**Annex 5. Update on results achieved by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in 2021**

**Summary**

This update is submitted in response to decision 2018/5 of the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board in which the Board requested annual updates on the results achieved by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). This update for 2021 is the fourth one on the implementation of the UNOSSC strategic framework, 2018–2021.

1. **Introduction**
2. The present document reports on the development and institutional results achieved by UNOSSC in 2021 against the objectives set out in its strategic framework, 2018–2021 (DP/CF/SSC/6). The Office receives its mandate and policy guidance from the United Nations General Assembly, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and the United Nations processes concerning South-South cooperation, including United Nations conferences on that modality of development cooperation.
3. The results reported here are organized in the order of the three outcomes of the UNOSSC strategic framework, 2018–2021, followed by a description of key priorities for the Office as a way forward in implementing its new strategic framework, 2022–2025.
4. **Context**
5. The year 2021 was marked by the continuation of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and slow vaccine roll-out, especially in the countries of the South, further threatening the achievement of sustainable development goals. This pandemic is more than a health crisis; it is a socioeconomic and humanitarian crisis, threatening security, stability and economic, environmental and social development, and it has posed even bigger challenges for the countries and people of the Global South.
6. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in its *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022,* reports that “a global contraction of 3.4 per cent in 2020” was followed by “an expansion of 5.5 per cent in 2021, the highest rate of growth in more than four decades”.[[1]](#footnote-2) However, economic growth in the Global South was not the same as that in the North. Growth impetus has generally been weaker in most developing countries and economies in transition. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), recovery growth in foreign direct investment was more modest in developing economies, especially the least developed countries (LDCs).[[2]](#footnote-3)
7. Global poverty is projected to remain at record highs, and poverty is forecast to further increase in the world’s most vulnerable economies. For instance, in Africa, the absolute number of people living in poverty is anticipated to rise through 2023. The COVD-19 pandemic “has exacerbated the gender divide, especially in developing countries, where women have experienced a sharper decline in employment and labour force participation than men. Many women face serious barriers to re-entering the labour force, especially women with young children.”[[3]](#footnote-4)
8. The COVID-19 pandemic remained a real test for the South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships that draw on strong solidarity among people and countries of the Global South to collectively respond and recover from the crisis. The countries leveraged various aspects of South-South and triangular cooperation to tackle the crisis, which included supplying emergency medicine and equipment, and vaccines as socioeconomic support to address immediate and long-term recovery efforts.
9. Looking ahead, it has been proven that strong solidarity and South-South and triangular cooperation can serve as key means to effectively respond to and recover from the COVID-19 crisis as well as to address other shocks posed by climate change, poverty and disasters, among others. As the United Nations Secretary-General stated during a high-level virtual panel discussion in commemoration of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation in September 2021, “As the world seeks to ramp up COVID-19 response and recovery and tackle the existential threat of climate change, South-South and triangular cooperation is more essential than ever.”[[4]](#footnote-5)
10. **Highlights of results**
11. The year 2021 was the final year for the implementation of the UNOSSC strategic framework, 2018–2021. Despite the direct impact of the pandemic, which caused the postponement of some key processes and initiatives planned for 2021, UNOSSC delivered the remaining milestone results of the strategic framework. It also developed its new strategic framework, 2022–2025, focusing on leveraging United Nations system support to enable the Member States to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Decade of Action and in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience for the future.

**Results against outcome 1**: **Strengthened multilateral policymaking processes to advance Southern interests and development agenda, and enhanced coherence and coordination of United Nations support**

**Advancing South-South and triangular cooperation policymaking**

1. UNOSSC substantively contributed to South-South and triangular cooperation policymaking following the requests of Member States. As the substantive secretariat of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation (HLC), UNOSSC supported the preparation and organization of its twentieth session. Prior to that session, the Office organized more than 40 bilateral meetings with Member States, updating them on developments and supporting their participation in the HLC. Pursuant to decisions 19/1 and 19/2 of the nineteenth session of the Committee in 2016, UNOSSC prepared the biennial report of the Secretary-General and the biennial report of the Administrator of UNDP to the HLC, providing Member States with evidence-based research and analysis on trends, opportunities and challenges regarding South-South and triangular cooperation, including recommendations that fed into the HLC decisions. In order to further inform policymaking, the Office also shared with the HLC Bureau, for information, the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development and its action plan. In HLC decision 20/1, the Committee took note of the establishment of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the potential of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation “to enhance the role and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation”, and the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in the COVID-19 response. UNOSSC compiled the Committee decisions and deliberations in a report for submission to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The report (A/76/39), adopted at the ECOSOC Management Segment in July 2021, highlights new priorities for South-South cooperation necessitated by the pandemic, including the heightened need for enhanced collaboration to improve health-care systems, social protection systems and other public services.  UNOSSC also provided technical and policy support to three HLC side events organized by the HLC Bureau members. The events, which focused on the United Nations development system, funding mechanisms and triangular cooperation, enriched the understanding of how triangular cooperation could contribute to recovery and the building of a resilient society in the post-COVID-19 period.
2. UNOSSC served as the secretariat, provided policy advice, and supported co-facilitators of the negotiations on the resolution on South-South cooperation of the Economic and Financial Committee (Second Committee) of the General Assembly. The resolution (A/RES/76/221), which was adopted by consensus by the Second Committee, recognizes the importance of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development and gives a mandate to the United Nations development system and the regional commissions to implement the strategy at the regional and country levels. In it, the General Assembly “calls upon the United Nations development system, including United Nations entities, to continue mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, at the country level, as appropriate” (para. 5). It further calls upon UNOSSC “to work with the regional commissions to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation, including through regional collaborative frameworks for South-South and triangular cooperation” (ibid.). Furthermore, besides the usual United Nations General Assembly resolutions that include a reference to South-South and triangular cooperation, the General Assembly also included new South-South and triangular cooperation language in two additional resolutions: “Development cooperation with middle-income countries” ([A/RES/76/215](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/215)) and “Natural plant fibers and sustainable development” ([A/RES/76/223](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/223)).
3. Moreover, UNOSSC supported multilateral policymaking processes in a coordinated manner through the preparation of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/76/403), engaging relevant focal points in United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes. Over 20 United Nations entities provided substantiative inputs to the report reflecting their progress in advancing South-South and triangular cooperation. The report was introduced to the Second Committee of the General Assembly, where many delegates referenced the report in underscoring the importance of South-South cooperation, particularly in the response to and recovery from COVID-19 and in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report highlights the implementation of recommendations of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), focusing on, among other things, the efforts of United Nations entities to promote South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives at the global, regional and national levels and the growing relevance, mainstreaming and institutionalization of United Nations support to such cooperation. The report also includes recommendations on ways to further use South-South cooperation as a key development modality to accelerate progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda during the current Decade of Action. Among other things, it calls for UNOSSC to include in its forthcoming strategic framework more robust support for developing countries in establishing and/or strengthening national institutions to plan and manage South-South cooperation upon the request of Member States and United Nations country teams (UNCTs), as applicable. Furthermore, UNOSSC and other relevant entities were invited to harness the expertise of Southern centres of excellence and think tanks. Responding to the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General, the UNOSSC strategic framework, 2022–2025, has prioritized providing robust support for developing countries on South-South and triangular cooperation.
4. The twelfth edition of the High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation, co-organized with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), was held virtually from 17 to 19 March 2021. The High-level Forum provided specific recommendations on how to move forward the South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation agenda for sustainable development through actionable, results-oriented solutions, particularly in the context of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Forum participants also made suggestions on how to strengthen the institutionalization of South-South and triangular cooperation for effective implementation of the recommendations in the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/73/291) (BAPA+40 outcome document). The Forum enabled peer-to-peer learning and mutual capacity development among over 160 participants representing national governments, United Nations entities, and other practitioners of South-South and triangular cooperation.
5. UNOSSC advanced its advocacy efforts to promote South-South and triangular cooperation, highlighting requests and priorities of Member States. For instance, it organized the commemoration of the 2021 United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, engaging high-level representatives of Member States and United Nations dignitaries, including the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council, the President of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, the Chair of the Group of 77, the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. In his statement, the United Nations Secretary-General emphasized that deeper international cooperation was needed to address the global health crisis, reduce poverty and inequality, achieve the SDGs and avert climate catastrophe. He underlined that South-South and triangular cooperation offered concrete solutions to those shared challenges. The President of the General Assembly called for more support to the LDCs to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and suggested that South-South cooperation played an important role in that regard. The Chair of the Group of 77 stressed the need to strengthen the means of implementation for developing countries, particularly in the areas of financing, technology and capacity-building, and to create an enabling global environment for development.

**Improving coordination of United Nations system-wide support to South-South and triangular cooperation**

1. Following the adoption of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development by the Executive Committee chaired by the Secretary-General (Decision 2020/38), UNOSSC, at the request of the Executive Committee, led the development of an action plan for the strategy in coordination with the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in a consultative, participatory manner, engaging over 30 United Nations entities. The action plan was endorsed by the Executive Committee in 2021 and guides the United Nations entities to provide better policy, operational and programmatic support on South-South and triangular cooperation at the national, regional and global levels, with the aim of supporting national priorities and driving forward the 2030 Agenda and the Decade of Action to deliver on the SDGs.
2. Furthermore, under the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, UNOSSC also coordinated the preparation of a monitoring and evaluation framework and agreed on a set of 16 prioritized indicators to track progress in the implementation of the strategy. In close collaboration with United Nations entities including the Development Coordination Office (DCO) and DESA, efforts were made to use existing data collection systems and tools of United Nations entities to monitor the progress of the action plan. The relevant indicators, which require data from the country level, were integrated into quadrennial comprehensive policy review (QCPR) surveys, and the baseline data indicators were tracked through QCPR 2021 surveys. UNOSSC also launched the survey on South-South and triangular cooperation to receive the inputs of United Nations entities for the annual report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy. The QCPR surveys also collect data for the indicators that could not be tracked through the existing monitoring systems of United Nations entities. A mid-term review and a final independent evaluation will be conducted to assess the implementation of the strategy and its action plan. It is expected that the quality and evidence-based monitoring and evaluation will help the Member States and United Nations entities to make informed decisions to advance the implementation of the strategy and its action plan and subsequently better leverage South-South and triangular cooperation in achieving SDGs.
3. United Nations system-wide coordination on South-South and triangular cooperation was further strengthened through effective engagement of the members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in consultations and policy dialogues, intergovernmental reporting processes, the provision of advisory services, and the development and roll-out of the action plan for the United Nations System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, among others. With UNOSSC coordination and leadership, the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation is being transformed into an effective policy platform to bring together the United Nations entities in collectively advancing the South-South and triangular cooperation agenda and improving system-wide coordination. Subsequently, the members of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation continued to play vital roles in providing the support of the United Nations system to Member States on South-South and triangular cooperation.
4. UNOSSC also supported enhancing cross-regional United Nations system-wide coordination on South-South and triangular cooperation. As part of the multi-country office (MCO) review and follow-up on its implementation, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Core Group is tracking progress across seven action areas, including action area 7 on South-South cooperation and cross-regional learning, coordinated by UNOSSC. In that context, UNOSSC coordinated with United Nations entities, within the framework of the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, to review progress on the various commitments made by individual entities and developed a coherent system-wide approach and United Nations development system offer on South-South and triangular cooperation in support of MCOs/small island developing States (SIDS), including recommendations for concrete actions that could be taken collectively by the UNSDG entities at the global, regional or country level.

**Providing advisory services to United Nations entities**

1. UNOSSC helped United Nations entities in strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of South-South and triangular cooperation-related work. For instance, it provided substantiative inputs to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) during the development of its new South-South and triangular cooperation strategy and on its South-South benchmarking study/evaluation. The Office also provided technical inputs on strengthening the South-South and triangular cooperation component of the QCPR monitoring framework, 2021–2024, and subsequently helped in developing data collection tools. Similarly, UNOSSC provided technical inputs and advice regarding the South-South and triangular cooperation indicators of the United Nations entities reporting scorecard for the implementation of the United Nations Youth Strategy and technical inputs for the International Development Cooperation chapter of the *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2021*. Eighteen projects implemented by United Nations entities, supported by UNOSSC-managed trust funds, received technical support in integrating South-South and triangular cooperation. UNOSSC also provided advisory services during the design and implementation of evaluations of the trust fund-supported projects, particularly to assess the contribution of the projects to the promotion of South-South cooperation principles.
2. The UNOSSC Regional Offices also continued to provide advisory services to United Nations entities and UNCTs and actively participated in regional coordination platforms and collaboration efforts. For example, in the Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, UNOSSC organized interregional policy dialogues and stocktaking on public-policy leadership and institutional arrangements for advancing South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of COVID-19 recovery, engaging stakeholders from over 40 countries. The participants identified key public-policy challenges and opportunities for strengthened interregional, intraregional and subregional collaboration and highlighted the role of national architecture for South-South, East-East and triangular cooperation and means for making institutions more effective and efficient. Through a dedicated session with the United Nations Resident Coordinator and issue-based coalition leads at the regional level, participants reflected on the efforts and role of the United Nations development system in order to prioritize national and regional development through South-South, East-East and triangular cooperation. Discussions were guided by the United Nations development system reform and the 2020 QCPR resolution ([A/RES/75/233](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/75/233)), including through the roll-out of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation and the leveraging of the regional collaborative platforms and relevant issue-based coalitions in the two regions. The meeting also provided an opportunity for deeper discussion on sustainable peace in the Arab States region, reflecting on the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in advancing the development-peace-humanitarian nexus in the political and social environments.
3. In the Asia and the Pacific region, UNOSSC expanded advisory services in partnership with ESCAP to convene the Round Table for Goal 17 during the 2021 Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development. The Round Table assessed progress in (a) partnerships and international cooperation focused on South-South and triangular cooperation; (b) data, monitoring and accountability; (c) financing for development; and (d) trade and innovation in the Asia and the Pacific region as well as the role of South-South cooperation. The report of the Chair from the round-table discussion included the recommendation that countries scale up South-South and triangular cooperation, and that recommendation was included in the report to the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The UNOSSC Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific supported UNCTs in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam to (a) develop a common country strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation, undertaking preliminary studies to include in the draft of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF); (b) strengthen the implementation of a triangular cooperation project between China, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka; and (c) capture lessons learned on COVID-19 responses in Viet Nam.

**Results against outcome 2**: **Capacities of Member States, the United Nations system and other partners in South-South and triangular cooperation strengthened through enhanced generation and sharing of knowledge and access to high-quality advisory services**

**Enhancing digital networks for sharing knowledge and brokering partnerships**

1. The entities of the United Nations system, Member States and other partners are increasingly using South-South Galaxy for knowledge-sharing and partnership-brokering. South-South Galaxy is recognized as one of the key South-South knowledge-sharing and partnership-brokering platforms in the United Nations System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation and its action plan. It 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. Compared to 2020, there was a 31 per cent increase in registered institutions, which reached a total [of 416](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmy.southsouth-galaxy.org%2Fen%2Fdata%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cramya.ramanathan%40unossc.org%7C70217033b9414f298e3508d8a14f215d%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637436708642930565%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=htTgIdi1w7N8C1t4JktRezf4zIKaydX5f%2FsCxhbsgzk%3D&reserved=0), including 102 government agencies and 56 United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies and country offices. These registered institutions are using South-South Galaxy to connect with one another directly and expanding partnerships digitally. Over 40 partnerships were facilitated through the platform in 2021. For example, the Governments of Bangladesh and Ghana connected to share experiences in developing e-government services; the Government of Colombia (Colombian Presidential Agency for Cooperation, or APC-Colombia) connected with the World Food Programme (WFP) to learn about COVID-19-related food-security projects.
2. Moreover, UNOSSC expanded its curated digital repository[[5]](#footnote-6) to over [800 good practices](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmy.southsouth-galaxy.org%2Fen%2Fsolutions%2F&data=04%7C01%7Cramya.ramanathan%40unossc.org%7C70217033b9414f298e3508d8a14f215d%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637436708642940557%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=i1Cz3fOQ33eFfEU4yYW%2B0vQ1WtZC%2BArIk2tVtBHyO%2BQ%3D&reserved=0) in South-South and triangular cooperation across all SDGs through the active submissions and sharing by Member States, United Nations entities and other development partners (a 32 per cent increase from 2020). This 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 experiences on overcoming common challenges; that knowledge and those experiences are sustainable, tested for technical feasibility and have the potential for replication to achieve impact at scale. Many good practices received from partners centre on LDC and SIDS priorities.
3. South-South Galaxy also advanced knowledge dissemination efforts, engaging stakeholders from the Global South and the North. It organized over [20 knowledge-sharing events on South-South and triangular cooperation](https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/webinar-series-timeline/) jointly with Member States, United Nations entities and other development partners to share their good practices and experiences and discuss how they could be scaled up to other countries and regions through South-South and triangular cooperation. Topics ranged from poverty eradication, climate action, environmental sustainability, urbanization, digital transformation, and COVID-19 response and recovery to South-South investment and trade, health, urbanization, tourism, development cooperation, and the importance of knowledge platforms in facilitating and strengthening South-South cooperation. The partnership between South-South Galaxy and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has expanded the scope of dissemination of good practices. Under this partnership, OECD has been using the platform to link triangular cooperation-related good practices to its [triangular cooperation repository of projects platform](https://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-global-relations/triangular-co-operation-repository.htm) while crediting and referencing South-South Galaxy.
4. Furthermore, South-South Galaxy also partnered with an additional [12 organizations as Partner of the Mont](https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/previous-partners-of-the-month/)h (bringing the total to 27 organizations since the launch of the platform) to feature and promote the exceptional South-South and triangular cooperation efforts led by Governments, United Nations organizations and Southern development partners, providing a window for development partners to see and recognize opportunities for collaboration.
5. South-South Galaxy is also 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 Parliamentary Assembly, bringing together 20 parliaments to provide support to one another in matters relating to peace, resilience and development. South-South Galaxy is also serving as a platform that brings networks of cities, institutions and experts together to facilitate horizontal cooperation and exchange through the [South-South Cities Cluster initiative](https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/cities-clusters/). The initiative enables local government representatives and other development actors to engage in thematic South-South and triangular cooperation capacity-development and knowledge-sharing activities for mutual benefit. Furthermore, the UNOSSC-managed Cities Project partnered with South-South Galaxy and received virtual space to launch its seven thematic South-South Cities Clusters covering environment, transportation, waste management, agriculture, disaster risk management, etc.
6. As an integral element of the United Nations System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the Regional Office for Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) expanded the outreach of South-South Galaxy through an interregional roll-out for the Arab States, Europe and the CIS regions in collaboration with the Regional Collaborative Platforms and by engaging 25 United Nations agencies and Resident Coordinator Offices. That roll-out helped to increase ownership of United Nations entities on the platform, facilitate proactive engagement in knowledge-sharing and partnership-brokering, and strengthen engagement in national, interregional and intraregional South-South/East-East/triangular cooperation initiatives. It also strengthened UNOSSC regional engagement and partnerships with the Regional Collaborative Platforms and the United Nations DCO Offices in Amman and Istanbul.
7. Additionally, at the request of the Government of Colombia (APC-Colombia), Brazil, India, Rwanda, the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre on Global Development Partnerships and UNDP Bangladesh, UNOSSC presented South-South Galaxy as a source of inspiration for building innovation and knowledge-sharing platforms for those countries and institutions. For example, UNOSSC coordinated with the Government of India to share development solutions in the area of science, technology and innovation across the Global South including innovations relating to COVID-19 testing, reagents, ventilators, etc. Inputs were provided to the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor of the Government of India on the design of a digital platform: “Science & Innovation @ Bharat".
8. The Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) has been enhanced through leveraging digital platforms. UNOSSC, in collaboration with its co-hosts – the Government of Thailand and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) – had advanced the preparation of the GSSD Expo 2022 and undertaken its pre-launch in November 2021. A virtual (3D animated) exhibition platform was launched to showcase South-South and triangular cooperation good practices as well as the latest initiatives by partners, making the 2022 Expo the first Expo offering hybrid participation and engagement leveraging digital technologies in a greener environment. The GSSD Expo will take place in September 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand.

**Strengthening the UNOSSC knowledge hub through the development and launch of good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation**

1. In response to the United Nations System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which highlights the importance of documenting, compiling, and disseminating good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation, and to the recommendations of the mid-term review of the UNOSSC strategic framework, 2018–2021, UNOSSC advanced its work in developing publications on thematic, typological and regionally focused good practices. Those publications were developed in partnership with Member States and United Nations entities, including the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (WHO). The publications focus on issues relating to COVID-19, poverty eradication, governance, education, climate change, disaster risk reduction, clean water, renewable energy, agro-food, digital finance, environment, and inclusiveness, with many centred on LDCs and SIDS. They include the following:
2. In keeping with commitments included in the MCO implementation roadmap that was developed by UNSDG to foster South-South cooperation and cross-regional learning through the mapping and sharing of good practices relevant for SIDS, UNOSSC worked with UN-OHRLLS in documenting good practices that are relevant to the implementation of the SDGs as well as the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway priorities in those countries.  The resulting publication, titled [*Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development in SIDS: Advancing the SAMOA Pathway and Achieving Sustainable Recovery*](https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/good-practices-in-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-for-sustainable-development-in-sids/), aims to facilitate and promote peer learning and collective efforts among SIDS and their development partners in addressing SIDS special development challenges and building resilience. The publication, which describes over 50 good practices, was launched at a [high-level event during the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2021.](https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/events/hlpf-side-event-sids/)

1. With regard to support to LDCs, UNOSSC partnered with UN-OHRLLS, UNCDF and Qatar (the Qatar Fund for Development) in mapping good practices centring on the priorities of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the implementation of the SDGs in LDCs. The joint work demonstrated the potential of South-South and triangular cooperation in LDCs to attain the objectives of supporting national and regional development efforts, strengthening institutional and technical capacities, and improving the exchange of experiences and know-how. It also aimed to facilitate and promote peer and cross-regional learning and collective efforts among LDCs and their development partners in addressing LDC special development challenges and building resilience.

1. The Office worked with UNDP to develop an Africa-focused good-practices publication, [*Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Scaling Up Made-in-Africa Solutions*](https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/publications/good-practices-in-sstc-scaling-up-made-in-africa-solutions/)*,*codifying over 50 Africa-based innovative South-South development good practices that had been scaled up or that had the potential to be scaled up in Africa. The publication was launched during a side event observing the [United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation](https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/events/launch-good-practices-in-sstc-made-in-africa/) .
2. Over twenty good practices in those three compendiums involve projects advanced by UNOSSC through its South-South trust funds and programmes. In partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the UNOSSC Cities Project invited city stakeholders to share innovative experiences in environmental sustainability and climate change. Twelve cases were selected and included in the report titled “Innovative Experiences of Cities: Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action through South-South and Triangular Cooperation”. The report was launched in the context of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26).

**Strengthening engagement with think tanks and evidence-based research on South-South cooperation in the context of sustainable development**

1. The BAPA+40 outcome document recognized the contribution of think tanks and research institutions to the improvement of South-South and triangular cooperation practices and encouraged United Nations entities to continue their engagement and support to those organizations in efforts to better understand the role and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation in order to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda. Building on that, in 2021, through the UNOSSC-UNDP-supported initiative South-South Global Thinkers: a Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for SSC, over 20 research papers were developed that focused on areas that are important to South-South and triangular cooperation. Research topics on South-South cooperation ranged from trade; investment; digitalization; climate change; regional integration; and science, technology and innovation; to institutional arrangements and frameworks for South-South cooperation; impact assessment of South-South cooperation; big data; financial inclusion; and LDCs and South-South cooperation. The papers were launched and disseminated during virtual events, through the South-South Global Thinkers platform, and via social media efforts and the distribution of newsletters. The knowledge from several of those papers served as inputs to several United Nations reports.
2. UNOSSC, in collaboration with the UNDP Human Development Report Office, engaged South-South Global Thinkers to inform the 2022 special report on human security titled *New Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene: Demanding Greater Solidarity* and the e-discussion for the 2021–2022 *Human Development Report*: [“South-South Cooperation in a Context of Uncertain Times & Unsettled Lives](https://www.ssc-globalthinkers.org/topic/summary-virtual-consultation-202122-hdr-ssc-context-uncertain-times-unsettled-lives)”. Through consultations facilitated by UNOSSC, Southern think tanks provided insights into how South-South cooperation could play a role in addressing issues relating to inequalities and uncertainties that include technology as well as prospects and implications of economic, social and political decisions. Over 36 think tanks from 21 countries representing all five regions participated, representing South-South Global Thinkers member think-tank networks and institutions.
3. UNOSSC also expanded the membership of the South-South Global Thinkers think-tank network through strategic partners including the South Centre, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Programme. Those new partnerships are expected to strengthen and enhance knowledge and research contributions of the global coalition to include expertise in poverty eradication, regional integration and trade, among other topics.  The partnership with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) focuses on knowledge-sharing in the area of poverty eradication. UNOSSC and CASS also co-organized a knowledge-sharing event, “South-South cooperation on leveraging knowledge and good practices sharing for poverty eradication and sustainable development” on International Poverty Eradication Day. It was announced at this event that a global network of think tanks on “Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development” has been established under the chairmanship of CASS and joined the South-South Global Thinkers initiative.

**Enhancing support by UNOSSC regional offices to countries and subregional and regional institutions**

1. The UNOSSC Regional Office for Africa supported the cooperation of the Governments of Kenya and Rwanda on the development of South-South and triangular cooperation policy and the sharing of solutions. The Regional Office, in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, supported the initiative of the Government of Ethiopia on the Diaspora Trust Fund to commission and disseminate evidence-based research focusing on the role of diaspora in sustainable development in Africa. The Regional Office also conducted a mapping exercise to identify interventions required to enhance access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills by youths in South Africa.
2. The UNOSSC Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific advanced capacity development support to the government representatives and youths that could help in COVID-19 pandemic recovery efforts. For example, in partnership with ESCAP, the Regional Office organized a four-day training session for government officers and policymakers on digitalization, which helped the participants from different countries to exchange their knowledge about the implementation review of digitalization strategies. The Regional Office co-organized two training cohorts on entrepreneurship and sustainable business for young entrepreneurs from Asian and African countries with institutions from Hong Kong, China, including Gratia Christian College; the Hong Kong Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); Youth Square; Cyberport; and the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization.
3. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific supported the Issue-Based Coalition on Building Resilience (climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction) led by UNESCO and UNICEF to compile materials for climate change advocacy. UNOSSC also launched a South-South in Action publication titled “Capacity-building for Climate Actions in Southeast Asia” with the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO) and JICA. The publication showcases five case studies that illustrate the number of ways that TGO/the Climate Change International Technical and Training Centre undertake climate-change capacity-building in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region. Based on the publication, the Regional Office facilitated partnerships between TGO and the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and the initiative between Mahidol University in Thailand and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change pertaining to research on climate change by local institutions of higher education.
4. As a follow-up to the interregional policy dialogue and stocktaking on public-policy leadership and institutional arrangements for advancing South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of COVID-19 recovery in the Arab States, Europe and the CIS, and bearing in mind the emphasis placed on strengthening the national architecture for South-South and triangular cooperation in the BAPA+40 outcome document, the Regional Office for Arab States, Europe and the CIS revitalized an “offer” to national partners and United Nations system entities, particularly UNCTs, the National Stocktaking Exercise on Trends and Opportunities for South-South, East-East and Triangular Cooperation in the Arab States, Europe and the CIS. That exercise aimed to:  (a) take stock of the state of cooperation in the country, including at the regional level, while documenting successful policies and practical solutions across various areas and sectors that can be easily adopted and replicated in other similar contexts; (b) identify main challenges and opportunities in establishing/strengthening/ consolidating South-South/East-East/triangular cooperation; and (c) develop a set of practical recommendations for national stakeholders and UNCTs.
5. UNOSSC also responded to requests from countries in different regions to support knowledge-sharing and policy advice on thematic matters critical for the regions, leveraging United Nations system expertise. For example, during the commemoration of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, the Office co-convened a consultation with intergovernmental organizations, including regional cooperation institutions and United Nations entities, to address priorities such as (a) climate change and green recovery, (b) digitalization and (c) entrepreneurship and recovery of small and medium-sized enterprises.
6. On the margins of the 2021 HLPF, the Regional Office for Arab States, Europe and the CIS organized a side event jointly with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia : South-South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Social Protection Systems in the COVID-19 Recovery and Achievement of the 2030 Agenda. That event: (a) reclaimed the potential of intra- and interregional South-South cooperation in advancing more inclusive and sustainable social protection systems in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis and during the Decade of Action; (b) discussed social protection in the Arab States region as a structural entry point for poverty alleviation, reduction of inequality, and the building of the resilience of individuals and societies; (c) illustrated the crucial role of South-South cooperation in accelerating the shift from a global power imbalance; and (d) emphasized that South-South cooperation could provide more space for consultation and civil-society engagement in policymaking and implementation, and the evaluation and assessment of the implementation of those policies. Those events created the space for enhanced policy coordination and regional and cross-regional knowledge-sharing on South-South cooperation on issues critical for the countries of the regions.

**Results against outcome 3: South-South and triangular cooperation partnership initiatives and demand-driven programmes facilitated to address sustainable development needs of developing countries**

**Effective and impactful trust funds and demand-driven programme management**

1. UNOSSC continued to serve as the Fund Manager of the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC); the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF); the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund); and the India-UN Partnership Development Fund (India-UN Fund). The trust funds supported projects in developing countries on a demand-driven basis.
2. Twenty United Nations entities engaged directly in the implementation of 52 per cent of the trust-fund portfolio allocations as compared to 41 per cent in 2019. Trust funds and programmes managed by UNOSSC support collaborative efforts of United Nations entities in support of South-South cooperation in line with the system-wide role of UNOSSC and United Nations reform processes.
3. In 2021, the UNOSSC trust funds reached their largest scale to date. Through over 60 projects, the trust funds directly supported 51 countries across the Africa (15), Asia and the Pacific (15), Middle East (1), Europe (1), and Latin America and the Caribbean (19) regions, contributing to the attainment of the SDGs. In addition, one regional, four global and 10 small grant projects were facilitated. The contributions of the trust-fund projects spanned a broad range of sustainable development areas: improvements in health facilities, agricultural production, access to information, education, renewable energy, climate resilience, natural disaster recovery, employment creation, livelihoods and resilience, e-commerce, digital financial systems, supply chains, gender justice, governance, water and sanitation, and biodiversity conservation. The South-South trust funds also supported improvements in legislative and policy frameworks and capacity development among various types of stakeholders.
4. The examples of the results of the trust-fund projects include 17 South-South exchanges facilitated by promoting knowledge exchanges and the transfer of good practices. Nine countries built and expanded climate early-warning systems. A hospital, a school, three health centres, a post office and a government building were rehabilitated after their destruction by natural disasters. More than 8,000 entrepreneurs received training and small-business incubation support. In addition, $13 million in medical and personal protective equipment were contributed to 15 countries. Over 12,000 villagers acquired solar-energy technologies. More than 6,000 school children accessed technological resources for learning. More than 5,000 farmers received agricultural inputs and guidance for farming and 75,000+ vulnerable individuals gained access to new digital-payment products, while about 60,000 obtained access to digital loans.
5. The Republic of Korea-UNOSSC Facility/Programme for Capacity Development through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Science and Technology (Phase 2), a South-South and triangular cooperation facility under UNFSSC, was successfully completed, achieving most of the planned results. An external final evaluation of the Facility (Phase 2) concluded that overall, the Facility was seen by the main stakeholders as an overwhelmingly positive project, with many benefits and opportunities not only for the receiving countries but also for the participating institutions of the Republic of Korea. It was also deemed to offer actionable knowledge and practices to achieve the SDGs. In 2021, the Facility helped the Government of Indonesia to establish the South-South Centre of Excellence on Village Innovation. The Centre shares knowledge of and practices in village innovation with other countries in the Global South. Phase 3 of the Republic of Korea-UNOSSC Facility was also initiated in 2021. It will leverage South-South and triangular cooperation to support integrated water, energy and food management and technologies in the lower Mekong countries: Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam.
6. The Cities Project, under UNFSSC, made significant progress towards establishing thematic clusters of cities, implementing demand-driven pilot projects and building the capacity of Southern countries, among other things. Responding to the demands of Southern countries, three pilot initiatives were launched with United Nations specialized agencies to advance South-South cooperation on the ground. Those projects included: (a) sustainable waste management in Koidu, Sierra Leone, with UN-Habitat; (b) sustainable tourism recovery and heritage preservation in Mexican World Heritage cities with UNESCO; and (c) sustainable agriculture and value-chain development in Khajura, Nepal, with WFP. The Cities Project launched and operationalized an additional four thematic clusters of cities using virtual space on South-South Galaxy, covering themes such as sustainable tourism, waste management, green cities, disaster and risk reduction, and sustainable agriculture value-chain development. A total of 79 cities/institutions have registered on the South-South Cities Clusters platform. The Cities Project also continued to support capacity-development knowledge exchanges for cities; in 2021, 26 exchanges and webinars for cities were organized, reaching 800,000 views globally. Around 3,000 participants (1,411 passed the final assessment and obtained certificates) from 1,100 cities in 155 countries/territories received training on South-South cooperation of cities in disaster risk reduction for COVID-19, jointly organized with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction-WHO Global Emergency and Trauma Care Initiative. Donations of 2.45 million masks and 20,000 protective suits were mobilized and deployed to support five developing countries and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 response efforts. Overall, under the Cities Project, innovative-experience reports of three cities on environmental sustainability and climate action, COVID-19 responses and cross-border e-commerce, and four training and city exchange reports were developed.
7. The Global South-South Development Centre (GSSDC) project, under UNFSSC, completed four small grant projects offering technology transfer and capacity development support to Nepal, Senegal and Uzbekistan as well as the countries of Southeast Asia and countries participating in the Belt and Road Initiative on small hydropower development, waste management, tourism development and building construction materials. Pilot projects were launched regarding the China Africa Rice Value Chain initiative in Côte d'Ivoire with the WFP China Centre of Excellence and the Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition under which technical exchanges and training seminars were organized with representatives and experts engaged from 10 countries: Argentina, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Twenty-two advocacy and knowledge products were developed and finalized, and nine good practices from the GSSDC network were included in South-South and triangular cooperation good practices in the SIDS and LDC mapping and compendium. A webinar series was organized on SDG-aligned South-South investment to discuss the overall impact on and challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic with regard to South-South investments. The series brought together policymakers and experts to share their knowledge from global, policy and corporate perspectives, with 1.2 million views achieved. The GSSDC project co-sponsored three research papers from think-tank networks under the South-South Global Thinkers initiative, focusing on trade, technology, and digital transformation, with the aim of connecting the China South-South Cooperation Network members with related research expertise and facilitating exchange and joint research.
8. UNOSSC, together with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), launched a [COVID-19 Digital Innovation Challenge](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Innovation/Pages/Events/2021/Global-South-COVID-19-Digital-Innovation-Challenge.aspx) 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; over 250 submissions were received from more than 50 Southern countries. A live pitching event was hosted during which 25 innovations were presented in front of a selection committee represented by experts from ITU, the Asian Development Bank, the UNDP digital team and private-sector representatives, among others. Twelve winning institutions from 10 Southern countries will receive training and mentoring support by Southern partners to scale up their digital solutions.
9. Under the Youth4South initiative, UNOSSC and the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) launched the EMPOWER Fellowship to support early-career female scientists from the Global South to exchange and perform research work 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. There were 58 applicants for the fellowship: 37 from Africa, 10 from Latin America, 10 from Asia and the Pacific, and 1 from the CIS. After a comprehensive selection review, five women scientists (1 each from Bangladesh, Colombia, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe) were selected and will be received at ICGEB labs in India and South Africa. Also under the Youth4South initiative, a high-level side event titled “Social Business, Youth and Technology: Social Business towards Sustainable Revival of Post-COVID-19 Era” was co-organized. The side event 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. A Youth4South entrepreneurship competition was also launched jointly with Thailand, ESCAP and the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth 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; in total, 219 applications from over 45 countries were received.

1. UNOSSC supported the South-South Network for Public Service Innovation (SSN4PSI) to finalize and launch the 2019–2020 Matchmaker initiative; 22 case studies were captured. Furthermore, the Office co-organized a matchmaking workshop on the sidelines of the 2021 Annual Astana Civil Service Hub conference in which 57 partners were matched for exchanges and mutual support for public service innovation. Out of the 46 case studies, 10 have been implemented and their progress is monitored by SSN4PSI.

**Strengthened strategic partnership and communication**

1. Demand-driven South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives were further supported through the UNOSSC partnership instruments with partners including APC-Colombia and the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation. For instance, the APC-Colombia-UNOSSC developed and implemented joint workplans for 2021 and helped to strengthen the capacity of the Southern countries in the orange economy through organizing online training for the partners of the South.
2. With regard to triangular cooperation, UNOSSC continued to support knowledge-sharing and policy dialogue in leveraging the comparative advantages and joint efforts of triangular cooperation partners in support of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and building a resilient future. In particular, the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific engaged institutions from the Republic of Korea, including Seoul National University, the Social Science Korea project, and the Centre for International Development Cooperation and its Development Partnership Research Group, both at Kyung Hee University, to share perspectives on South-South and triangular cooperation. That engagement led to a call for the documentation of case studies in the Asia and the Pacific region and to a study of theoretical underpinnings and typologies of triangular cooperation in that region. That will help the parties that are interested in understanding the constraints of implementing triangular cooperation in the Asia and the Pacific region.
3. UNOSSC ensured high-quality communication products that present an accurate, coherent and consistent message concerning the mandate and related messages of UNOSSC in advocating for, and disseminating information on, South-South and triangular cooperation. Products included intergovernmental reports, thematic reports, trust fund reports, website messages and exhibition materials. Page views on the UNOSSC web portal ([www.unsouthsouth.org](file:///F%3A%5C1a%20Mithre%2C%20Shams%2C%20Ines%2C%20Gentiana%2C%20Lidija%5Cwww.unsouthsouth.org)), which showcases the work of South-South and triangular cooperation stakeholders in their respective focus areas, increased from 286,885 in 2020 to over 350,000 in 2021. The number of social media followers increased by over 100 per cent in the same period across platforms. Those results were possible through regular collaboration with the United Nations Department of Global Communications and the UNDP communications team.
4. UNOSSC continued raising awareness, sharing knowledge and building visibility for the work of the United Nations system, Member States and a large number of South-South cooperation partners. For example, through South-South Galaxy, South-South and triangular cooperation good practices, capacity development, news, events and funding opportunities as well as knowledge and research produced by UNOSSC and partners were disseminated to promote knowledge exchange, learning and partnerships.  The knowledge dissemination efforts included, among others, daily posting via social media channels, bi-monthly newsletters, and six videos on South-South Galaxy. The India-UN Fund and the IBSA Fund social media campaigns in 2021 exceeded 900,000 impressions. A video on the four trust funds managed by UNOSSC reached 12,700 views and 111,750 impressions through its different iterations. The policy messages of representatives of Member States and United Nations leadership for the twentieth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and the high-level commemoration of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation were further disseminated through UNOSSC social media channels. The UNOSSC Regional Office for Africa, in partnership with the ECOBIZ-FEWACCI Newsletter, continued to facilitate knowledge-sharing on the online platforms of Intra-African dialogue series regarding the pandemic and beyond, including on the role of small and medium-sized enterprises and businesses in Africa for post-COVID-19 recovery.
5. **Resource mobilization and management**
6. UNOSSC continued its multi-year growth trend, showing an important increase in non-core resources and exceeding strategic framework resource mobilization targets. In 2021, it achieved 126 per cent ($15.7 million) of its non-core resource mobilization target for 2021, based on the annual target of $12.5 million in the strategic framework.  Contributions were received from partners, largely through its South-South trust funds, as follows: the India-UN Fund, $10.6 million; UNFSSC, $3 million; the IBSA Fund, $2 million; and PGTF, $0.1 million. Member States responded to the call by the BAPA+40 outcome document to keep up and scale up contributions to UNFSSC. For example, China contributed $2.28 million in 2021, the Republic of Korea committed $4 million for the Republic of Korea-UNOSSC Facility Phase 3 (2022–2025), including $0.6 million disbursed in 2021 to UNOSSC; APC-Columbia contributed $89,000; the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec) contributed $60,000 to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation research; and other Member States also made contributions.
7. In 2021, UNOSSC achieved its highest financial delivery in its 40+-year history. Implementation of South-South trust fund resources exceeded $16.5 million, bringing total delivery of the Office to $22.2 million, with sound financial management ensuring compliance and sustainability.
8. Furthermore, in 2021, UNOSSC also received in-kind support from Fiji, Indonesia, Thailand and the Pacific Islands Development Forum through secondment of staff, and China continued support to the Office through funding three Junior Professional Officers. Through various programmes, partners in China provided substantial in-kind contributions of COVID-19-related medical supplies.

**Way forward**

1. UNOSSC will focus on advancing the implementation of the new strategic framework, 2022–2025, which is guided by the BAPA+40 outcome document, resolutions of the Second Committee of the General Assembly, decisions of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation, and relevant policies. It will continue to leverage United Nations system support to enable the Member States to implement the SDGs in the Decade of Action and deliver sustainable development in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and building resilience for the future. In this context, the Office will focus on the following priorities in 2022:
2. enhance UNOSSC thought leadership in support of intergovernmental processes and multi-stakeholder dialogues through expanding the scope and improving the quality and the usefulness of mandated reports and other key reports by the Office through evidence-based knowledge and research. The Office will focus on providing more effective and efficient facilitation of intergovernmental processes. It also will initiate the preparation of a flagship report on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation on a biennial basis, building on lessons learned from the independent report on South-South and triangular cooperation,[[6]](#footnote-7) as requested by the Executive Committee of the Secretary-General. The thematic research papers, regional reports, policy briefs and dialogues will serve as inputs to the flagship report, which in turn will also inform the UNOSSC-mandated policy reports;
3. advance support to South-South and triangular cooperation policymaking by identifying relevant United Nations resolutions to be adopted by the Member States and the policy processes to be followed in 2022 and beyond at the United Nations global, regional and subregional levels, and subsequently providing policy facilitation support and knowledge outreach on the integration of South-South and triangular cooperation perspectives, as appropriate, through evidence-based thematic research papers, regional reports, policy briefings, policy dialogues and consultations, aligning them with the main topics of the resolutions, in collaboration with respective United Nations entities;
4. enhance the South-South and Sustainable Development Directors General Forum (formerly the High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation) and regional mechanisms together with the Global South-South Development Expo as spaces for Member States to share lessons learned on strengthening national institutional mechanisms and ecosystems in order to promote and facilitate South-South cooperation, and coordinate action in line with recommendations in the BAPA+40 outcome document and relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions;
5. building on the above and as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report on the state of South-South cooperation (A/76/403), provide integrated support for developing countries and regions in establishing and/or strengthening national institutions and regional/subregional mechanisms to plan and manage South-South cooperation upon request by Member States and UNCTs, as applicable, by working closely with United Nations system entities;
6. strengthen the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a platform to review progress and lessons learned regarding the implementation of the United Nations System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation and improve system-wide coordination and collaboration through further integration with UNSDG;
7. support the capacity development of United Nations entities including regional commissions and UNCTs to integrate South-South and triangular cooperation into United Nations global strategies and service offers as well as regional and country-level programming such as the regional cooperation frameworks and UNSDCFs, as appropriate. Develop and roll out guidance, tools and training modules, focusing on supporting the integration of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation at the UNCT level and regional level in coordination with DCO, the regional commissions, and the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, as applicable;
8. expand collaboration with the HLPF to advance the South-South and triangular cooperation agenda. In this regard, UNOSSC will develop and roll out technical guidance to support the integration of South-South and triangular cooperation perspectives into voluntary national review reports by working closely with Member States including the informal Group of Friends of the Voluntary National Reviews,[[7]](#footnote-8) DESA and relevant stakeholders, and offering technical advisory services as applicable;
9. continue to map, document and disseminate good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation, focusing on their use, to enable South-South knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and technology development and transfer, including from Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, regional and subregional mechanisms, and other actors as well as programmes and trust funds managed by the office at the headquarters and regional levels. Also continue producing high-quality knowledge products, in collaboration with partners including think tanks, focusing on subjects that are relevant and timely to inform policymaking and help to identify, implement and scale up South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives. Further strengthen the role of South-South Galaxy as a one-stop shop for knowledge dissemination and partnership-brokering at the global, regional, interregional and national levels;
10. develop an operational strategy elaborating the establishment and operationalization of a South-South and triangular cooperation solution lab. This solution lab will facilitate the coordination, co-design, incubation and adaptation of initiatives focusing on issues critical for the Global South towards achieving the SDGs, including COVID-19 recovery, digitalization, South-South financing, climate change, social protection and poverty eradication;
11. continue to manage South-South trust funds, facilities, and programmes more effectively and efficiently to promote knowledge exchange and the transfer of good practices and directly benefit more people to alleviate poverty and support the achievement of the SDGs. The trust fund-supported projects, will better mainstream South-South cooperation principles into the project design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Enhance the management of the trust funds as a dedicated service, ensuring a strong programmatic and operational quality-assurance system;
12. promote a results-based-management culture across all work programmes of the Office, responding to requests from developing countries. The UNOSSC programme/development initiative/project design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting will focus on results, reflecting the demand-driven approach of the Office work programmes;
13. enhance advocacy and strategic communication efforts to raise the visibility of the South-South and triangular cooperation agenda and the results delivered by the Office as well as to share information on South-South and triangular cooperation policy issues, knowledge and practices. A UNOSSC partnership road map, 2022–2025, will be developed and rolled out; and
14. promote the use of new digital technologies to make the business processes of UNOSSC more cost-effective, and engage multi-stakeholders and a larger number of stakeholders. Therefore, going forward, UNOSSC will prioritize organizing hybrid events (online/in-person) to ensure participation and inclusivity, and reduce travel costs and its carbon footprint.

[End]

1. DESA, *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022*, p. vii. Available at <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/publication/WESP2022_web.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. UNCTAD, Investment Trends Monitor, p. 1. Available at <https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/diaeiainf2021d3_en.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
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4. United Nations, UN News, “Guterres: South-South cooperation ‘more essential than ever’”, 10 September 2021. Available at [https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1099662](https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1099662%20). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. <https://my.southsouth-galaxy.org/en/solutions/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. *Cooperation beyond Convention: South-South and Triangular Cooperation in a Changing Global Landscape*. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. See Economic and Social Council, Summary record of the 29th meeting (E/2019/SR.29). Available at <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N19/219/17/PDF/N1921917.pdf?OpenElement>. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)