



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
17 August 2022

Original: English

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## Seventy-seventh session

Item 25 (b) of the provisional agenda\*

### Operational activities for development: South-South cooperation for development

## State of South-South cooperation

### Report of the Secretary-General\*\*

#### *Summary*

The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution [76/221](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation. It highlights the follow-up to the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, in particular the numerous initiatives undertaken by the United Nations development system in support of South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development in 2021 and the intensified search for multilateral solutions to global crises to fulfil the promises of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also provides an analysis of progress in implementing the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development, 2020–2024, during 2021. The report contains recommendations on ways to further enhance the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to accelerate progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and recover from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

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\* [A/77/150](#).

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



## I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution [76/221](#), in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report on the state of South-South cooperation, including implementation of the recommendations contained in the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. It serves to describe numerous initiatives undertaken by the United Nations development system, focusing on, inter alia, follow-up to the second High-level Conference and an intensified search for multilateral solutions to global crises to fulfil the promises of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through South-South and triangular cooperation.

2. Over the past decades, countries of the global South have emerged as leading voices in global governance, champions of new platforms and institutions, and agents of development action for the realization of the 2030 Agenda. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has highlighted that South-South and triangular cooperation can also be vehicles for closer alignment of development cooperation in the context of such principles as solidarity, equality and multilateralism in order to build forward better and turn the transfer of knowledge, technology and policy into mutually beneficial learning experiences for all participating countries.

3. The current global development context, and its implications for South-South and triangular cooperation in the years to come, are set out in section II of the present report. Major trends and opportunities are analysed, with a special focus on: (a) the long-term impact of the pandemic on the global South; (b) scaling up South-South development finance; (c) vaccine development, access and equitable distribution; and (d) transcending ecological inequalities through South-South and triangular cooperation. Section III contains a review of progress made by the United Nations development system to implement the recommendations of the Buenos Aires outcome document. Section IV provides a review of the first year of the operationalization of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development, 2020–2024, which is coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. Section V provides an update on resource and partnership mobilization to facilitate better United Nations system support to South-South and triangular cooperation. Section VI contains policy recommendations on ways to help harness the potential of South-South and triangular cooperation while accelerating the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

## II. Global context, trends and opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation

### A. Long-term impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the global South

#### **Increasing poverty and inequality between and within countries**

4. As the world faces cascading, interlinked crises and conflicts, it is also facing a development emergency causing a reversal in progress towards sustainable development. Many developing countries are now dealing with the health and socioeconomic impact of the pandemic; decreased resources for and access to vaccines, leading to unequal recovery; effects of the climate crisis; global inflationary pressures and the economic shock to food, fuel and financial markets caused by international conflict; financial and market volatility; lower global economic output; decreases in financing for development; and funding cuts by major donors to the

United Nations development pillar. The global South has been hit hard amid disparities in unemployment rates and shares of labour income in developed and developing economies. For example, an examination of 109 developing countries covering 5.9 billion people found that 1.3 billion of them were estimated to be multidimensionally poor in 2021, almost 85 per cent of whom lived in sub-Saharan Africa (556 million) or South Asia (532 million) and more than 67 per cent of whom lived in middle-income countries.<sup>1</sup> Two thirds of multidimensionally poor people – 836 million people – live in households in which no girl or woman has completed at least six years of schooling.<sup>2</sup>

5. The pandemic has had a severe impact on education owing to prolonged school closures leading to poor learning outcomes despite government efforts to deliver remote learning. The Buenos Aires outcome document highlighted the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation as tools for enhancing cooperation in education. Robust, large-scale South-South and triangular cooperation actions can help compensate for education losses by leveraging science, technology, innovation, and technical and vocational education. Otherwise, the effects of delayed education will likely be felt for decades, widening inequality between and within countries, especially for girls.

6. The pandemic has also resulted in an escalation in food insecurity and malnutrition in the global South. An unprecedented 283 million people in 80 countries are estimated to be acutely food insecure or at high risk. While commodity and energy exporters have stood to gain from rising food and fuel prices, net importers of agricultural products in the Africa and Arab States regions have been particularly vulnerable.<sup>3</sup> Developing countries can share lessons and experiences in food management and in establishing South-South distribution mechanisms. In this context, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has identified key regional priorities, including capacity gaps that hinder countries and development partners from actively engaging in South-South and triangular cooperation in the areas of agriculture and food systems.<sup>4</sup>

7. The crisis has exacerbated the gender divide, especially in developing countries, where women experienced a sharper decline in employment and labour-force participation than men.<sup>5</sup> Many women faced serious barriers to re-entering the labour force, especially women with young children. Although Governments in Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil and Peru extended social protection programmes to informal workers, unemployment remains precariously high in Latin America and the Caribbean. Developed countries, in contrast, were mostly able to support household incomes and even reduce poverty through strong cash-transfer and social protection programmes.

### **Capacity to reduce poverty constrained by insufficient fiscal space**

8. The capacity to reduce poverty has been constrained precisely when countries could be investing in jobs, education, health care and the green economy. According to information provided in *Education Finance Watch*, two thirds of low- and lower-

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, “Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021: Unmasking disparities by ethnicity, caste and gender”, p. 4.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 16.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Economic Situation and Prospects: April 2022 Monthly Briefing, No. 159.

<sup>4</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), “FAO South-South and triangular cooperation: guidelines for action 2022–2025”, p. 14.

<sup>5</sup> International Monetary Fund (IMF), *World Economic Outlook: Recovery during a Pandemic* (Washington, D.C., 2021).

middle-income countries have cut their education budgets since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>6</sup> Some estimates also suggest a severe impact on social spending on child protection, nutrition, and water and sanitation.<sup>7</sup> While developed countries have been able to finance rapid economic recovery, many low-income countries have cut capital spending and have significantly reallocated resources from within spending categories. According to the International Monetary Fund, for example, although overall priority spending has increased slightly relative to pre-pandemic projections, education spending has been cut in about 70 per cent of the Debt Service Suspension Initiative beneficiaries in favour of increases in social protection and health.<sup>8</sup>

9. The recovery of investment flows in developing economies, which have suffered double-digit declines across almost all sectors during the pandemic, remains fragile. In least developed countries, the trend in investment is less favourable, with a further 17 per cent decline in Sustainable Development Goal project numbers after the 30 per cent fall in 2020. Furthermore, the pandemic has put more countries at risk of debt distress. About 60 per cent of least developed countries and other low-income countries, many of which are small island developing States, have now been assessed to be at high risk of debt distress or to be in debt distress, a substantial increase from about 30 per cent in 2015.<sup>9</sup> The debt crisis has highlighted the important role of non-Development Assistance Committee lenders from the global South. To build a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient global economic order that works for all, it is important to work urgently towards designing more comprehensive and inclusive debt-relief packages.

## B. Opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation

### Scaling up development finance

10. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) projects a \$1.7 trillion shortfall for 2020, which adds to an existing gap of \$2.5 trillion in annual financing for developing countries towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.<sup>10</sup> The geopolitical crisis is likely to further overwhelm aid budgets and widen the gap. In that context, ideas mentioned by Member States at the meeting of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation at its twentieth session and mentioned in the report of the meeting (A/76/39) included: (a) improving access to development finance on concessional terms and giving a fairer assessment of country vulnerabilities, in particular those of the small island developing States (para. 9); (b) building a mechanism to generate solid financial strength in order to support partnerships (para. 40 (c)); and (c) establishing a forum for finance and development and for foreign ministers of developing countries to discuss, decide and explore critical issues and strengthen weaknesses (para. 40 (g)).

11. To further scale up external financing for developing countries, at an estimated value of \$2.5 trillion over the next two years, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) highlighted the role of subregional development banks in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa that could consider a prudent

<sup>6</sup> World Bank and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, “Education finance watch 2021”, p. 2.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), “COVID-19 and the looming debt crisis: Protecting and transforming social spending for inclusive recoveries, Innocenti Research Report, April 2021.

<sup>8</sup> IMF, *Fiscal Monitor: Strengthening the Credibility of Public Finances* (Washington, D.C., October 2021), p. 15.

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Development, *Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2022: Bridging the Finance Divide* (New York, 2022), p. 119.

<sup>10</sup> OECD, “COVID-19 crisis threatens Sustainable Development Goals financing”, 10 November 2020.

lowering of the equity-to-loan ratios that could expand their loan portfolios by nearly \$25 billion and the fact that countries of the global South could also use existing Southern-based funds to expand much-needed liquidity, including regional liquidity funds, which could be sources of funding, especially for countries with limited alternatives (see TD/B/EFD/5/2).

### **Vaccine development, access and equitable distribution**

12. During the global response to the pandemic, developing countries continued to support one another, engaging increasingly on a multilateral basis through South-South and triangular cooperation. For example, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank increased the financing volume of its COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility from \$13 billion to \$20 billion.<sup>11</sup> South-South regional cooperation, including that of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, has led an effective health response. Developing countries, including China and India, expanded their vaccine assistance in multilateral global inoculation efforts through the COVAX Advance Market Commitment.<sup>12</sup> The World Health Organization (WHO), in partnership with the Government of Costa Rica, under a global solidarity call to action endorsed by nearly 40 Member States, launched the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool in May 2020.<sup>13</sup> WHO stated that by sharing intellectual property and know-how through pooling and the voluntary agreements, developers of COVID-19 health products could facilitate scaled up production through multiple manufacturers that currently had untapped capacity to scale up production.<sup>14</sup>

13. Vaccine access and equal distribution were highlighted as priorities by Member States at the twentieth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. However, access to COVID-19 vaccines remained a challenge in many developing countries, driven in many cases by fiscal and technological constraints. By the end of 2021, the number of doses per 100 people in the least developed countries stood at just 23.9, against 147.4 in the developed countries.<sup>15</sup> In most developing countries, acute vaccine shortages, export controls and prioritization of bilateral agreements continued to affect access to vaccines.

### **Transcending ecological inequalities**

14. Global income and wealth inequalities are tightly connected to ecological inequalities and to inequalities in contributions to climate change. Countries are calling for urgent measures to establish joint plans for the restoration of forests and degraded lands and the transfer of green and innovative technologies to manage natural resources sustainably.

15. South-South cooperation on climate action occurs through a wide range of modalities to tackle mitigation and adaptation. Examples include BioInnovate Africa, which is supporting countries to develop and commercialize biofuel as an affordable, low-carbon emission alternative for rural households, and the international Zero Emission Bus Rapid-deployment Accelerator initiative, which is supporting major Latin American cities to accelerate the implementation of zero-emission buses.

<sup>11</sup> Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, “AIIB expands COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility to USD20 billion”, 4 March 2022.

<sup>12</sup> Gavi: The Vaccine Alliance, “China pledges US\$100 million towards equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries”, 6 August 2021.

<sup>13</sup> World Health Organization (WHO), “WHO COVID-19 Technology Access Pool”.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Economic Situation and Prospects 2022* (New York, 2022), p. 6.

16. Countries of the South converged to jointly position themselves in the negotiations of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change through negotiating blocs that comprised more than half of the countries of the world. The Brazil, South Africa, India and China grouping aligned its position with that of the Group of 77 to endorse a carbon-market mechanism that facilitates private-sector engagement in the fight against climate change, potentially bringing investment and new low-cost technologies to support the transition of countries to a clean, climate-resilient economy.

17. Similarly, the Africa Group, the Climate Vulnerable Forum, least developed countries and the Alliance of Small Island States together appealed to developed countries to deliver on promises made in both Paris and Copenhagen of at least \$100 billion per year by 2020 and up to 2024, with increased annual sums from 2025, and to commit to increasing the provision of grants rather than loans. In 2021, the Vulnerable Twenty Group, a group of finance ministers from 48 climate-vulnerable countries, called for more grant-based finance and a delivery plan stipulating how the promised 50:50 balance between adaptation and mitigation in the unmet annual \$100 billion climate finance commitment would be achieved.<sup>16</sup> A recent South-South Ideas paper also highlighted the need to strengthen formal negotiation mechanisms on climate change issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>17</sup>

18. United Nations organizations continued to facilitate South-South responses to climate change. For example, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) facilitated knowledge exchange and collaboration among Mauritania, Nepal and Seychelles to develop ecosystem-based adaptation proposals to build climate resilience. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Climate Promise remains a critical global offer of support to developing countries on their national climate pledges to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or nationally determined contributions, which can act as an entry point for South-South cooperation.<sup>18</sup> Brazil, China, Colombia and India included information in their plans on enhancing South-South cooperation.<sup>19</sup> The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) invited Southern city stakeholders to share their experiences in environmental sustainability and climate change. Similarly, with support from the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund, the United Nations Capital Development Fund assisted Fiji to develop climate-responsive financial tools.

19. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) developed innovative financing solutions for sustainable smart cities and also promoted the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources and the United Nations Resource Management System in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and Central Asia as the framework for sustainable management of natural resources.

20. UNEP estimated that developing countries already needed \$70 billion per year to cover adaptation costs and would need from \$140 billion to \$300 billion by 2030.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Vulnerable Twenty Group, “V20 Climate Vulnerables Finance Summit for Planetary Prosperity, Communiqué”, 8 July 2021.

<sup>17</sup> United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and UNDP, *South-South Ideas: South-South Cooperation – An Opportunity to Fight against Climate Change and Reduce Inequalities* (New York, 2022).

<sup>18</sup> United Nations Climate Partnerships for the Global South and United Nations Climate Change Secretariat, *Catalysing the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions in the Context of the 2030 Agenda through South-South Cooperation* (2017). The report contains case studies on South-South and triangular cooperation.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 37.

<sup>20</sup> UNEP, *Adaptation Gap Report 2020* (Nairobi, 2021), p. xiv.

Amid rising costs and unmet demand, South-South regional disaster responses have helped to distribute the risks and costs of natural disasters.<sup>21</sup> An example of such assistance is the \$29.2 million Pacific Islands Renewable Energy Investment Programme.

### **Reinvigorating digitalization, science and technology**

21. COVID-19 accelerated the digital transition from on-site to online collaborative platforms, increasing the reach of South-South and triangular cooperation. However, digitization is characterized by large imbalances and divides. For example, only 20 per cent of people in the least developed countries use the Internet; when they do, it is typically at relatively low download speeds and with a relatively high price tag attached.<sup>22</sup> Developing countries also risk becoming mere providers of raw data to global digital platforms while having to pay for the digital intelligence obtained from their data.

22. In this context, technology-driven foreign direct investment among developing countries is still relatively small, with a focus on information and communications technology. As actors in the global South move to the forefront of the international stage owing to the transfer of technology and to home-grown innovation, there is a big opportunity to introduce and diffuse scientific innovations to the most vulnerable, especially the least developed countries. The Network of Southern Think Tanks has proposed the establishment of a Southern science, technology and innovation fund with the aim of bridging the gap in these areas.<sup>23</sup>

23. The 2021 survey of programme country Governments conducted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs indicates that nearly all of the 58 respondents affirmed receiving some form of science, technology and industry support from the United Nations development system. For example, ECE and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific developed a draft action plan for the implementation of the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia innovation strategy for sustainable development, thus ensuring knowledge transfer, peer learning and cooperation. UNCTAD has a 10-point South-South digital cooperation agenda for boosting regional integration and industrialization in the global South through South-South cooperation for: (a) building a data economy; (b) building cloud computing infrastructure; (c) strengthening broadband infrastructure; (d) promoting e-commerce in the region; (e) promoting regional digital payments; (f) progressing on a single digital market in the region; (g) sharing experiences on e-government; (h) forging partnerships for building smart cities; (i) promoting digital innovations and technologies; and (j) building statistics for measuring digitization.<sup>24</sup> In implementing its new Digital Strategy 2022–2025, UNDP is providing digital transformation support in more than 30 countries and is a leading member of the Digital Public Goods Alliance to accelerate the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals in low- and middle-income countries through the use of digital public goods, open-source data and digital solutions.

24. The pandemic and other crises are deepening challenges as well as presenting significant opportunities to harness the potential of South-South and triangular

<sup>21</sup> Harnik Deol, “Climate and disaster risk financing in Pacific Island countries”, paper prepared for the Pacific Regional Debt Conference, April 2022.

<sup>22</sup> UNCTAD, *Digital Economy Report 2021: Cross-border Data Flows and Development – For Whom the Data Flow* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.21.II.D.18), p. xv.

<sup>23</sup> United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and UNDP, “*South-South Ideas: Mapping South-South Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation for Theory and Practice* (2021).

<sup>24</sup> UNCTAD, *South-South Digital Cooperation for Industrialization: A Regional Integration Agenda* (UNCTAD/GDS/ECIDC/2018/1), p. 15.

cooperation. Member States can work with United Nations entities to explore ways to expand such opportunities.

### **III. Review of the implementation of the recommendations of the Buenos Aires outcome document by United Nations entities**

#### **A. Continued integration of South-South and triangular cooperation into policies, strategies and programming**

25. The General Assembly, in its resolution [76/221](#), called 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. It further called upon the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to work with the regional commissions to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation, including through regional collaborative frameworks for South-South and triangular cooperation.

26. A 2021 survey of the headquarters of United Nations system entities conducted by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs revealed that over 80 per cent of the 27 United Nations development system entities that had responded had included South-South cooperation in their strategic framework or planning and programming instruments at the global and regional levels. The number of entities with a unit dedicated to South-South cooperation increased from 7 out of 25 in 2020 to 11 out of 27 in 2021. Three out of five entities had yet to allocate a budget for South-South and triangular cooperation activities as of 31 December 2021.

27. The UNDP Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, includes South-South and triangular cooperation as a fundamental approach to development cooperation and as integral to the way UNDP works and thinks about the future of development. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) strengthened South-South and triangular cooperation as a mode of engagement and results accelerator under its Strategic Plan, 2022–2025, along with robust indicators. Similarly, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), FAO, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reported having designed new strategic plans and guidelines to further mainstream and institutionalize South-South and triangular cooperation at the country level.<sup>25</sup>

28. UN-Habitat governing bodies passed resolutions mandating policy changes to strengthen the integration of South-South cooperation into its activities. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction recommended to the Chair of its support group that South-South and triangular cooperation be part of its mandated priorities, which was approved in 2021. The new multi-country IOM Pacific Strategy, 2022–2026, highlights the need to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation, promote knowledge exchange and strengthen policy harmonization across the Pacific, particularly regarding the transnational elements of human mobility related to climate change and disasters.

29. All five regional commissions adopted South-South and triangular cooperation as core ways of working. The ECE technical cooperation strategy and resource

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<sup>25</sup> In 2022, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation conducted a survey on the achievements in 2021 of United Nations entities in South-South and triangular cooperation and progress in implementing the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation.



mobilization strategy now reflect South-South cooperation. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific conducted a survey on South-South cooperation in the region to map related needs, resources and capacities. Regional collaborative platforms have mainstreamed South-South and triangular cooperation into their work in the Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Central Asia and Arab States regions.

30. In line with General Assembly resolution [76/221](#), United Nations entities are ensuring their country programme documents are informed by system-wide guidance on South-South cooperation, while they seek to further align to United Nations Sustainable Development Frameworks. For example, South-South and triangular cooperation-related indicators or activities were included in 80 per cent of UNDP country programme documents, 57 per cent of UNFPA country programme documents, and 75 out of 128 UNICEF country programme documents as well as 64 per cent of the UNICEF field office annual reports. The Pan American Health Organization noted that 22 regional, subregional and country entities had incorporated South-South and triangular cooperation into their 2021–2022 operational plans.

31. All of the WFP Country Strategic Plans approved in 2019 reflect South-South and triangular cooperation as key engagement modalities. Twenty-seven of the IFAD country programmes, seven ongoing country programmes and three Programme for Country Partnerships of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) include either planned or implemented South-South and triangular cooperation activities. Four of the International Trade Centre (ITC) country programme documents follow the system-wide guidance on South-South cooperation. IOM country strategy documents are similarly underpinned by the guiding principles of South-South cooperation.

32. FAO, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have ensured their country programme documents are informed by system-wide guidance on South-South cooperation, while others such as UNICEF and the International Telecommunication Union are in the process of updating their programme guidance documents to do so. IFAD, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNIDO have developed guidelines to integrate South-South and triangular cooperation into country programme documents and operational procedures. Working through the Resident Coordinator, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and UNDP have provided support to United Nations country teams in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam to develop a common country strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation.

33. The mainstreaming of South-South and triangular cooperation has become a mandatory marker for the successful approval and launch of operations by the UN-Habitat internal programme and project review mechanism. Similarly, UNDP has introduced a South-South cooperation marker into its reporting systems. UNIDO has adapted its internal operational strategy on South-South and triangular industrial cooperation, and it has improved its internal reporting mechanism on projects relating to South-South and triangular cooperation.

34. Overall, feedback from programme country Governments<sup>26</sup> showed that United Nations country team support for South-South and triangular cooperation was viewed positively. Still, one in seven countries in 2021 (compared with one in five in 2020) considered that support inadequate and requested more engagement. The main

<sup>26</sup> According to a survey conducted in 2021 by the Secretariat, through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to obtain feedback from Governments on United Nations operational activities for development.

challenges for the United Nations country teams in providing support for South-South and triangular cooperation included a lack of dedicated resources and capacity, the need for corporate strategy and policy, and insufficient monitoring and evaluation.<sup>27</sup>

## **B. Expanded programme portfolios of South-South and triangular cooperation**

35. UNDP implemented more than 945 South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives, mainly in the Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Central Asia regions, accounting for 7.5 per cent of the total number of projects and 11 per cent of programme expenditure, including 21 per cent of all COVID-19 response projects. WHO country offices reported on 391 South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives, with 32 per cent focusing on universal health coverage, 26 per cent on COVID-19, 13 per cent on healthier populations, 9 per cent on polio and 13 per cent on health emergencies.

36. WFP expanded its South-South and triangular cooperation portfolio considerably as its pilot initiatives grew from 13 field projects in 2020 to 31 in 2021. Similarly, UNIDO, the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and ILO facilitated 113, 102 and 23 South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives, respectively. The ILO projects span five regions across 75 countries and include cooperation between small island developing States.

37. IOM reported that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration is a key instrument to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation. At the country level, IOM facilitated bilateral engagement in the areas of diaspora and labour mobility between Eswatini and Ghana. At the regional level, it promoted regional integration and interregional linkages through Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on innovative experiences in disaster preparedness, among others.

38. Feedback from Governments<sup>28</sup> indicates that 48 per cent received support for South-South and triangular cooperation from United Nations country teams in 2021, with projects ranging in size from small to medium. Of all groups, low-income and upper-middle-income countries received much of the support. Correspondingly, the majority of requests were also received from Governments of those groups. The most support was offered to Africa, followed by the Asia and the Pacific region, and the Latin America and the Caribbean region. At the same time, nearly one in five Governments from the landlocked developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States indicated that it had not received such support. Only 23 per cent of Governments responding to the survey indicated that they had received support from a United Nations development system to organize global, regional or national knowledge-sharing initiatives on solutions from the global South.

## **C. Enhancing digital networks for knowledge-sharing, codifying good practices and brokering partnerships**

39. The challenges posed by the pandemic have spurred United Nations entities to design and implement innovative South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives through online knowledge platforms, distance learning and virtual training.

<sup>27</sup> According to a survey conducted in 2021 by the Secretariat, through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to obtain feedback from resident coordinators and United Nations country teams on the country-level implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review.

<sup>28</sup> According to the Government survey (see footnote 26).

40. The United Nations system-wide and global platform for knowledge-sharing and brokering of partnerships in South-South and triangular cooperation – South-South Galaxy – had served 416 registered institutions by the end of 2021, representing a 31 per cent increase from 2020. The platform presents a curated digital repository of over 800 good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation for Sustainable Development Goals, including responses to the pandemic, a 32 per cent increase from 2020.
41. The IOM migration network hub includes discussion spaces to create a community of practice for Member States and other stakeholders through platforms such as Inno[Migra]ción, which is aimed at highlighting innovation and foster an exchange on migration in South America.
42. UNICEF launched a global technical assistance facility to match the supply and demand of technical assistance between developing countries. The facility connected Chad with UNICEF regional offices on capacity development support for a multidimensional poverty analysis.
43. WFP established South-South match.com on Sustainable Development Goal areas, including social protection, nutrition, school feeding, smallholder support and emergency preparedness. The WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger in Brazil launched its virtual-exchange methodology to adapt South-South cooperation activities to COVID-19-related travel restrictions.
44. Those efforts to leverage digital platforms for sharing knowledge and brokering partnerships were accompanied by intensifying efforts to document good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation. For example, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in partnership with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and other United Nations entities, mapped 50 such good practices in small island developing States, advancing the Accelerated Modalities of Action pathway. It also partnered with the latter Office of the High Representative, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and the Qatar Fund for Development in mapping good practices centred on the priorities of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in these countries. It also collaborated with UNDP and codified over 50 Africa-based South-South good practices.
45. ESCAP convened 442 knowledge-sharing events that brought together a wide range of stakeholders from developing countries and promoted home-grown solutions and best practices from the South to accelerate inclusive, resilient and sustainable achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) organized 50 knowledge-sharing events with integrated South-South cooperation components. The Regional Collaborative Platform for the Arab Region, including its issue-based coalitions, held four high-level events, 16 joint advocacy events and 14 capacity-building events in 2021. ECE intergovernmental expert meetings and the majority of the 100 ECE technical cooperation activities included peer learning and the exchange of good practices.
46. UNDP facilitated 44 global projects with components of South-South and triangular cooperation knowledge-brokering and 92 knowledge-sharing activities. It also organized a high-level event at the 2021 African Economic Conference in collaboration with the African Development Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), sharing experiences in the implementation of an integrated national financing framework. Training sessions were also conducted for eight African countries by UNDP jointly with ECA, regional offices of DESA and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to promote a better understanding of the

financing framework methodology as well as a South-South knowledge-exchange and learning platform.

47. ILO organized 15 knowledge-sharing activities and distance-learning initiatives on themes such as financing for decent work and skill development for vulnerable groups while adopting a gender-sensitive approach. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees support platforms for Afghan refugees, Somali refugees and returnees and the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework for Central America and Mexico continued to provide an important basis for collaboration in the development of regional frameworks and plans of action. WFP brokered knowledge-sharing initiatives in 18 countries across all regions to support host Government engagement in South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the pandemic through the WFP COVID-19 South-South Opportunity Fund and through its network of Centres of Excellence in Brazil, China and Côte d'Ivoire. FAO, ITC, UNCDF, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and United Nations Volunteers all reported facilitating South-South knowledge-sharing activities.

48. South-South and triangular cooperation among cities and on other subnational levels also gained momentum in response to the pandemic. For example, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, under its South-South and Triangular Cooperation among Maritime-Continental Silk Road Cities for Sustainable Development project and with funding from China, co-organized, with the Office of Disaster Risk Reduction/the Global Emergency and Trauma Care Initiative and WHO, a training series on South-South cooperation and risk reduction planning for resilient and healthy cities, reaching participants from over 1,000 cities. The UN-Habitat Urban Agenda Platform provided opportunities for South-South reporting on aspects of national urban policies, inclusive urban planning, cooperation among different levels of government and urban finance. In 2021, UN-Habitat, with the Brazilian Agency for Cooperation, designed an innovative programme to raise awareness about and implement Sustainable Development Goal-oriented urban policies and practices through South-South cooperation.

#### **D. Advancing policymaking for South-South and triangular cooperation**

49. United Nations entities facilitated policy dialogues, research and advocacy on South-South and triangular cooperation. As the substantive secretariat of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation supported the preparation of its twentieth session by organizing more than 40 bilateral meetings with Member States, prepared the report of the Secretary-General ([SSC/20/2](#)) and, with inputs from UNDP, developed the report of the Administrator of UNDP to the Committee, providing Member States with evidence-based research and analysis on trends, opportunities and challenges regarding South-South and triangular cooperation, including recommendations that informed Committee decisions. The report of the High-level Committee ([A/76/39](#)), prepared by the Office, was adopted at the Economic and Social Council Management Segment in July 2021. It highlighted new priorities for South-South cooperation brought on by the pandemic, including the heightened need for enhanced collaboration to improve health-care systems, social protection systems and other public services.

50. The twelfth edition of the High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation, co-organized with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Islamic Development Bank, was held virtually in 2021. The Forum enabled peer-to-peer learning and mutual capacity development among its over 160 participants. As representatives of national Governments, staff members of United

Nations entities or other practitioners, participants helped enhance ecosystems for South-South and triangular cooperation.

51. United Nations regional commissions highlighted South-South and triangular cooperation approaches during their policymaking processes and on their respective regional platforms. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) organized a virtual extraordinary meeting of the Committee on South-South Cooperation, focusing on opportunities for renewed international development cooperation in the region in 2021. ESCWA conducted a consultative process with the four Arab least developed countries (Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen) in partnership with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and several Arab funds and programmes, leading to the production of a common vision for the decade 2021–2030. ECE provided countries with a modern, innovative governance and policymaking tool to protect and manage forests and to monitor progress towards Sustainable Development Goals. ECE, together with ECLAC and ESCWA, developed a comprehensive set of 215 sustainable inland transport connectivity indicators with additional pandemic resilience indicators that would enable Governments to standardize their transportation systems and strengthen policy frameworks for better connectivity and resilience.

52. There were increasing efforts to enhance policy dialogues. UNESCO and UNICEF jointly promoted policy dialogue and knowledge-sharing on Sustainable Development Goal 4, showcasing experiences from Morocco, South Africa, the Korea International Cooperation Agency and the Imaginecole initiative in West Africa. UNICEF, in partnership with the Pan American Health Organization/WHO and the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth, organized a global dialogue on leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation to advance child and adolescent mental health in the context of the pandemic.

53. IOM supported 180 events of the Inter-State Consultation Mechanisms on Migration, promoting regional integration and interregional linkages through State-led, ongoing information-sharing and policy dialogues that provide an informal, non-binding environment for States to find common ground, exchange information and experiences, and develop a collaborative approach to migration management and governance. The United Nations Network on Migration supported the ongoing Global Compact for Migration regional reviews and shared lessons learned including those through the voluntary reviews by Member States and stakeholders, which further addressed South-South cooperation as one of the ways to enhance international cooperation.

54. UN-Habitat, with the Global Task Force on Local and Regional Governments, organized city-wide efforts to respond to the pandemic. In support of the Implementation Review Mechanism of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime facilitated the provision of technical assistance to the Specialized Working Group on Fighting Transnational Corruption of the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions through South-South and triangular cooperation. In addition, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights carried out a study on the right to development and South-South cooperation, and it drafted practical guidance. At the Social Forum of the Human Rights Council, challenges, good practices and lessons learned about the relationship between South-South cooperation and human rights, international cooperation and solidarity in the context of the pandemic were discussed.

55. Think tanks play an important role in informing policymaking and global development discourse. Through the South-South Global Thinkers initiative, a global

coalition of think tank networks for South-South cooperation supported by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and UNDP, 20 research papers were issued and six global policy dialogues and advocacy events were held in 2021.<sup>29</sup>

## **E. Promoting the development, transfer and dissemination of technologies to developing countries**

56. In 2021, the United Nations system leveraged digital technologies in advancing South-South knowledge-sharing and collaboration and strengthened its efforts in promoting technology development, transfer and dissemination through South-South and triangular cooperation. To promote access to, and transfer of, technology on mutually agreed terms while taking into account the national legal frameworks of developing countries, many United Nations entities set up centres of excellence and implemented initiatives to support developing countries in the acquisition of capacities for research and development.

57. WIPO Technology and Innovation Support Centres provided researchers and innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high-quality technology information, related services, programmes and training resources to help them better understand and use intellectual property in research and development.

58. The UNDP accelerator labs continued building the world's fastest learning network on sustainable development challenges. From drone and satellite data to financial transaction, ethnographic and citizen-generated data, the accelerator lab network draws on a wide range of sources to inform and expand development solutions. As of December 2021, 91 labs in 115 countries were actively contributing to innovation in both UNDP and their host countries.

59. UNIDO launched the International Hydrogen Energy Centre to help develop the global hydrogen energy industry by promoting best practices through South-South and triangular cooperation. A UNIDO Investment and Technology Promotion Office began its work in Shanghai in 2021, thereby enabling investment and technology transfers between China and other developing countries. The UNIDO Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres also supported triangular cooperation through partnerships with centres in Africa to support the development and adoption of harmonized regional efficiency standards, which will have a positive impact on more than 450 million energy consumers in Africa.

60. UNCTAD, in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Alliance of International Science Organizations, launched the CropWatch Innovative Cooperation Programme to facilitate and stimulate agricultural monitoring of developing countries in support of Sustainable Development Goal 2 on zero hunger.

61. UNCDF, in partnership with the Government of India Atal Innovation Mission, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rabo Foundation, IFAD and Bayer, launched the Agritech Challenge 2021 to enable a supportive ecosystem for innovations to improve the financial health of smallholder farmers through cross-border collaborations among emerging markets across India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda and Zambia and by supporting agritech and agri-fintech start-ups to expand to international markets.

62. ESCAP, through its Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology, held consultations to review available technologies and discuss collaborative opportunities for technology transfer to address the challenges of COVID-19.

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<sup>29</sup> See <https://www.ssc-globalthinkers.org/node/35>.

63. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation partnered with the International Telecommunication Union on the Global South COVID-19 Digital Innovation Challenge, which received 250 submissions of scalable and innovative digital solutions from over 50 developing countries. Twelve winning institutions from 10 countries received seed funding, training and mentorship to scale up their solutions. Under its Youth4South initiative, the United Nations Office partnered with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology to offer fellowships to early-career female scientists from the global South for six-month exchanges at Centre laboratories in New Delhi and Cape Town, South Africa, to conduct research. The United Nations Office and UN-Habitat jointly launched an initiative on environmental sustainability and climate action in cities through South-South and triangular cooperation in order to share good practices and technologies for urban resilience. With the support of the Republic of Korea-United Nations Office Facility/Programme for Capacity Development for Poverty Reduction through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Science and Technology, a centre of excellence on village innovation was established in Indonesia through triangular cooperation.

#### **IV. Progress on the operationalization of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development, 2020–2024**

64. In his report on the state of South-South cooperation ([A/72/297](#)), the Secretary-General had requested the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation to coordinate, in consultation with the United Nations agencies, the preparation of a United Nations system-wide South-South cooperation strategy (para. 94). The Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference cites the measures taken to develop the system-wide strategy led by the Office through the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation while examining the ongoing repositioning of the United Nations development system. The strategy was shared with Member States at the twentieth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. The strategy and action plan are expected to improve coordination and harmonize policies for programmatic and operational support at all levels to support national priorities and drive forward the 2030 Agenda. To that end, under the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the Office coordinated the preparation of a monitoring framework that includes 16 priority indicators to track progress in the implementation of the strategy. The data collection is aligned with existing systems and tools, such as the quadrennial comprehensive policy review surveys, and is complemented by the Office survey for the present report.

65. Through coordination efforts spearheaded by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, United Nations entities further adapted and improved their respective results frameworks, including appropriate indicators and methodologies to best suit the requirements of the Buenos Aires outcome document and the United Nations system-wide strategy.

66. Twenty out of 27 United Nations entities reported incorporating South-South cooperation results into their corporate reporting mechanisms. IFAD, UNICEF and WIPO are developing indicators on South-South and triangular cooperation.

67. UNDP continued to support the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation as a member of the OECD/UNDP Joint Support Team. In 2021, it supported piloting country-led monitoring of the development effectiveness of South-South cooperation, led by Colombia. This enables pioneering countries to explore ways of monitoring the effectiveness of their South-South and triangular cooperation.

68. Independent reviews of the South-South and triangular cooperation programmes of FAO, UNFPA and WFP were conducted in 2021. For example, the evaluation of WFP commended the agency for broadening and systematizing its South-South and triangular cooperation engagement while facilitating improvements in national capacity at the policy, institutional and community levels across all thematic areas. The evaluation further praised the agency for contributing to strengthening regional and global partnerships.

## V. Mobilizing resources and leveraging partnerships

69. United Nations organizations continued to mobilize financial and in-kind resources and expertise through South-South and triangular cooperation. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation continued to manage the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation; the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund; the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation; and the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation. Those funding mechanisms have enabled the United Nations development system to collaboratively support the implementation of South-South cooperation activities in developing countries across regions.

70. In 2021, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation received \$15.5 million in contributions from partners through its South-South trust funds and in-kind contributions and financed over 60 projects across 51 countries. South-South trust funds fast-tracked close to \$12 million to 31 countries to support the purchase of ventilators and personal protective equipment and mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic.

71. South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives facilitated by United Nations entities continued to be funded by a variety of partners. For example, the 15 FAO South-South and triangular cooperation projects across five regions in 2021 were funded by Brazil, China, Czechia, Japan, Morocco and the Republic of Korea, among others. UNICEF implemented 17 projects financed by the China South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund and two triangular cooperation projects funded by the Ministry of Commerce of China. These projects helped prevent maternal and child deaths during the pandemic, reaching over 12 million beneficiaries across 17 countries in Africa and Asia.

72. The ESCAP Multi-donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness helped improve multi-hazard early warning and disaster response in high-risk, low-capacity countries around the Indian Ocean through capacity-building and knowledge exchange.

73. United Nations organizations focused on engaging with diverse actors, including the private sector, research centres and academia to enhance South-South and triangular cooperation. For example, the UNDP Istanbul International Centre for Private Sector in Development supported companies in tailoring their business models to respond to sustainable development needs by identifying and promoting best practices within the framework of South-South cooperation. IOM reported continued engagement of the private sector in the global South and in support of South-South and triangular cooperation, including through its Corporate Responsibility in Eliminating Slavery and Trafficking initiatives. WIPO also emphasized inclusive partnerships with the private sector, research centres and academia for stronger South-South and triangular cooperation.

74. The ESCAP Sustainable Business Network drives businesses in a wide range of industries across the Asia-Pacific region. ESCWA and the University of Qatar



supported the newly established Academic Network for Development Dialogue with members from Arab States and beyond. The Network seeks to create synergies and strengthen cooperation and dialogue between the United Nations and academia on policy options leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation.

## **VI. Conclusions and recommendations**

**75. Amid perilous cross-cutting challenges, it is essential to urgently rethink how to scale up South-South and triangular cooperation to build a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient world for all. The present report shows that a wider base of actors, who embrace digital technologies, including voluntarily sharing licences, technologies and know-how, can overcome the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus make South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation more inclusive. I encourage all UN entities to keep up the momentum in leveraging digital technology and continue addressing the digital divide through South-South and triangular cooperation.**

**76. Through the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation coordinated by United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, South-South cooperation is now well entrenched in the operational activities of the United Nations. Strengthening the relationship between the Inter-Agency Mechanism and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, can further boost the implementation of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation and its action plan.**

**77. United Nations organizations have continued to integrate South-South and triangular cooperation into their strategic policies and programme frameworks. I encourage United Nations entities to further strengthen their institutional capacities and allocate adequate human, material and financial resources in support of South-South and triangular cooperation in order to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.**

**78. I acknowledge the efforts of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, in collaboration with the Development Coordination Office, the regional economic commissions and other United Nations entities, to prepare handbooks on integrating South-South and triangular cooperation for United Nations country teams and for the United Nations development system at the regional level. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation is encouraged to provide advisory support and training on integrating South-South and triangular cooperation into United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, regional collaborative platform workplans, and the strategic plans and programmes of United Nations entities, as appropriate.**

**79. I appreciate the efforts of United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations country teams in increasing inter-agency collaboration and multi-stakeholder partnerships. I encourage them to continue to convene and implement more joint initiatives to promote South-South and triangular cooperation. United Nations entities are encouraged to continue to support Member States, as requested, in implementing South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives at the country level under the leadership of the resident coordinators. They are further encouraged to support developing countries in creating an enabling ecosystem and strengthening institutional capacities to plan and manage South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives.**

**80. I welcome the forthcoming Ministerial Conference on leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation to implement the Doha Programme of Action**

at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. In this context, South-South and triangular cooperation can provide valuable support to the priorities of these countries including, among others, private-sector investment in sustainable infrastructure, access to climate change mitigation funds, reduced transaction costs and a proposed online university. I express my full support for ministerial-level leadership dialogues, including at the upcoming high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Global South-South Development Expo, to examine the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation to Sustainable Development Goals and make recommendations on priority thematic areas for United Nations system support. I encourage all United Nations entities to support the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in this process.

81. I recommend that South-South and triangular cooperation be considered and implemented more systematically through relevant resolutions and decisions by Member States, particularly in those areas where South-South and triangular cooperation can significantly catalyse the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and with a clear focus on women, children and youth, leaving no one behind. Nationally determined contributions can serve as an entry point for South-South cooperation, especially regarding climate and energy financing.

82. I encourage United Nations entities to support developing countries in integrating South-South and triangular cooperation perspectives into voluntary national review reports on sustainable development. I also encourage explicitly factoring South-South development finance opportunities, in the current context of the pandemic and the looming debt crisis, into demand-driven, integrated, national financing frameworks.

83. I commend partners who work to promote triangular cooperation, thereby enabling developing countries to source and access more, and a broader range of, resources, expertise and capacities towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. I encourage the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and other partners to document triangular cooperation practices, foster effective partnerships, and support delivering concrete development results, including through the establishment of a triangular cooperation window under the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation. This builds on experiences gained from the Republic of Korea-United Nations Office Facility/Programme for Capacity Development for Poverty Reduction through South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Science and Technology.

84. I encourage Member States and partners, including regional and multilateral Southern-led financial institutions, to scale up innovative financing for sustainable development as a complement to official development assistance involving a range of instruments such as grants, concessional financing, debt relief and loan expansion.

85. I call on Member States and partners to scale up contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and other relevant financing mechanisms to enable the United Nations development system to advance South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives championed by developing countries, with sufficient resources.