



United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation

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9th International Meeting on Triangular Cooperation
“Triangular Cooperation in a Rapidly Shifting Development Cooperation”

**SESSION 1 – Triangular co-operation in a rapidly shifting development co-operation landscape:
what lies ahead?**

2:15 – 4:00 PM, 29 October 2025 | Lisbon, Portugal

Excellencies,
Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a pleasure to join you virtually today.

I wish to thank the Government of Portugal and the OECD for hosting the 9th International Meeting on Triangular Cooperation, and for their steadfast leadership in advancing this important platform.

Every October, we gather in Lisbon with a shared purpose: to advance partnership through triangular cooperation.

In a world of division, triangular cooperation—as a complement to South-South cooperation and founded on the same principle—is a bridge connecting knowledge, trust, and purpose.

This annual convening reminds us of our collective spirit – essential in navigating today’s fast-changing global development and financing landscape.

I would also like to acknowledge Portugal’s leadership in the institutionalization of this important Conference. This year’s focus on the engagement with the private sector and philanthropic actors is extremely relevant and fully aligns with the Seville Commitment.

Let me also acknowledge that during my recent visit to Lisbon, I was pleased to engage with a number of foundations and institutions actively contributing to the advancement of triangular cooperation.

The international community faces interconnected crises—from deepening geopolitical divisions and escalating climate shocks to debt vulnerabilities and a widening SDG financing gap.



The **2025 SDG Report** shows that only a third of the Goals are on track, while nearly half are moving too slowly, and some have even regressed. Global public debt has now surpassed US\$100 trillion, with developing countries carrying nearly one-third of that burden.

These sobering realities remind us that we must rethink traditional aid paradigms.

We must move from transactional to transformational partnerships, mobilizing not only finance, but also knowledge, capacity, and innovation in solidarity.

In response to this urgency, **triangular cooperation** provides a powerful pathway to advance resilience and shared prosperity.

Global frameworks—from *the Addis Ababa Action Agenda* and *BAPA+40 Outcome Document* to the *Pact for the Future* and the *Sevilla Commitment*—affirm triangular cooperation as essential for inclusive and effective development.

By linking the technical expertise of Southern partners with the financial and technological support of Northern and multilateral actors, it fosters **co-creation, mutual learning, and scalable solutions**. This approach strengthens national ownership, builds institutional capacity, and delivers sustainable impact.

One year ago, UNOSSC launched the **Triangular Cooperation Window** under the UN Fund for South-South Cooperation—announced here in Lisbon with your support during last year’s meeting.

In line with the UN Secretary-General’s 2023 report recommendations, this Window facilitates demand-driven, inclusive, and results-oriented partnerships with countries such as **Portugal, Colombia, Spain, and Morocco**, focusing on **climate resilience, digital innovation, capacity building and institutional strengthening**.

We are very pleased with the flagship initiative supported by Portugal connecting universities and research institutions from Angola, Chile, Jamaica, and Portugal to study the impacts of climate change on coastal regions and advance sustainable blue economy practices.

While triangular cooperation continues to grow, **structural and operational challenges** remain—such as gaps in data and measurement, coordination at multiple levels, and constraints in mobilizing not only financial resources but also human and technological capacities.

The UNOSSC *Global Report on South-South and Triangular Cooperation 2025* underscores the need to address these challenges while upholding solidarity, mutual benefit, and equality.

Unlocking its full potential requires:

- **Strengthening national ecosystems and regional frameworks;**
- **Integrated platforms** for knowledge exchange, financing, and innovation;
- **Robust results frameworks** for accountability and learning;
- **Digital transformation** to expand reach, efficiency, and inclusivity; and



- **Genuine multi-stakeholder partnerships** placing developing countries at the center.

The future of triangular cooperation lies in inclusive, equitable, and evidence-based partnerships that amplify the voice of the Global South.

By fostering solidarity, mutual accountability, and the active participation of **women, youth, civil society, the private sector, and local actors**, we can ensure this modality delivers on its promise of a more just and sustainable world.

Dear Colleagues,

The path ahead is one of **mainstreamed, dynamic and high-impact collaboration**—rooted in shared ambition, trust, and partnership.

UNOSSC looks forward to continuing this collective journey with all of you to ensure that triangular cooperation delivers tangible results and lasting impact for people and communities across the Global South.

Thank you.

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