Regional frameworks served to reinforce South-South cooperation as an essential tool for self-reliance and sustainable development.

5. Despite challenges shaped by geopolitical conflicts, economic vulnerabilities and climate change, notable progress was made in the Arab States region with respect to leveraging South-South cooperation for climate action, digital transformation and youth development, fostering long-term resilience. Humanitarian assistance efforts also brought to light the continued importance of solidarity and regional collaboration.

6. The Asia and the Pacific region continued its dynamic advancement of South-South cooperation through stronger regional trade and investment integration, as well as efforts to enhance economic resilience, technological innovation and climate adaptation. Regional organizations played a crucial role in advancing cooperation on sustainable energy, disaster preparedness and capacity-building.

7. In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, South-South cooperation was actively leveraged to boost economic diversification, innovation and climate finance. Regional cooperation served to reinforce sustainable development strategies with an emphasis on productivity, technological advancement and value added industries. With strengthened trade and investment frameworks, the region is positioned for robust economic growth.

8. Triangular cooperation gained momentum as an enabler of sustainable development, fostering capacity-building, knowledge exchange and technical assistance. Developed countries expanded their support for triangular cooperation initiatives on climate resilience, digital transformation and economic development, particularly those in support of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

9. Civil society organizations, think tanks and the private sector continued their effective engagement in South-South cooperation. They strengthened their research, capacity-building and policy development efforts, particularly in science, technology and innovation, as well as their climate action efforts. The private sector was a driving force behind digital innovation, entrepreneurship and investment in emerging markets, reinforcing South-South cooperation as a critical modality for inclusive and sustainable economic transformation.

10. In response to the request of Member States at the twenty-first session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, the present report highlights the support that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation provided to South-South interregional initiatives, which enabled developing countries to exchange knowledge, strengthen institutional capacities and implement innovative solutions tailored to local needs.

II. Global context and trends

11. During the reporting period, the global South navigated a complex landscape shaped by shifting geopolitical dynamics, economic volatility and environmental challenges. While some developing regions experienced economic growth, persistent debt vulnerabilities, trade disruption and inflationary pressures hindered progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite those challenges, South-South cooperation remained an important modality for addressing development gaps, fostering economic resilience, accelerating innovation and strengthening multilateral partnerships.

12. The geopolitical landscape of the global South is evolving. At the Third South Summit of the Group of 77 and China, held in January 2024, participants reaffirmed that South-South cooperation, particularly in trade, investment, climate action, poverty eradication and the digital economy, is a critical tool for sustainable development. At the 2024 BRICS Summit, the group prioritized tariff elimination, streamlined customs procedures and digital trade expansion, thereby reinforcing South-South economic integration. Meanwhile, India and Brazil, during their presidencies of the Group of 20 in 2023 and 2024, respectively, strengthened the influence of the global South in global economic decision-making.

13. The least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States called for targeted support to address their unique vulnerabilities and development challenges. The Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States and the new Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries provide strategic frameworks for targeted South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives, thereby expanding multilateral support for those groups of countries.

14. Developing countries played a pivotal role in shaping digital governance. In the Havana Declaration on Current Development Challenges: the Role of Science, Technology and Innovation, adopted at the Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Group of 77 and China in 2023, the transformative potential of South-South cooperation in the fields of science, technology and innovation was highlighted. In 2024, the General Assembly adopted resolution [78/259](#), proclaiming 16 September as the International Day of Science, Technology and Innovation for the South as a symbol of the shared recognition of the transformative potential of science, technology and innovation in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. In the Global Digital Compact, emphasis was placed on the need for inclusive digital development and governance, and the critical role of South-South and triangular cooperation was highlighted. Given that over 2.6 billion people, mostly women and

girls, still do not have access to the Internet,¹ these forums highlight the urgent need to bridge digital divides in the global South, which can advance human development by increasing access to education, healthcare, economic opportunities and social services.

15. Economic growth in the global South remained mixed during the reporting period, with South Asia and East Asia maintaining robust growth and other regions, particularly Africa and Latin America, facing economic stagnation. Foreign direct investment (FDI) to developing countries declined by 2 per cent, the second consecutive annual decrease overall for the global South.²

16. South-South trade, however, surged, with its total value increasing from \$2.3 trillion in 2007 to \$5.6 trillion in 2023,³ when it accounted for 54 per cent of total developing country exports.⁴ Trade in manufactured products, particularly technology-intensive products, was even more significant, supporting export diversification and upgrading. In addition, the expansion of the BRICS group (Brazil, Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa), a majority of which are countries of the global South, including new members Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and the United Arab Emirates, further strengthened South-South trade and investment flows, which have outpaced trade with Group of Seven countries.⁵ The development of BRICS Pay, a common payment system, was step forward in streamlining cross-border transactions and reducing reliance on traditional financial intermediaries.

17. The Group of 20, under the presidency of Brazil, underscored the importance of comprehensive governance reform, advocating for a stronger role for developing countries in multilateral financial institutions. This aligns with long-standing demands from the global South for more equitable representation in international institutions. Progress was made in reforming multilateral development banks to unlock climate finance and ensure that it better reflects the needs of the global South. Despite those advancements, challenges related to debt distress and inflation persisted. Global public debt reached a record \$97 trillion in 2023, with developing countries accounting for nearly 30 per cent of that amount. A total of 54 countries were in serious debt distress, dedicating a minimum of 10 per cent of government revenues to debt interest payments.⁶ Those countries were forced to prioritize debt service over essential investments in health, education and sustainable development, leading to severe socioeconomic consequences.

18. FDI in developing economies remained constrained, with an 11 per cent decline in Sustainable Development Goal-related financing, particularly for agrifood systems and water infrastructure. The Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, launched when Brazil held the presidency of the Group of 20, seeks to address this disparity. The Global Alliance aims to provide support to 240 million workers who earn less than \$2.15 per day while advocating for equality and access to essential services, such as clean water and sanitation.

19. The World Meteorological Organization confirmed that 2023 was the warmest year on record, with the global average temperature reaching 1.45°C above pre-industrial levels. Small island developing States, landlocked developing countries

¹ International Telecommunication Union, “Global Internet use continues to rise but disparities remain, especially in low-income regions”, 27 November 2024.

² United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), *Global Investment Trends Monitor*, No. 48 (January 2025). Available at <https://unctad.org/publication/global-investment-trends-monitor-no-48>.

³ UNCTAD, “The reshaping of global trade: how developing countries can strategize”, 29 October 2024.

⁴ *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2024* (United Nations publication, 2024), p. 124.

⁵ Boston Consulting Group, “An evolving BRICS and the shifting world order”, 29 April 2024.

⁶ UNCTAD, “A world of debt: a growing burden to global prosperity”, 2024.

and the least developed countries faced heightened vulnerabilities as extreme weather events disrupted livelihoods, damaged infrastructure and increased displacement. For example, severe droughts and flooding in Africa affected nearly 1 million ha of cultivated land, while rising sea levels posed existential threats to small island developing States in the Pacific and the Caribbean.

20. Climate adaptation finance remained inadequate despite the pledged commitments to the Loss and Damage Fund. The United Nations Environment Programme reported that adaptation finance flows to developing countries declined by 15 per cent to \$21 billion in 2023, widening the adaptation finance gap to an estimated \$366 billion per year. Nevertheless, progress was made towards building climate resilience through South-South cooperation efforts. At the Africa Climate Summit, \$26 billion in climate action commitments was secured, while regional cooperation in the Pacific led to the establishment, by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, of the Pacific Resilience Facility, which is designed to provide funding for community-level disaster preparedness.

III. Developing countries

21. Despite persistent challenges, countries and regions collectively leveraged South-South cooperation to address development priorities, which demonstrates its effectiveness as a key driver of sustainable development.

A. Africa

22. During the reporting period, a strong commitment to advancing South-South cooperation was demonstrated in Africa. Key developments included the strengthening of African multilateral financial institutions, the acceleration of intra-African trade, the expansion of digital infrastructure and of climate resilience initiatives, and strengthened gender equality frameworks.

23. The second 10-year implementation plan of the African Union Agenda 2063, launched in 2024, is focused on the self-reliance of Africa and a vision of a prosperous, peaceful, integrated and connected Africa aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Congruent with that focus, the African Peer Review Mechanism, a self-monitoring mechanism to which the States members of the African Union have voluntarily acceded, conducted continent-wide e-training on South-South and triangular cooperation to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the achievement of the Goals. Through the training, expertise was developed in monitoring and evaluation frameworks for assessing the impact of South-South and triangular cooperation in Africa.

24. Notable steps were also taken towards accelerating the establishment of African financial institutions to address the existing challenges of the current global financial architecture. For example, African leaders resolved to accelerate the establishment of African Union financial institutions, including the African Central Bank, the African Monetary Fund, the African Investment Bank and the Pan-African Stock Exchange. These institutions are expected to place Africa in a stronger position in the global financial architecture by prioritizing reforms in debt architecture, concessional finance, increased voice and power in decision-making, thereby supporting economic growth and green industrialization.

25. With a view to further improving the position of Africa in the evolving global financial architecture, African multilateral financial institutions established the Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions to foster collaboration,

cooperation and coordination among member institutions to drive sustainable economic development and financial self-reliance across the continent. Through the Alliance, member institutions will advocate for Africa on global finance issues, develop innovative finance tools and support sustainable finance strategies for the advancement of the continent.

26. The Africa Debt Monitoring Mechanism was adopted by African leaders at the Africa Climate Summit in 2023 to collect, standardize and aggregate debt-related data, provide advice and training for member States in debt negotiations and build capacity for effective debt management. The initiative has been prioritized by African Union policy organs for immediate implementation to build capacity for effective debt management.

27. Prospects for enhanced South-South trade and investment in Africa improved. Intra-African trade rose to \$192.2 billion in 2023, a 3.2 per cent increase from 2022. With that growth, the share of formal intra-African trade increased from 13.6 per cent in 2022 to 14.9 per cent in 2023 despite global economic challenges. Subregional organizations in Africa collectively made structural reforms aimed at promoting economic integration and facilitating cross-border trade by removing tariff barriers, reducing customs inefficiencies and addressing regulatory inconsistencies. For example, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) initiated a modernization of its rules of origin protocol to align it with the frameworks of the African Continental Free Trade Area and the Tripartite Free Trade Area, enhanced customs border management and advanced digital payment systems for clearance of goods and sovereign currency settlement.

28. The ratio of trade within the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 21 per cent in 2023.⁷ The subregion attracted \$6 billion in FDI,⁸ and smart integrated economic corridor management tools were implemented. One-stop border posts were established to facilitate regional trade, and progress was made on the Lobito Corridor project connecting the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia to the Atlantic Ocean.

29. In 2023, Saudi Arabia convened the first Saudi Arabia-Africa Summit, which was a significant step in strengthening Saudi Arabia-Africa relations. The Summit brought together over 50 African leaders with a view to enhancing cooperation in investment, trade, economic development, security and cultural exchange. Saudi Arabia announced major investment commitments, including the King Salman Development Initiative aimed at supporting development projects across Africa over the next decade through \$1 billion in investment. Saudi Arabia also pledged \$25 billion in future investments, \$10 billion to finance Saudi exports to African countries and \$5 billion in development funding until 2030.

30. Despite recent progress in bridging the digital divide in Africa, only 38 per cent of the population uses the Internet. During the reporting period, the African Union implemented initiatives to advance science, technology and innovation. The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa 2020–2030, a flagship initiative under Agenda 2063, was rolled out with a view to enhancing digital infrastructure and improving connectivity. The African Union Digital Education Strategy and Implementation Plan for the period 2023–2028 has facilitated the adoption of digital technologies in education, supporting skills development and expanding access to learning opportunities. The African Union also advanced the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024, fostering the establishment of universities as

⁷ South Africa, Department of International Relations and Cooperation, “Lamola commends steps towards regional stability and economic integration”, 14 August 2024.

⁸ Ibid.

centres of excellence, including the Transformative Innovation Africa Hub of the Future Africa campus of the University of Pretoria.

31. African leaders reaffirmed their collective commitment to climate action through South-South cooperation, advancing regional and interregional initiatives aimed at enhancing resilience and sustainable development, such as the above-mentioned inaugural Africa Climate Summit and the adoption of the African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action. In the Declaration, African leaders outlined concrete measures aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity through sustainable practices, thereby improving food security while minimizing environmental impacts. The Accelerated Partnership for Renewables in Africa was also launched, under which a target of increasing the renewable energy capacity of Africa from 56 GW to at least 300 GW by 2030 was set.

32. China reinforced its commitment to promoting the renewable energy transition of Africa through South-South cooperation, launching the Africa Solar Belt programme at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. Through that programme, pledged at the Africa Climate Summit, \$14.1 million was committed to funding solar projects in off-grid regions, which would provide sustainable energy access to at least 50,000 families.⁹ China also signed memorandums of understanding with Chad and Sao Tome and Principe for projects valued at \$2.1 million, through which 4,300 and 3,100 solar photovoltaic systems will be deployed, respectively, by the end of 2024.¹⁰ Those projects are aimed at enhancing livelihoods and expanding access to clean energy.

33. Gender equality and women's empowerment in Africa were advanced through South-South cooperation, leveraging collective regional frameworks and policy instruments. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) transitioned from a gender-sensitive approach to a gender responsive approach, adopting the IGAD Regional Gender Equality Strategy 2023–2030 and launching the Institutional Capacity-building for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Programme. As part of that programme, IGAD trained over 600 people in gender-transformative climate change adaptation strategies across Djibouti, Kenya and Uganda. COMESA further reinforced gender mainstreaming efforts by launching the Gender Equality Seal for Public Institutions and developing manuals on gender integration.

34. Peace and security efforts were also strengthened through South-South cooperation. The Peace Fund of the African Union allocated \$7 million to support peace initiatives in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Mozambique, the Niger, South Sudan and the Lake Chad basin, among other areas. SADC advanced peacebuilding efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In a significant example of interregional South-South cooperation, Türkiye facilitated mediation efforts between Ethiopia and Somalia, hosting negotiations that led to a breakthrough agreement in December 2024.

B. Arab States

35. In the Arab States region, South-South cooperation was strengthened in such areas as climate action, digital innovation, youth development and humanitarian assistance, reinforcing regional resilience and sustainable development. Through collective initiatives, States in the region advanced climate commitments, information and communications technology (ICT) frameworks and collaborations in space

⁹ Yi Xin, "Guest opinion: China – a reliable partner in Africa's greener and greater future", Xinhua News Agency, 20 May 2024.

¹⁰ Jing Song and Benson Ireri, "How China and Africa can better collaborate to close sub-Saharan Africa's energy access gap", World Resources Institute, 30 August 2024.

technology while also mobilizing critical humanitarian assistance, in a demonstration of solidarity and a commitment to addressing shared challenges.

36. The twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, hosted by the United Arab Emirates, resulted in the first explicit global agreement to transition away from fossil fuels, as well as a commitment to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030. The United Arab Emirates launched Altéra, a \$30 billion climate investment fund designed to stimulate private sector financing for climate action in the global South. The country allocated \$200 million in special drawing rights to the Resilience and Sustainability Trust and \$150 million for water security.¹¹ It also pledged \$4.5 billion to develop and finance renewable energy projects in Africa, with the target of scaling up renewable energy development on the continent to 15 GW by 2030.

37. Saudi Arabia strengthened South-South cooperation by advancing regional and global initiatives to combat desertification, drought and climate change. As host of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, Saudi Arabia launched the Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership, which is aimed at enhancing early warning systems, financing mechanisms, vulnerability assessments and drought risk mitigation in 80 vulnerable developing countries, with an initial pledge of \$150 million. The Middle East Green Initiative, launched by Saudi Arabia in 2022 with an initial allocation of \$2.5 billion, gained further momentum in 2024 as 11 additional countries joined during the first session of its ministerial council, held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Those efforts strengthened regional cooperation frameworks for environmental protection, advancing climate resilience and sustainable land management across the global South.

38. Arab States advanced South-South cooperation in science, technology and innovation by developing critical ICT frameworks and expanding collaboration in space research with other developing regions. The Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization of the League of Arab States signed a cooperation agreement with the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote technology for sustainable development. States in the region also established the Arab Cybersecurity Ministerial Council, which developed mechanisms for coordinating knowledge exchange, joint ICT security exercises and structural governance frameworks.

39. With a view to further strengthening regional digital security, the Council of Ministers of the Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization approved the Arab Cybersecurity Strategy at its twenty-seventh session in Abu Dhabi in January 2024. The strategy is aimed at protecting Arab cyberspace from emerging threats and facilitating collaboration with regional and international stakeholders, ensuring best practices for ICT security governance regardless of the digital capabilities of countries.

40. Regarding space research and technology, Egypt joined the International Lunar Research Station programme of China in December 2023, a significant milestone in space-related South-South cooperation. The collaboration includes joint research in lunar and deep space exploration, spacecraft development and participation in the BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation Platform. China established a satellite assembly, integration and test centre in Cairo in June 2023, enhancing regional satellite capabilities. The African Space Agency, headquartered near Cairo, is set for

¹¹ United Arab Emirates, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Ministers and international officials confirm achievements and successes of first week of COP 28”, 12 July 2023.

official inauguration in 2025, advancing aerospace innovation and South-South technical collaboration.

41. Arab States prioritized South-South cooperation on youth development, recognizing the growing youth population, which currently accounts for half of the region's total population.¹² In 2023, the Arab Youth Centre approved its five-year strategy, which is focused on strengthening the youth work sector and promoting leadership opportunities. The Centre organized 14 events attended by over 16,000 participants from more than 20 countries, delivering 700 hours of training across 70 sessions. To enhance digital skills and sustainability expertise, the Centre launched the Arab Youth Technology Fellowship Programme in partnership with 30 strategic organizations. The Middle East and North Africa Youth Employment Summit, held in Casablanca, Morocco, in October 2024, brought together 250 participants, 20 per cent of whom were youth representatives, to address employment challenges. At the Summit, 20 innovative solutions aimed at improving youth employment outcomes were presented, and an action plan to drive meaningful progress across the region was developed.

42. Regarding humanitarian assistance, the Arab States strengthened South-South collaborative arrangements to support countries in the region that were facing ongoing conflicts. In response to the severe humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip due to the ongoing war, Saudi Arabia provided over \$5 billion in aid, Kuwait pledged over \$2 billion, and Qatar pledged \$100 million. China pledged over \$2 million in humanitarian assistance, while India, Jordan, Rwanda, Tunisia, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates provided critical relief supplies.

43. In response to the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon due to conflict, in July 2024 Saudi Arabia committed \$10 million to support 28 projects across the country, focusing on food security, healthcare, education and emergency relief efforts. The United Arab Emirates announced an urgent aid package amounting to \$100 million in September 2024 to assist the people of Lebanon.

C. Asia and the Pacific

44. In the Asia and the Pacific region, South-South trade and investment expanded, advancements were made in digital transformation, and climate action accelerated during the reporting period.

45. South-South cooperation and regional integration remained key drivers of trade and investment in the region, fostering economic resilience and sustainable growth. In 2022, almost 57 per cent of the value of trade in the region originated from intraregional trade, a trend that continued through 2023 and 2024. For example, under a tripartite power agreement among Bangladesh, India and Nepal, signed in October 2024, Nepal can export 40 MW of electricity to Bangladesh through the transmission grid of India. The initiative will not only strengthen regional energy security but also enable Nepal to approve the export of 941 MW of electricity to India, reinforcing the transition of the region towards a more interconnected energy market.

46. The total trade in goods within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) reached \$3.5 trillion in 2024, nearly matching its GDP, and intra-ASEAN trade accounted for 21.5 per cent of total regional trade. Also in 2024, ASEAN adopted its services facilitation framework to further boost cross-border trade and investment in services; ease domestic barriers to trade and investment; and cultivate a favourable, predictable environment for international trade and investment.

¹² Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, "Demographic trends in the Arab region: 1950–2030", March 2025, p. 2.

Implementation of the framework could lower the average trade cost by 9 per cent of export values for ASEAN companies.¹³

47. The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme has emerged as a cornerstone of regional economic integration, with total investments under the Programme having reached \$51 billion by December 2023. A notable achievement is the accelerated implementation of the Advanced Transit System initiative under the Programme, which is aimed at creating a single harmonized electric regional transit system among member countries. Azerbaijan, Georgia and Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding to pilot the system, and Turkmenistan has joined the initiative as an observer. The pilot is aimed at strengthening regional transit efficiency, trade facilitation and economic connectivity.

48. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) made significant progress in promoting regional financial stability and trade facilitation, strengthening economic cooperation among member countries. In June 2024, India approved the Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC Countries for the period 2024–2027, which is aimed at enhancing financial cooperation and regional integration. The arrangement provides a safety net for short-term foreign exchange liquidity needs and serves to support SAARC countries in managing balance of payment challenges, thereby ensuring greater macroeconomic stability.

49. Through the Global Development Initiative, in 2023 and 2024 China contributed \$330 million to the Asian Development Fund and expanded the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund to \$4 billion, supporting over 1,000 development projects. The initiative has also been focused on capacity-building, providing 20,000 training opportunities and supporting the implementation of training programmes for Pacific Island countries focused on food production and eco-agriculture through the China-Pacific Island Countries Juncao Technology Demonstration Centre.

50. A major milestone in strengthening global trade integration was the establishment of the Least Developed Countries and Accessions Programme of China, through which substantial support has been provided to the least developed countries to assist with their accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Through financial contributions totalling \$490,000, China facilitated WTO accessions by means of internships, round-table meetings and trade policy reviews, which supported countries such as the Comoros and Timor-Leste to join WTO in early 2024.

51. The digital transformation of the Asia and the Pacific region was advanced through South-South cooperation, and technological innovation was leveraged to boost economic growth, enhance public services and promote inclusive development. The Astana Ministerial Declaration on Digital Inclusion and Transformation in Asia and the Pacific, endorsed at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Digital Inclusion and Transformation organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Government of Kazakhstan in September 2024, marks a significant milestone in regional digital cooperation. Bringing together 35 member and associate States, the Declaration is aimed at fostering more inclusive digital economies and societies in the region, enhancing cooperation to bridge the digital divide and enhancing digital connectivity, trust and security.

52. India played a leading role in South-South cooperation in digital capacity-building, particularly through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme. During the reporting period, India provided training to over 13,500 participants (40 per cent of whom were women) across the global South to strengthen expertise in areas related to e-governance, data science, ICT security and digital

¹³ ASEAN, ASEAN Economic Integration Brief, No. 16 (December 2024), p. 6. Available at https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/AEIB-No.16_December-2024.pdf.

governance. India also expanded e-governance training initiatives to assist landlocked developing countries in Asia and Africa, supporting the development of telecommunications infrastructure, digital governance frameworks and ICT-based services for education, healthcare and trade. The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme continues to serve as a key platform for digital knowledge exchange and technology transfer through South-South cooperation.

53. The countries of the region also played a crucial role in advancing climate action and resilience-building efforts, particularly through South-South cooperation. For example, at the fifty-second Pacific Islands Forum, participants agreed to establish a regional energy commissioner for a just transition to a fossil fuel-free Pacific, a dedicated platform for negotiating and advocating for regional energy priorities, with a focus on the phaseout of fossil fuels and the acceleration of the transition to renewable energy. Further strengthening climate resilience efforts, the Pacific Resilience Facility was endorsed as a Pacific-led, member-owned and member-managed regional financing mechanism. The Facility was designed to provide financial support for community-level disaster preparedness projects across Pacific Island countries, with the objective of achieving community resilience readiness by 2026.

54. Under the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security, a multilateral partnership of six countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste), the Coral Triangle Conservation Fund was operationalized. The Fund is a sustainable financing mechanism designed to provide support to conservation projects, scientific research and community-based climate adaptation initiatives, with a view to enhancing the resilience of coral reefs, promoting sustainable fisheries and strengthening the capacity of local communities to adapt to climate change.

55. In 2024, under the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, an agreement was signed with India to establish the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Energy Centre in India, which is aimed at enhancing regional energy cooperation among States members of the Initiative. The Centre will oversee the Initiative's Grid Interconnection Coordination Committee, coordinate regional energy initiatives, manage a comprehensive energy database and promote collaborative projects to strengthen energy security and sustainability across the Bay of Bengal region.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

56. South-South cooperation remained a dynamic modality in Latin America and the Caribbean, as illustrated by institutionalization and regional integration efforts, fostering trade and investment and enhancing science, technology and innovation, including digital transformation.

57. States of the region continued to make significant progress in institutionalizing South-South and triangular cooperation, strengthening mechanisms for knowledge exchange and data reporting. A key development was the first Expert Meeting on the Measurement of South-South Cooperation, held in Brazil in 2023. The meeting was organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and hosted by the Institute for Applied Economic Research in partnership with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency. It convened 16 representatives from countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to facilitate knowledge-sharing on South-South cooperation and data reporting and to support developing countries in adopting a common measurement framework. Pilot studies conducted in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico confirmed the potential utility of the voluntary framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation.

58. The first session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean was convened by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in 2023. Representatives from 26 countries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening South-South cooperation, deepening economic integration and fostering strategic partnerships to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), jointly with the Government of Peru and with the support of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund of the Group of 77, organized the thirty-second meeting of Directors of international cooperation agencies of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2024. The meeting contributed to the enhancement of institutional frameworks for South-South and triangular cooperation in the region, the systematization of good practices and the development of methodologies to measure regional cooperation more effectively. Those efforts contributed to the further institutionalization of South-South cooperation in the region.

59. One significant outcome of strengthened South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean has been the expansion of intraregional trade and investment. In 2024, trade among members of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) reached \$32.5 billion, the highest volume of intrabloc trade ever recorded. With the inclusion of the Plurinational State of Bolivia as a full member in 2023 and of Panama as an associated State in 2024, the regional economic influence of MERCOSUR expanded. With the inclusion of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the bloc makes up 70 per cent of GDP of the region. At the 2023 MERCOSUR Summit, Brazil launched the “Routes for integration” initiative, backed by \$10 billion in investments from the Brazilian Development Bank, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Financial Fund for the Development of the River Plate Basin. The initiative represents the largest financial commitment to the integration of MERCOSUR, enhancing regional connectivity, trade efficiency and production chains.

60. The Central American Common Market also made notable progress in regional economic integration. By 2023, total exports by the Central American Common Market had reached \$66.3 billion, while total imports stood at \$97 billion, facilitated by sustained cooperation through the Central American Economic Council. The Electricity Interconnection System for the Countries of Central America continued to support regional power supply integration, while free trade and economic integration mechanisms further bolstered regional economic development. Similarly, the Andean Community (Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) expanded its regional integration efforts through the signing of a cooperation agreement with the Latin American Energy Organization to enhance energy security and sustainability across the region. In 2024, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Brazil pledged to deepen their cooperation, underscoring the potential for enhanced economic partnerships and investment in renewable energy, disaster risk management, agricultural production, food security and regional economic development.

61. Furthermore, interregional trade and investment were strengthened through South-South partnerships beyond the region. In 2023, MERCOSUR signed a free trade agreement with Singapore aimed at opening new markets, reducing trade tariffs and easing investment conditions, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises. The total trade of Singapore with MERCOSUR accounted for half of the country’s trade with Latin America, reaching \$7.5 billion in 2022. Over 100 Singaporean companies are operating in key sectors, such as energy, agribusiness, manufacturing, hospitality and infrastructure.¹⁴

¹⁴ Ayman Falak Medina, “Singapore signs FTA with MERCOSUR bloc”, ASEAN Briefing, 14 December 2023.

62. Interregional ties were strengthened further through the second India-CARICOM Summit, held on 20 November 2024 in Georgetown, which served as a platform for expanding economic cooperation between the two partners. Both parties underscored the importance of the India, Latin America and the Caribbean Business Conclave in enhancing trade and investment in energy, infrastructure, agriculture, food security, health, pharmaceuticals, technology and innovation. Trade between the Andean Community and India expanded, with exports reaching \$6.85 billion in 2023, making India the sixth-largest market for Andean products.¹⁵

63. China deepened its engagement with the Latin America and the Caribbean region through projects under its Belt and Road Initiative. Bilateral trade agreements were signed with 22 countries, with annual trade volumes nearing \$500 billion. Key investments included renewable energy projects and infrastructure development projects, including the Port of Chancay in Peru, a \$3.6 billion initiative aimed at enhancing trade connectivity.

64. Recognizing the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by small island developing States due to climate change, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean has committed to becoming the “green bank” of the region, setting the target of allocating 40 per cent of its financing to environmental sustainability efforts by 2026. The Bank established a \$50 million financing facility for investment projects in the Caribbean, which is focused on economic infrastructure and climate resilience initiatives in CARICOM countries.

65. Regarding science, technology and innovation, the Digital Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean 2026 was adopted at the ninth Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the aim of leveraging digital transformation and artificial intelligence for sustainable development. The Government of Colombia and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean convened the fourth meeting of the Conference on Science, Innovation and Information and Communications Technologies, bringing together representatives from 22 countries to endorse a regional cooperation agenda for the period 2024–2025, which provides an outline of key actions in science, technology and innovation policy development. In addition, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, hosted the second Ministerial Summit on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, bringing together representatives from over 30 countries to strengthen regional collaboration on artificial intelligence governance and ethical standards.

IV. Developed countries

66. During the reporting period, developed countries continued to play a crucial role in triangular cooperation, supporting a wide range of initiatives focused on financial support, capacity-building, technical assistance and knowledge exchange.

67. The four-year funding cycle of the co-financing facility under the European Union ADELANTE 2 triangular cooperation programme was completed in 2024. Through the facility, support was provided to 47 innovative projects aligned with the 2030 Agenda, for a total investment of €5 million in Latin America and the Caribbean. Those projects directly benefited people across 27 countries.

68. Portugal launched its Triangular Cooperation Fund in 2023, allocating €1 million to the Fund through the Camões Institute. Through the Fund, support was

¹⁵ Juliaa Gangwani, “Strategic goals: strengthening the Andean Community”, *The Blue Moon*, 23 June 2024.

provided to six initiatives, including a climate resilience programme linking Portuguese universities, Brazilian non-governmental organizations and Mozambican cooperatives, as well as digital literacy programmes involving Angola, Colombia and Portugal. Portugal also hosted the seventh and eighth International Conferences on Triangular Cooperation. At the eighth Conference, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation launched the Triangular Cooperation Window under the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, which has received seed funding from Portugal to advance a sustainable blue economy.

69. Germany launched the Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Asia, which serves to facilitate initiatives related to renewable energy, fiscal decentralization and vocational education. Among its key contributions, Germany supported the Indonesian-German Initiative on First South-South Triangular Cooperation on Decentralized Renewable Energy, launched in August 2023, which serves to foster knowledge exchange and capacity-building in energy transition and decentralized energy solutions. Furthermore, in 2024, Germany, in partnership with Brazil, co-organized the seventh Regional Conference on Triangular Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean 2024, providing a platform for the exchange of best practices, knowledge-sharing and dialogue on the implementation of triangular cooperation initiatives.

70. Spain reaffirmed its commitment to triangular cooperation as a key modality for sustainable development through the Spanish Cooperation Master Plan for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity for the period 2024–2027. In 2024, Spain launched the Triangular Cooperation Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, an innovative initiative aimed at strengthening partnerships and addressing shared development challenges. In its first call for proposals, 24 initiatives were approved, which will engage institutions from 18 Latin American countries in multilevel and multi-stakeholder collaborations to advance sustainable development priorities.

71. In 2023, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Islamic Development Bank co-developed the *Global Perspectives on Triangular Co-operation* report. The report contains an assessment of the current global trends in the use of triangular cooperation, as well as an exploration of how to strengthen national ecosystems to support the effective delivery of triangular cooperation, and it serves to highlight how triangular cooperation can contribute to addressing climate change and biodiversity loss, with a specific focus on small island developing States. The report has contributed to the knowledge base on triangular cooperation.

V. Civil society, think tanks, the private sector and academia

72. South-South partnerships involving civil society, think tanks, the private sector and academia became more instrumental in scaling up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through South-South and triangular cooperation.

73. In 2024, Southern Voice, a network of 70 think tanks from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, joined the Scientific Advisory Board of the Secretary-General. Its inclusion on the Board marked an important recognition of the network's contributions to global policymaking, positioning it as one of only 12 global networks advising the United Nations on scientific and technological breakthroughs in the global South. Southern Voice also participated in Think20, an official engagement group of the Group of 20 focused on policy research, as part of the Think20 Brazil Midterm Conference. Through its engagement, Southern Voice provided policy recommendations and highlighted the role of South-South cooperation in addressing global challenges.

74. In 2024, civil society organizations strengthened their engagement in advocacy for disability rights and inclusion across the Pacific region. Eight such organizations working on disability inclusion came together to exchange best practices and enhance their advocacy skills, with the aim of contributing to long-term improvements in disability inclusion policies and practices. That initiative, supported by the Pacific Community, served to build the advocacy capacity of Pacific civil society organizations engaged in human rights work, enabling them to support specific campaigns and amplify their impact through South-South cooperation.

75. In climate justice, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, a network of over 2,000 civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations from 54 African countries, advanced its efforts to increase accountability in access to adaptation funding. The Alliance played an active role at the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, advocating for equitable climate finance mechanisms that prioritize the climate resilience needs of Africa.

76. The private sector has also been a key driver of South-South cooperation, particularly in digital transformation and financial inclusion. In 2024, Huawei organized the Digital and Intelligent Asia-Pacific Congress, bringing together over 2,000 participants from 15 Asia-Pacific countries. The company invested \$20 million to launch OpenLab 3.0 in Singapore and established six new partner alliances across the Asia-Pacific region. OpenLab 3.0 serves as a global technology hub, enabling local partners, customers and academic institutions to collaborate on digital solutions tailored to industry demands, thereby accelerating the digital transformation and technological innovation of the region.

77. Similarly, Gobi Partners, a Malaysia-based venture capital firm committed to environmental, social and governance principles, expanded its investment portfolio to support responsible investing, financial inclusion and gender equality. In December 2024, Gobi Partners launched the \$50 million Techxila Fund II, targeting start-ups in financial technology (fintech), e-commerce, health technology, logistics and software as a service. Strengthening its commitment to gender-responsive investment, Gobi Partners partnered with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to host the Asia Gender-Smart Investing Workshop, an initiative aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs and investors in South-East Asia. The workshop served to facilitate South-South knowledge-sharing, technical assistance and mentorship, equipping participants with practical tools for integrating gender-sensitive investment strategies into their organizations.

VI. Support of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation for interregional South-South cooperation initiatives

78. There has been a surge in the formation of interregional South-South cooperation alliances in recent years that have benefited from significant support from UNDP and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. UNDP reported over 165 regional and interregional South-South and triangular cooperation collaborations globally in 2023, which underscores the growing momentum of South-South engagement in sustainable development efforts. For example, the Frontier Tech Leaders Programme, launched in 2023 by UNDP, the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries and the Government of Türkiye, is aimed at bridging the digital divide in the least developed countries and enhancing local capacities. Through the initiative, digital training for sustainable development is provided to students from the least developed countries enrolled in Turkish universities. The Programme is now

on its third cohort, continuing to strengthen digital capabilities of the least developed countries through education and technology transfer.

79. The Policy Centre for Global Development Partnerships expanded its Sustainable Development Goal partnerships on development cooperation initiative, facilitating interregional South-South and triangular knowledge exchanges with support from the Republic of Korea. Engaging over 15 countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America, the initiative is focused on digital transformation and support for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, further strengthening collaborative innovation.

80. UNDP partnered with the China International Development Cooperation Agency under the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund to launch the Tailored Intelligence for Actionable Early Warning Systems Programme. With an overall envelope of \$20 million, the Programme will serve to increase disaster preparedness and response capacity in 10 countries in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region.

81. The Funds managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation were used to support several interregional initiatives. For example, the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation remains a leading interregional mechanism for combating poverty and hunger. In 2023 and 2024, the Facility allocated over \$5.9 million to support five projects, including a multi-country initiative on solar applications for agriculture in Africa and the Pacific. These projects, which are implemented by UNDP, serve to demonstrate how developing countries, in partnership with the United Nations system, are collaborating to support other countries. In addition, under the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund, 12 projects were carried out across different regions in 2023 and 2024, with a total budget of over \$11 million.

82. Through the Global South-South Development Centre, a project managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and funded out of the contribution of China to the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, a partnership was established with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture with a view to enhancing agricultural resilience and food system adaptation to climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through that initiative, 250 institutions from 42 countries were engaged through knowledge exchanges, leveraging South-South cooperation to accelerate climate action in the agricultural sector. A key outcome was a training course on drones for agriculture, an interregional South-South cooperation initiative involving 13 Caribbean countries and technical support from a Tanzanian institution, in which the role of digital and technological innovations in sustainable agriculture is highlighted.

83. Under the Triangular Cooperation Window of the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, the project known as the “Republic of Korea-United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation Facility Phase 3”, or “P-LINK”, served to foster multisectoral, technology-driven solutions in water, energy and food systems to improve livelihoods in the Mekong region with the Mekong River Commission and the Mekong Institute.

84. The South-South Galaxy, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, continues to serve as one of the key online knowledge-sharing and partnership-brokering platforms on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development. By the end of 2024, the South-South Galaxy repository had expanded to include over 960 documented good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation. To take advantage of emerging technologies, the platform was revamped.

85. At the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation played a key role in ensuring that

South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation were recognized as strategic modalities for supporting the progress of small island developing States towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Office is a member of the inter-agency task force developing a monitoring framework for the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda and has contributed to integrating components on South-South cooperation into the United Nations implementation matrix for the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda, emphasizing the relevance of South-South cooperation in addressing the unique development challenges of small island developing States.

VII. Organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme in support of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

86. Over the period 2023–2024, UNDP allocated a total of \$4.6 million to the institutional budget and \$6.8 million in core programme resources to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. Those resources supported the Office in implementing its strategic framework and delivering on its mandated functions. Its current strategic framework, for the period 2022–2025, prioritizes support for intergovernmental processes; the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation and action plan; knowledge co-creation and management; and South-South trust fund management. Additional support from UNDP and other United Nations organizations for South-South and triangular cooperation is described in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in implementing decision 21/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation ([SSC/22/2](#)).

87. The midterm review of the strategic framework for the period 2022–2025 and the evaluation, by the Independent Evaluation Office of UNDP, of support provided by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to the Group of 77 and China were completed in 2024. The reports from both evaluations and their management responses contained evidence-based recommendations for strengthening the Office's organizational effectiveness and strategic partnerships.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

88. The present report serves to reaffirm that South-South cooperation remains an important modality for advancing sustainable and inclusive development. As global and regional challenges continue to evolve, it is essential to ensure that the outcomes of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation remain aligned with those evolving challenges. To enhance the responsiveness of South-South cooperation to emerging development priorities, a midterm review of the outcome document of the Conference is recommended.

89. Despite economic volatility, geopolitical tensions and the impacts of climate change, developing countries have advanced regional integration, trade facilitation and digital transformation. Moreover, financial autonomy and cross-border transactions among the economies of the global South will be enhanced by digital trade facilitation, streamlined customs procedures and the development of payment systems, such as BRICS Pay. To build on that progress, efforts aimed at deepening economic integration and intra-South trade and at leveraging regional frameworks and subregional arrangements must be accelerated.

90. The expansion of financial mechanisms and debt management frameworks that are led by the global South is critical to addressing economic vulnerabilities and

shocks in the global South. Regional initiatives, such as the Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions and the Africa Debt Monitoring Mechanism, serve as models from which to glean lessons learned in support of financial sustainability. To further enhance debt sustainability and the effectiveness of development financing, developing countries should scale up financing mechanisms led by the global South, including by creating favourable conditions for unlocking domestic financial resources, fostering innovative debt-swap arrangements and advocating for reforms in the global financial architecture so that the priorities of the global South are better reflected. It is necessary to encourage the exchange of solutions within the context of South-South cooperation.

91. Digital transformation and science, technology and innovation are central pillars for sustainable development, driving economic diversification and digital inclusion. Access to digital technologies remains uneven, however, particularly in Africa and in the least developed countries. Expanding regional technology incubation hubs, strengthening artificial intelligence readiness, governance and ICT security frameworks, and promoting South-South knowledge exchanges on digital governance will be key to accelerating digital entrepreneurship and fostering innovation-led growth.

92. Climate action has become a defining challenge for the global South, especially small island developing States, which are disproportionately affected by climate change but receive insufficient climate finance. The establishment of climate resilience initiatives underscores the leadership of developing countries in tackling environmental challenges, but the finance gap for adaptation and mitigation remains a significant constraint. To enhance climate resilience and increase preparedness for urgent and critical climate risks, it is essential to strengthen South-South cooperation in climate-smart agriculture, renewable energy and nature-based solutions while mobilizing greater climate finance.

93. Triangular cooperation is gaining momentum as an effective modality for leveraging innovative partnerships between developing and developed countries. The engagement of the Group of 20 and OECD countries in supporting South-South initiatives reflects the growing role of triangular cooperation in addressing global challenges. To maximize development impact, triangular cooperation in renewable energy, digital infrastructure and capacity-building should be expanded, while ensuring that it remains aligned with the priorities of the global South. Greater institutionalization and alignment with national development priorities are needed.

94. Humanitarian assistance and crisis response through South-South solidarity have become increasingly vital amid ongoing conflicts, economic shocks and climate-induced disasters. Countries of the global South have mobilized substantial aid and technical support for crisis-affected regions, including coordinated post-disaster relief efforts. To enhance emergency preparedness, there is an urgent need to institutionalize regional humanitarian response mechanisms, strengthen South-South knowledge-sharing on disaster resilience and enhance South-South cooperation in peacebuilding and crisis recovery frameworks.