



South-South cooperation for development

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

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Summary

The present report, submitted in response to decisions 20/1 and 20/2 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, reviews progress from June 2021 to March 2023 in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. It focuses on activities of developing and developed countries, international organizations, the private sector and civil society entities relating to the objectives set out in the above-mentioned frameworks.

The report notes that, during the reporting period, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, climate change, and the war in Ukraine plus many other conflicts greatly constrained South-South cooperation. However, it further observes that global crises were also the impetus for developing countries and their partners to engage in robust South-South initiatives towards recovery from the pandemic and for building forward better to eradicate poverty and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The report concludes with several recommendations emphasizing the need to invest more in health care, education for all, digitalization, sustainable technologies, humanitarian assistance, governance, monetary and financial systems, the boosting of productive capacities and carbon neutrality.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted in response to decisions 20/1 and 20/2 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. It reviews progress from June 2021 to March 2023 in the implementation of the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA), the 1995 new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, the Nairobi outcome document of the 2009 High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the 2019 second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40).¹
2. During the reporting period, South-South cooperation evolved in the context of global crises due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, climate change, the war in Ukraine and other conflicts around the world. Those crises, plus increasing debt levels, caused a worldwide economic slowdown, which in turn disrupted South-South cooperation on trade and investment, infrastructure development, remittances and numerous other beneficial exchanges.
3. Amid these challenges, in Africa, for example, national governments, the private sector and United Nations agencies applied South-South cooperation principles such as collective self-reliance to, among other things, improve access to COVID-19 vaccines, other medicines and socioeconomic services.
4. South-South cooperation was also a prominent feature of Arab States initiatives to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build forward better while contributing more to development finance, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and support to humane policies and programmes benefiting migrants.
5. The Asia and the Pacific region continued its dynamic advancement of South-South cooperation through multiple institutional arrangements that fostered subregional and regional integration, socioeconomic recovery from the pandemic, trade and investment, environmental protection, maritime security and numerous collaborative alliances. In addition, many countries in the region signed agreements to better regulate their vast migrant populations.
6. Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean strengthened institutional mechanisms to better manage South-South cooperation. They also designed methodologies to measure the effectiveness and impact of South-South cooperation programmes and brought South-South cooperation to bear in the provision of social services, among many other actions to accelerate recovery from the pandemic.
7. Many developed countries reinvigorated engagements in triangular cooperation through the provision of financial resources and technical expertise to support a wide range of activities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
8. Numerous private-sector and civil society organizations continued to engage in impactful South-South cooperation, including dialogues that contributed to policies and strategies that facilitate trade and private-sector development for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and larger businesses.
9. In response to the request of Member States at the twentieth session of the High-level Committee, the present report highlights the support that the United Nations

¹ For historical background to the present report, see report SSC/20/1, paras. 2–7.

Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) provided to South-South interregional initiatives such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the India-Africa Partnership, the Türkiye-Africa Partnership and many others that have become the premier expressions of solidarity among developing countries.

II. Global context and trends

10. Actions towards collective self-reliance among developing countries became more urgent than ever but highly constrained during the reporting period. In addition to the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, which has claimed millions of lives, the world has been affected by inflation and tightening financial and monetary conditions and has witnessed devastating wildfires, floods, droughts, earthquakes and conflicts. The capacity of humanity to respond has been greatly weakened globally by divisions, severe extremism and economic inequalities that have caused worldwide insecurity and uncertainty. A reason for hope and resilience, according to the UNDP 2021/2022 Human Development Report, is that in the past, humanity found solutions to intractable challenges through creative cooperation. Similarly, the present report highlights numerous South-South cooperation initiatives of Governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations that followed the collaborative vision set out in BAPA. Across the Global South, such cooperation was central to policies and strategies to address crises and work towards peace and prosperity for all on a healthy planet, as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires.

11. In 2021, a consensus from the twentieth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation was the need to bolster interdependence and multilateral solidarity in confronting the multifaceted crises that the world faced. In that context, developing countries and their partners in Africa, the Arab States, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean continued to foster regional integration, self-reliance, capacity development, international cooperation, peacebuilding, and the adoption and use of technologies for development, responding to the needs of least developed countries (LDCs) and landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) as well the interests of small island developing States. They also bolstered the participation of the Global South in international engagements, as emphasized in BAPA.

12. Despite numerous obstacles due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other global crises, many of the South-South cooperation activities at the national, regional and global levels followed past trends. Most of them focused on improving health, food security, humanitarian assistance, education and the regulation of migration; advancing South-South trade and investment; including women in development processes; strengthening regional integration and infrastructure development; enhancing financial cooperation; protecting the environment; and expanding digitalization, industrialization, and the use of science and technology for development.

13. Notably, the pandemic made the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals more difficult, causing unprecedented reversals in poverty reduction due to the decline in income levels. Estimates show that the global poverty rate in 2021 had risen from 7.8 per cent to 9.1 per cent. Furthermore, projections for 2022 indicated that 75 million more people than predicted before the pandemic would be living in extreme poverty. Rising food prices and the broader impacts of the war in Ukraine could push that number to 95 million, further distancing the world from achieving

the target of ending extreme poverty by 2030.² Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic had set progress in reducing Multidimensional Poverty Index values back by three to 10 years.³

14. The increasing intensity of extreme weather events driven by climate change and resulting in frequent tropical cyclones, floods and extreme heat waves that caused unprecedented human distress were a major concern, as evidenced by the floods in the Sudan in 2020 and in Pakistan in 2022 and severe droughts in the Horn of Africa also in 2022.

15. Nevertheless, the world witnessed notable positive developments favourable to South-South cooperation, including the assumption of the leadership of the Group of 20 by Indonesia in 2022 and India in 2023. Those developments and the successful hosting of the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by Egypt in 2022 bolstered the voice of the Global South in the global governance of economic and environmental relations during the reporting period.

16. Moreover, despite the trade slumps during the COVID-19 pandemic, the share of South-South trade in global trade increased to 28 per cent in 2021. As of mid-2022, South-South trade was about 50 per cent higher than its 2019 level, while trade among developed countries was only about 28 per cent higher. Furthermore, compared to 2020, the share of South-South trade in 2021 increased in all regions except Africa.⁴

17. In 2021, foreign direct investment flows to developing economies, which rose more slowly than those to developed countries, still saw an increase of 30 per cent, to \$837 billion. That was due mainly to the strong growth performance in Asia, a fractional recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, and an upswing in Africa.⁵

III. Developing countries

18. The above-mentioned trends show that crises that disrupted socioeconomic exchanges globally also strengthened the resolve of developing countries to pursue recovery and progress through enhanced South-South cooperation.

A. Africa

19. Africa, like the rest of the world, faced a confluence of shocks but remained committed to South-South cooperation through measures to bolster regional integration; South-South trade and investment; peacebuilding; the forging of South-South partnerships; the harmonization of financial, monetary and environmental policies; and protocols to facilitate the free movement of people.

20. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation frameworks played a critical role in addressing the response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa. South Africa was the first country to establish a COVID mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub with the support from the World Health Organization

² United Nations (2022), Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/>.

³ United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022: Unpacking deprivation bundles to reduce multidimensional poverty*, p. 2.

⁴ UNCTAD (2023), Key Statistics and Trends in International Trade 2022.

⁵ UNCTAD (2022), *World Investment Report 2022*.

(WHO) and several companies from the North and the South.⁶ That triangular cooperation initiative supported manufacturers in low- and middle-income countries to produce their own vaccines by ensuring that they had all the necessary operating procedures to produce mRNA vaccines at scale.

21. The region also faced colossal obstacles to South-South cooperation. Globally, the human impact of the pandemic was projected to be hardest for sub-Saharan Africa in terms of pushing the largest number of people into extreme poverty.⁷ The heightened costs of food, fertilizers and energy due to the war in Ukraine also hindered the recovery of Africa from the pandemic. Moreover, in 2021, the African Union observed that efforts to achieve the integration and development agenda of Africa had produced mixed results owing to obstacles including inadequate financing, conflicts and terrorism in addition to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸

22. Despite those challenges, prospects for enhanced South-South trade and investment in Africa improved as the ambitious African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) became operational in January 2021. Through AfCFTA, the continent set out a framework to regulate intra-African trade and help to spur prosperity for the member States. AfCFTA provides a useful mechanism for promoting South-South cooperation by (a) facilitating the contribution of intra-African trade to increasing overall trade by member States, and (b) improving how Africa performs in the global political economy and its engagement with emerging Southern trading partners and potential investors. Hence, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) predicted that by 2040, implementation of AfCFTA would raise intra-African trade by 15 to 25 per cent, or \$50 billion to \$70 billion. Furthermore, the World Bank estimated that AfCFTA would lift 30 million people out of extreme poverty and substantially increase the income of 68 million people living just slightly above the poverty line.⁹

23. The beginning of AfCFTA encouraged leaders to accelerate ratification of the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement (TFTA) that would bolster South-South exchanges between three Regional Economic Communities: the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC). TFTA has three pillars critical to regional integration: market integration, industrial development and infrastructure development.¹⁰

24. The EAC-COMESA-SADC TFTA would be a major boost to South-South trade. It is expected to link the markets of 29 member countries representing 53 per cent of the member States of the African Union, 60 per cent of the African continent gross domestic product (GDP), and a population of about 800 million. To date, 11 member

⁶ <https://www.who.int/news/item/21-06-2021-who-supporting-south-african-consortium-to-establish-first-covid-mrna-vaccine-technology-transfer-hub#:~:text=Geneva%2FJohannesburg%2FParis%3A%20The,its%20first%20COVID%20mRNA%20vacine.>

⁷ World Bank...Blogs, 20 April 2020. Available at <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/impact-covid-19-coronavirus-global-poverty-why-sub-saharan-africa-might-be-region-hardest>.

⁸ African Union, African integration report 2021. Available at <https://au.int/en/documents/african-integration-report-2021>.

⁹ Brookings, Landry Signé (2022), "Understanding the African Continental Free Trade Area and how the US can promote its success", 17 May 2022, p. 9. Available at <https://www.brookings.edu/testimonies/understanding-the-african-continental-free-trade-area-and-how-the-us-can-promote-its-success/>.

¹⁰ United Nations, Douglas Okwach (2023), "Africa's free trade on track, more efforts needed", Africa Renewal, 6 January 2023. Available at <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/january-2023/africa%E2%80%99s-free-trade-track-more-efforts-needed>.

countries have ratified the agreement and three more must ratify it for it to become operational. While negotiations for the ratification of the TFTA continued, the EAC grew in 2022 when the Democratic Republic of the Congo became a member.

25. Another noteworthy development was the new initiative by Zambia and Zimbabwe to establish the common agro-industrial park (CAIP) with support from COMESA, ECA and the Africa Development Bank (AfDB). In 2021–2022, those partners made progress in drafting a policy, legal, regulatory and institutional framework to build consensus to manage the CAIP.¹¹

26. South-South partnerships were another noteworthy feature of international cooperation towards the COVID-19 response and recovery of Africa. The Government of China provided emergency medical supplies and vaccines to African countries and helped in the construction of a new headquarters building for the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Chinese hospitals were paired with 43 hospitals in 38 African countries, and more than 20,000 African health workers were trained by China. The Dakar Action Plan (2022–2024) emanating from the latest FOCAC aims to continue pursuing the vision of innovative, coordinated, green and open development, promoting high-quality China-Africa cooperation to advance post-pandemic economic recovery.

27. The Türkiye-Africa partnership promoted development and buttressed bilateral relations covering key areas such as infrastructure, agriculture, health care, telecommunications and defence.¹² The United Arab Emirates also partnered with sub-Saharan African countries to promote initiatives that serve common interests and support projects in fields such as education, health and energy to empower women and youth.¹³

28. The transition to a green economy energized the formation of South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships in Africa. For example, in Morocco, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy, launched in November 2021, brought together the expertise of five United Nations agencies: UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

29. Regarding peacebuilding, South-South cooperation emerged as a galvanizing force to create mechanisms to confront global threats posed by crises due to conflicts in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Somalia and South Sudan. The African Union along with the Economic Community of West African States and the Group of Five for the Sahel launched a high-level panel in 2022 to assess rising insecurity and political instability in the Sahel region.¹⁴

B. Arab States

¹¹ ECA (2022), “Zambia and Zimbabwe hold an experts meeting on the establishment and management of a common agro-industrial park”, 11 August 2022. See <https://www.uneca.org/stories/zambia-and-zimbabwe-hold-an-experts-meeting-on-the-establishment-and-management-of-a-common>.

¹² Türkiye, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “Türkiye-Africa relations”. See <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-africa-relations.en.mfa>.

¹³ United Arab Emirates, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (2022), “Diplomacy Lab Announces UAE Africa Connect”, 24 October 2022. See <https://www.mofaic.gov.ae/en/mediahub/news/2022/10/24/24-10-2022-uae>.

¹⁴ United Nations, “High-level independent panel on security and development in crisis-torn Sahel region launched at UN”, UN News, 25 September 2022. Available at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127931>.

30. The COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts in countries such as Syria and Yemen exposed the Arab region to multiple fragilities. The region still struggled to withstand the devastating socioeconomic effects of the pandemic, and the related challenges were exacerbated by the fallout from the war in Ukraine, resulting in disruptions in global supply chains and the rise in food prices, a financial crisis and political instability. However, the crises also provided the impetus and opportunities for the region to enhance its South-South engagements and support in areas such as migration, debt relief, development finance, digitalization and humanitarian assistance.

31. Over 40 million migrants and refugees were living in the Arab region in 2019, and they comprised the social groups impacted the most adversely by the pandemic in the region.¹⁵ The significant volume and complexity of migration in the region underline the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation policies and response frameworks to reduce the vulnerabilities of migrants and refugees. In an example of triangular cooperation, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan co-led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), supported “5.7 million Syrian refugees and their host governments”, and “over 2 million refugees received cash assistance, 140,000 children in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye [a country outside the region] received specialized child protection, and nearly 132,000 children participated in structured child-protection and psychosocial support programmes”.¹⁶ Additionally, “45,000 women and men benefited from parenting support.”¹⁷

32. Despite those enormous challenges, Southern institutions in the region were among the key actors promoting financial South-South cooperation in the Arab States and beyond in line with BAPA and BAPA+40. They provided debt relief, especially for LDCs, in support of their recovery efforts from COVID and other ongoing crises. For example, “the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development participated in the Debt Service Suspension Initiative...that aims to enable Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to mobilize and focus their own resources to face the repercussions of the pandemic by postponing the payment of their foreign debt service. The number of countries [that] benefited from Kuwait Fund’s participation in this initiative reached 26”,¹⁸ while the total debt suspended amounted to approximately \$63.9 million.¹⁹ The Saudi Fund for Development continued providing soft loans to development projects in developing countries, especially to LDCs and low-income countries, in areas such as transport and communications networks, energy and education to support countries in the region and beyond to achieve their development goals and improve the quality of life for their people.²⁰ The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) launched emergency programmes in solidarity with the people impacted by the recent

¹⁵ ILO (2020). Impact of COVID-19 on migrants and refugees in the Arab Region. Available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_764756.pdf.

¹⁶ UNHCR, “Middle East and North Africa”, Global Focus, 16 June 2022. See <https://reporting.unhcr.org/globalreport2021/mena>.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, Annual Report 2020–2021. Available at <https://www.kuwait-fund.org/en/web/kfund/annual-reportshttps://www.kuwait-fund.org/en/web/kfund/annual-reports>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Saudi Fund for Development, Annual Report 2021. Available at <https://www.sfd.gov.sa/sites/default/files/annual-report-pdfs/SFD%20ANR%20En%202021%20BB.pdfhttps://www.sfd.gov.sa/sites/default/files/annual-report-pdfs/SFD%20ANR%20En%202021%20BB.pdf>.

earthquakes in the region. Those actions aimed to provide relief efforts to over 100,000 survivors.

33. An initiative led by Saudi Arabia brought together IsDB and the Arab Monetary Fund to enhance the human and institutional capacities in eight countries²¹ for accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).²² Under this cooperation, the countries are expected to fully integrate into the multilateral trading system.

34. The pandemic showed that robust regional platforms that leverage digital opportunities, including artificial intelligence, while minimizing risks were needed to serve the growing numbers of Southern countries participating in development programmes and other activities through South-South and triangular cooperation. For example, in 2021, the Arab Federation for Digital Economy of the Council of Arab Economic Unity in the League of Arab States announced that it would establish a regional data centre in Bahrain to boost the digital transformation of the Arab States. It aims to support member States of the League and the private sector in the region to improve the competitiveness of Arab economies by fostering their integration into the global economy in areas such as e-government, e-commerce, e-health, fintech, transportation, digital identity, telecommunication transformation systems, cybersecurity systems and other business solutions.²³

35. Regarding humanitarian assistance, members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) strengthened their South-South collaborative arrangements to support countries in the region and beyond in their COVID-19 recovery efforts besides addressing recent crises such as the earthquake in Syria and Türkiye. Hence, the United Arab Emirates, through its International Humanitarian City (IHC), coordinated an emergency humanitarian response that included 67 aid shipments with a total value of about \$13 million to affected countries alongside providing support through WHO, the World Food Programme (WFP) and UNHCR. IHC also dispatched aid to more than 50 countries including Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia, the Sudan and Ukraine.²⁴ In the spirit of South-South solidarity, countries in the region such as Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine and the United Arab Emirates deployed security forces, rescue teams and emergency aid to either one or both of the affected countries.

36. The Arab region also forged stronger South-South partnerships across regions. At the 2022 China-Arab States Summit, China stated its intention to work with the Arab States to implement the Global Development Initiative and drive sustainable development through South-South cooperation. The Riyadh Declaration is intended to enhance the China-Arab strategic partnership and strengthen cooperation while promoting world peace and global development and safeguarding the interests of Arab States.

C. Asia and the Pacific

²¹ Algeria, Comoros, Lebanon, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, the Sudan and Syria.

²² IsDB, “Islamic Development Bank and Arab Monetary Fund to Build Capacity for Eight Arab States to Join WTO”, 7 February 2022. Available at <https://www.isdb.org/news/islamic-development-bank-and-arab-monetary-fund-to-build-capacity-for-eight-arab-states-to-join-wto>.

²³ Arab Federation for Digital Economy, “The initiative of the Arab Federation for the Digital Economy to establish local and regional data centers in the Arab region”, 14 September 2021. Available at <https://arab-digital-economy.org/language/en/6074> <https://arab-digital-economy.org/language/en/6074>.

²⁴ International Humanitarian City, “A coordinated emergency humanitarian response from Dubai’s International Humanitarian City (IHC) to the earthquake disaster in Syria and Türkiye”, 10 March 2023. Available at <https://www.ihc.ae/a-coordinated-emergency-humanitarian-response-from-dubais-international-humanitarian-city-ihc-to-the-earthquake-disaster-in-syria-and-turkiye/>.

37. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, the Asia and the Pacific region maintained its dynamism in South-South cooperation, seen, for instance, in collaborative policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of its population and contribute to the lifting of millions of people out of poverty.

38. Notable South-South cooperation initiatives included measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and related disasters, and debt as well as to address obstacles to optimal South-South cooperation such as inadequate infrastructure and the sizable migrant population in the region.

39. The Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] and the United Nations (2021–2025)²⁵ was initiated during the pandemic. It aims, among other things, to achieve inclusive socioeconomic recovery that is resilient, sustainable and aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals. India, under the Vaccine Maitri programme, exported more than 100 million doses of vaccines to neighbouring countries such as Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar and Nepal.²⁶

40. Asia and the Pacific leaders recognized that the region accounted for more than half of global greenhouse gas emissions and two-thirds of premature deaths owing to air pollution while a quarter of endemic species in the region were at high risk of extinction. To avoid further deterioration of the environment, most countries in the region collaboratively designed plans and strategies to achieve carbon neutrality by mid-century.²⁷ The region witnessed many weather-related setbacks requiring South-South collective action: landslides, windstorms, sea surges, droughts and cyclones. Such disasters are expected to increase in the near future, since droughts are projected to be more intense in arid and semi-arid areas of Bangladesh and India, while landslides and floods are more likely to be frequent in the mountain regions of Bhutan and Nepal. In line with the objectives of South-South cooperation, several regional development banks of the South such as AIIB, IsDB, NDB and the ASEAN Catalytic Green Finance Facility together designed their climate change policies.²⁸

41. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a major South-South initiative, came into force on 1 January 2022. It includes 15 East Asian and Pacific countries accounting for about 30 per cent of global GDP, making it the largest trading block in the world in economic size, with a total value of about \$12.7 trillion.²⁹ Central to the concessions of the agreement is the elimination of 90 per cent of tariffs within the block, a significant achievement considering the relatively higher tariffs levied from South-South trade in other regions. The block aims to ratify a multilateral trade system and deepen inclusive trade and investment.

42. India and ASEAN, under the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in 2022, aimed to advance maritime cooperation, including on maritime security; enhance cooperation against terrorism and transnational

²⁵ See <https://asean.org/plan-of-action-to-implement-the-joint-declaration-on-comprehensive-partnership-between-asean-and-the-united-nations-2021-2025/>.

²⁶ National Portal of India, “One Billion Doses: India’s Leadership in the World”, Amitabh Kant, NITI Aayog. Available at <https://www.niti.gov.in/one-billion-doses-indias-leadership-world>.

²⁸ UNCTAD, South-South Cooperation for Climate Adaptation and Sustainable Development (2022). See https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tcsgdsinf2022d1_en.pdf.

²⁹ ADB, Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership: Overview and Economic Impact (2020), Brief No. 164, December 2020. Available at <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/664096/adb-brief-164-regional-comprehensive-economic-partnership.pdf>.

crimes; strengthen cooperation on cybersecurity; and enhance cooperation on the environment, including biodiversity and climate change, as well as exchanges and cooperation on culture, education, media and academia, among other areas.³⁰ For example, through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC), India continued to provide technical knowledge and expertise as well as training opportunities, consultancy services and feasibility studies to developing countries. Under the programme, India also invited 161 countries in Africa, Asia, East Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and Pacific and small island countries to share in the Indian development experiences to strengthen substantive South-South cooperation among the developing countries.³¹

43. Due to the fragile security conditions in Afghanistan, Türkiye supported over 45,000 Afghan teachers by providing training facilities and strengthening their teaching capacities.

44. Despite such progress, the region still faced major infrastructure gaps that impeded further integration and optimal South-South cooperation. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), approximately \$1.7 trillion would have to be invested annually in infrastructure across Asia through 2030 if the region were to maintain economic growth, eradicate poverty and respond to climate risk,³² more than double the level of investment that ADB advised was needed in 2009. As catalysts for solutions to address those regional challenges, the two Southern Banks – the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)³³ and the New Development Bank (NDB)³⁴ – mobilized resources and approved projects focused on creating more green infrastructure.

45. India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America, an emerging triangular partnership, established a new quadrilateral economic forum in 2021 to focus on infrastructure development projects in Asia and explore possibilities of joint projects in transportation, technology, maritime security, economics and trade.

46. Many Asia-Pacific countries continued to be the main origins of migrant workers including women and girls, while GCC member States, ASEAN member States, Australia, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea were among the most popular labour migration destinations. Hence, “Governments in the Asia-Pacific region signed a number of bilateral labour agreements (BLAs) and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)” “to regularize and promote labour migration and regional collaboration”, “which equally benefit countries of origin and destination”.³⁵ For example, Thailand had Memorandums of Understanding with Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Myanmar to enhance the protection of migrants. In addition, regional consultative processes such as the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour, the Abu Dhabi Dialogue and the Colombo Process became tools for

³⁰ ASEAN and India, Joint statement on the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, 12 November 2022. Available at <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Joint-Statement-on-ASEAN-India-CSP-final.pdf>.

³¹ See <https://www.itecgoi.in/about>.

³² ADB (2017), “Meeting Asia’s infrastructure needs”, February 2017. Available at <https://www.adb.org/publications/asia-infrastructure-needs>.

³³ AIIB, 2021 AIIB Annual report (2021). Available at https://www.aiib.org/en/news-events/annual-report/2021/common/pdf/2021_AIIBAnnualReport_web-reduced.pdf.

³⁴ New Development Bank, “All projects”. See <https://www.ndb.int/projects/all-projects/>.

³⁵ IOM (2021), Labour Mobility and COVID-19, Issue Brief, No. 2, p. 6. Available at <https://roasiapacific.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl671/files/documents/IOM%20Labour%20Mobility%20and%20COVID19%20Issue%20Brief%202020-%20The%20impact%20of%20COVID-19%20on%20labour%20mobility%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific.pdf>.

regulating labour migration flows, providing Governments with an opportunity to discuss and enhance the governance of labour migration in the region.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

47. South-South cooperation continued to be a particularly dynamic process in Latin America and the Caribbean. A notable development during the reporting period was the decisions by Member States in the region to strengthen their institutional mechanisms governing South-South cooperation. In December 2021, Member States of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) renamed the Committee on South-South Cooperation of the region the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation. Objectives of the new subsidiary body of ECLAC included “to strengthen national South-South cooperation mechanisms and possible linkages with North-South and multilateral cooperation; to further South-South and triangular cooperation among regional and extraregional stakeholders, including donor countries and international organizations, to facilitate technology and knowledge transfer and joint activities in the field of cooperation; and to examine the experiences of South-South and triangular cooperation in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and to make progress in evaluating them, in conjunction with the relevant subsidiary bodies that conduct studies in this field”.³⁶

48. Before its renaming, the Committee on South-South Cooperation made two significant contributions to South-South cooperation during the reporting period. First, the Committee led discussions about how South-South cooperation would be brought to bear in Member States efforts to recover from the pandemic. To that end, it requested the Secretariat of ECLAC to prepare a strategy for middle- and high-income countries that would include post-COVID-19 recovery measures. It further recommended that the strategy, in addition to highlighting actions to address the urgent needs of the region, should also redesign the development indicators, going beyond per capita income to address the real challenges of State governance in the unique, unprecedented circumstances posed by the pandemic. Second, the Committee collaborated with the Statistical Conference of the Americas and developed methodologies to help to measure South-South cooperation. That work resulted in the publication *Evaluating South-South Cooperation in Six Latin America and Caribbean Countries: Shared Challenges in Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The book is an innovative resource for others wishing to design methodologies to voluntarily assess the effectiveness and impact of their South-South cooperation projects and programmes.

49. The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System and the Government of the Dominican Republic organized a meeting in February 2023 for the Directors of international cooperation agencies to share their experiences in South-South and triangular cooperation and present their offers and needs to other countries. Leaders of the international cooperation agencies of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico and Peru participated. Guatemala offered to collaborate in South-South and triangular cooperation with other countries in the region. The meeting of the Directors also demonstrated the mainstreaming of South-South and triangular cooperation among Latin American institutions, including the creation of South-South funds in a number of countries to enable the follow-up on cooperation agreements. Furthermore, regional and subregional organizations, such as the Andean Community, the Caribbean Community, and the Inter-American

³⁶ <https://www.cepal.org/en/subsidiary-bodies/regional-conference-south-south-cooperation-latin-america-and-caribbean>.

Agency for Cooperation and Development, joined the discussion on “Strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean within the framework of food security and sustainability”.

50. ECLAC, guided by BAPA+40, facilitated knowledge networks and partnerships to improve research and development capacities, with a view to increasing the impact of South-South cooperation in the region. For example, the Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions, the Inter-American Development Bank and ECLAC collaborated to develop a knowledge-sharing platform for development banks on green finance in 2021.³⁷ UNCTAD “signed a memorandum of understanding with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). IICA supports 24 member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to boost the agriculture sector and rural well-being.”³⁸

51. In 2022, the Association of Caribbean States focused on exploring opportunities for institutional strengthening and providing South-South and triangular cooperation knowledge to its members and associate member States. Foundations were laid to enable the coordination of collaborative activities, including the exchange of experiences and training workshops to build and improve the capacity of the members in South-South and triangular cooperation.

IV. Developed countries

52. The support of developed countries for triangular cooperation focused on a wide range of initiatives during the reporting period, including COVID-19 recovery, climate change and food security towards helping developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2022, Germany [updated its position paper for triangular cooperation](#) by combining a broad approach with dedicated financial and institutional resources.³⁹ It was an active triangular cooperation partner through the Regional Fund for Triangular Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. In 2021, Germany set up the [Fund for Triangular Cooperation with Asia](#).

53. Canada, another active partner in triangular cooperation and one of the core members of the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation, disbursed \$16.2 million for triangular cooperation in 2020 and was developing a policy to guide its triangular cooperation approach.

54. In Asia, Japan, through its Development Cooperation Charter, continued to emphasize the importance of supporting South-South and the triangular cooperation. Among numerous other programmes, Japan, through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, supported national and regional institutional capacity development to counter piracy in the Gulf of Guinea in Africa.

55. The Republic of Korea New Southern Policy (NSP) of 2017 transitioned into the NSP Plus during the COVID-19 pandemic. While the focus of its triangular cooperation continued to be with ASEAN and India as key Southern partners, the country increased the number of areas for international cooperation through NSP

³⁷ CEPAL (2022), *Towards Transformation of the Development Model in Latin America and the Caribbean: Production, Inclusion and Sustainability*. Available at https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/48309/3/S2200583_en.pdf.

³⁸ UNCTAD (2022), “UNCTAD scales up development cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean”, 4 November 2022. Available at <https://unctad.org/news/unctad-scales-development-cooperation-latin-america-and-caribbean>.

³⁹ OECD (2022), “Triangular cooperation in German development co-operation”. Available at <https://www.oecd.org/development-cooperation-learning/practices/triangular-co-operation-in-german-development-co-operation-495c09f9/>.

Plus, promoting seven initiatives: (a) comprehensive health-care cooperation; (b) sharing the Republic of Korea education model for human resource development; (c) promotion of mutual cultural exchanges; (d) formation of mutually beneficial and sustainable trade and investment; (e) support for rural villages and urban infrastructure development; (f) cooperation in future industries for common prosperity; and (g) cooperation for safe and peaceful communities.⁴⁰ In 2022, Spain, the Republic of Korea and Latin America collaborated to promote green economies through triangular cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and build forward better during the COVID-19 recovery phase.⁴¹ Spain and the Republic of Korea shared experience in designing measures to promote the green economy and digitalization while tackling economic downturns.

V. Civil society, think tanks and the private sector

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

57. The Pacific Islands Development Forum benefits from the membership of two regional umbrella organizations: the Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organizations and the Pacific Islands Private Sector Organization. They facilitated partnership-building among their civil society and private-sector members, respectively, from around the Pacific region.

58. In 2022, the Pacific Islands Forum and Business Mauritius (representing 1,200 companies in the country) signed a memorandum of understanding and developed a joint cooperation framework. This partnership will support trade policies that capitalize on technology for trade, employment and private-sector development. It will also promote opportunities for business and investment plus technical support for SMEs and larger businesses to advance regional priorities under the Pacific Aid-for-Trade Strategy 2020–2025.

59. The African Union hosted the 13th African Private Sector Forum in July 2022 that furthered dialogue and partnership between the African Union policymakers and private-sector actors. The Forum acts as a vehicle for empowering the African private sector through information exchange, business networking and policy formulation including business development services, regulatory reforms, and capacity-building for women and youth, with a particular focus on strengthening local micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

60. In February 2022, India and the United Arab Emirates signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which came into effect on 1 May 2022. One of its main advantages is to enhance business transactions between both countries by fast-tracking approvals, enabling preferential market access, cuts in tariff barriers, the set-up of free-trade zones and the creation of new jobs. This agreement is expected to increase the total value of bilateral trade in goods to over \$100 billion and trade in services to over \$15 billion within five years. Private businesses in both countries are currently leveraging the tremendous potential

⁴⁰ Korea Institute for International Economic Policy, 30 December, 2021. See

https://www.kiep.go.kr/gallery.es?mid=a20301000000&bid=0001&list_no=9932&act=view.

⁴¹ Webinar (2022), “Republic of Korea-Spain Cooperation for Supporting Latin America’s Digitalization and Green Economy”, 8 April 2022. See <https://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/en/activities/webinar-republic-of-korea-spain-cooperation/>.

offered under this agreement; South-South trade between the two countries has grown by 27.5 per cent⁴² since the agreement.

61. In 2022, Chinese telecom Huawei and the Digital Incubation Centre affiliated with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Qatar announced a new partnership to accelerate the digital transformation process of tech start-ups in the Middle East and North Africa region.⁴³

62. BRAC International, a Bangladesh-based non-governmental organization, is working in 10 countries across Africa and Asia to empower people and communities living in situations of multidimensional poverty. A collaboration between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and BRAC supported programmes on rural women empowerment to build climate-resilient livelihoods in Africa.⁴⁴

63. Rehabilitation International, an international disability rights organization, partnered with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in implementing projects on supporting and empowering persons with disabilities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The partnership brought together civil society organizations in Bangladesh, China, India, Malaysia and Thailand to exchange knowledge and experiences and provided funding to implement projects in areas such as community-based mental health services, vocational skills training and referrals to social protection.

64. The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries championed initiatives for LLDCs to benefit from South-South cooperation. It engaged in global dialogues on LLDC-related issues and signed an agreement with UNITAR in 2022⁴⁵ to support LLDCs through customized training solutions and to strengthen their capacity development activities. This initiative is a crucial step to develop networking opportunities for LLDCs in areas related to trade and transport policy development, business and investment facilitation, digital finance and frontier technologies, entrepreneurship and private-sector development.

65. UNOSSC and UNDP jointly implemented the initiative on South-South Global Thinkers: The Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks on South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, which pools think tanks from the Global South. Since 2021, the project has published over 20 research papers and thematic publications to foster new thinking and provide evidence-based analysis and policy recommendations to inform key dialogues and discussions on South-South and triangular cooperation. The think tanks under that initiative were also provided a platform to contribute to the major policy advocacy tools, including the UNDP 2022 *Special Report: New Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene—Demanding*

⁴² The Economic Times, “A year after signing India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, bilateral trade grew by 27.5%”. Available at <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/a-year-after-signing-india-uae-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement-bilateral-trade-grew-by-27-5/articleshow/98041509.cms?from=mdr>.

⁴³ Qatar, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, “Digital Incubation Center Partners with Huawei to Empower Tech Startups”, 16 November 2022. Available at <https://www.mcit.gov.qa/en/media-center/news/digital-incubation-center-partners-huawei-empower-tech-startups>.

⁴⁴ IFAD, “Spearheading South-South and triangular cooperation with partners in Asia. Available at <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/latest/-/spearheading-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-with-partners-in-asia>.

⁴⁵ UNITAR (2022), “UNITAR and ITLLDC sign agreement to support LLDCS through customized training solutions”. Available at <https://www.unitar.org/about/news-stories/news/unitar-and-itlldc-sign-agreement-support-lldc-through-customized-training-solutions>.

Greater Solidarity and the 2021/2022 Human Development Report. That contributed to the capacity development of member think tanks and provided insights, perspectives and experiences from the South.

VI. Support of UNDP and UNOSSC to interregional South-South cooperation initiatives

66. Recent years have witnessed a surge in the formation of interregional South-South cooperation alliances that UNDP and UNOSSC strongly support. For example, during the reporting period, UNDP and UNOSSC continued to actively support activities relating to FOCAC, the India-Africa Partnership and the Africa-Türkiye Partnership among many other interregional initiatives to bolster South-South cooperation relevant to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

67. Brazil, with the support of UNDP and other development partners, began constructing a centre to facilitate the diffusion of cotton technologies and the sharing and exchange of Brazilian experiences and good practices about cotton farming with 15 African countries. UNDP and UNOSSC also supported the International Solar Alliance led by India as well as the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund), among many other South-South interregional initiatives.

68. In 2022, the Ministry of International Cooperation of Egypt and UNDP launched a coordination platform on sustainable development solutions for South-South cooperation to enhance the sharing of Egyptian experiences in development cooperation, focusing on South-South and triangular cooperation lessons from the projects implemented with international partners. This initiative aims to “transfer the expertise and experiences in a manner that enhances integration between developing countries, emerging economies and countries of the African continent”.⁴⁶

69. UNDP and the Qatar Fund for Development renewed their partnership for 2022–2025 with the Fund committing an additional \$10 million to support innovative work being done through the 91 UNDP accelerator labs to benefit 115 countries in the Global South. The UNDP accelerator labs identify, test and iterate development solutions on climate change, the future of work, digital transformation and learning from local innovators.

70. In 2022, UNDP and the Government of Thailand supported the formation of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, an interregional forum of 21 economies, which adopted the Bangkok Goals that included exploring the bio-circular-green (BCG) economy model. The BCG model integrates three economic approaches using technology and innovation to (a) create value, (b) reduce waste and (c) advance resource efficiency, thereby promoting sustainable business models. Also, UNDP, in partnership with the Governments of China, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka, implemented the Biogas, Biomass and Solar Trilateral Cooperation Project, to improve local access to clean, renewable energy in Ethiopia and Sri Lanka.

71. With the support of UNDP, the NGO Patagonia Compassion in Chile and Global Light Ministry in Kenya collaborated on a participatory South-South cooperation project to promote agricultural entrepreneurship in small-scale farmer communities in Kenya. Similarly, UNDP Bangladesh and UNDP Türkiye facilitated the scaling up

⁴⁶ Daily News Egypt, “Egypt’s Ministry of International Cooperation, UNDP launch sustainable development solutions for South-South cooperation platform”. Available at <https://www.dailynewsegyp.com/2022/04/19/egypts-ministry-of-international-cooperation-undp-launch-sustainable-development-solutions-for-south-south-cooperation-platform/>.

of the Dukkan Freelance Platform for IT Workers in Bangladesh, which connected information technology professionals in Yemen with opportunities for jobs and skills development. That Aspire to Innovate model in Bangladesh was further replicated in Somalia to provide youth with vocational training and job placement services.

72. The funds managed by UNOSSC supported several interregional initiatives during the reporting period. For example, the IBSA Fund funded the deployment of solar-operated systems of water pumps to expand access to clean, affordable energy and safe water for household and/or agricultural use. That initiative was implemented by UNDP India and the International Solar Alliance to benefit 10 countries in the Africa and the Pacific regions: Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan, the Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu and Uganda.

73. The India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund, also managed by UNOSSC, supported the Ministry of Health of Trinidad and Tobago to learn about the experiences of Rwanda in introducing telehealth robots during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Another project leveraged the experience of India in fintech/insurtech to support Fiji to develop a climate disaster risk financing framework and parametric insurance in order to improve disaster preparedness in Fiji, thereby enhancing the availability of climate risk insurance to low-income and remote communities.

74. The UNOSSC-managed United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation supported the China-Africa Rice Value Chain pilot project, which was implemented under the UNOSSC Global South-South Development Centre Project in partnership with the WFP Centres of Excellence in China and Africa. A total of 614 local smallholders and their households in Africa and other regions participated in on-site demonstrations and training. Similar training was conducted for over 200 community members of the Khajura Rural Municipality in Nepal. The Fund also supported sustainable tourism recovery and promoted preservation of culture heritage. UNOSSC, jointly with the World Tourism Organization, the World Heritage Centre and the World Heritage Training and Research Institute for the Asia and the Pacific Region facilitated several interregional online exchanges and training among networks and tourism authorities from over 20 cities in Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Fiji, Mexico, Peru and Uzbekistan, highlighting the role of South-South cooperation to support the growth of the tourism sector in cities, especially in promoting SME growth.

75. The Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, also managed by UNOSSC with the operational support of UNDP, continued to prioritize intraregional projects. For example, it increased preparedness and diagnostic capacities, education, awareness and control of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever in humans and livestock in Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, Tunisia, Türkiye and Yemen. Another example is the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries based in India that supported 13 countries, including Bhutan, Egypt, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar and Nepal, to reduce arsenic exposure from food and water using Trust Fund resources.

76. In the context of COVID-19 and the 2030 Agenda, UNOSSC organized an interregional policy dialogue and stocktaking on public policy leadership and institutional arrangements for advancing South-South and triangular cooperation in the Arab States and Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States regions in 2021. The objective was to identify public policy challenges and opportunities for strengthened interregional, intraregional and subregional collaboration.

77. [South-South Galaxy](#), managed by UNOSSC, 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. As of the end of 2022, over 900 good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation had been curated. The Galaxy made significant strides in fostering knowledge exchanges, learning and opportunities for collaboration and showcasing concerted South-South and triangular cooperation efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

VII. Organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of UNDP in support of UNOSSC

78. UNDP continued to comply with BAPA, the new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, the Nairobi outcome document, the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and relevant decisions of the High-level Committee as well as resolutions of the General Assembly regarding organizational, administrative and financial arrangements in support of UNOSSC. To that end, in the period 2021–2022, UNDP allocated a total of \$4.6 million for the institutional budget and \$6.97 million in core programme resources to UNOSSC.

79. Those resources supported UNOSSC in implementing its strategic frameworks. Its current strategic framework, 2022–2025, prioritizes support to intergovernmental processes; the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation and action plan; knowledge co-creation and management; and South-South trust fund management. More robust support by UNDP and other United Nations organizations to South-South and triangular cooperation is described in report SSC/21/2.

80. In 2022, UNDP ensured the reorganization and realignment of UNOSSC and the consolidation of its work programmes and regional offices at Headquarters. In March 2023, UNDP appointed a new Director of UNOSSC.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

81. As the present report shows, the confluence of shocks due to the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, rising debt levels, climate change, the war in Ukraine and other conflicts heightened the poverty and inequality levels globally and disrupted South-South trade and investment, infrastructure development and many previous gains from South-South exchanges. Yet the determination of developing countries to recover and build forward better also sparked numerous South-South collaborative initiatives. There is a need to leverage such creative cooperation and to focus more on strategic recovery measures that are likely to have a big impact, including higher investments in health care and education for all, digitalization, sustainable technologies, humanitarian assistance, governance, and monetary and financial systems.

82. The reporting period witnessed the urgent need for international collective actions to address numerous crises that affect the Global South most adversely. Inadequate access to COVID-19 vaccines by millions of people of the Global South, extreme weather events, and shortages of food, fertilizers, and digital and renewable technologies underscore the need for Southern Governments, the private sector and academia to invest more in systems to boost the productive capacities of the Global South. Doing so will require more nuanced South-South exchanges among Governments, the private sector and other relevant actors to bolster the capacity of

the South to produce affordable goods and services sustainably to meet people's essential needs.

83. The measures taken by the Government of South Africa, WHO and several Northern and Southern corporations to produce COVID-19 vaccines and other medications in Africa exemplify the kind of international collective action that should be replicated in addressing other global challenges through South-South and triangular cooperation.

84. The strategy that countries in the Asia-Pacific region have developed to achieve carbon neutrality by mid-century is another example of impactful South-South cooperation that other regions should consider adapting at all levels while placing South-South cooperation at the centre of actions to recover from the pandemic, increase resilience against future shocks, eradicate poverty and address the other crises that affect developing countries the most adversely.

85. The voluntary actions taken by ECLAC to establish a stronger Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean should be emulated to improve the management of South-South programmes while voluntarily monitoring and measuring their effectiveness and impact in line with the recommendations of BAPA+40.

86. As the present report confirms, interregional South-South initiatives supported by UNDP and UNOSSC have become the premier expressions of solidarity among developing countries. There is, however, a need for national and regional authorities to strengthen these initiatives through pooled human and financial resources and collaborative implementation of the related agreements and programmes.

87. Considering that most migrants live and work in countries of the Global South, South-South dialogues and policies to better coordinate the management and regulation of migration are highly necessary to implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration if millions of vulnerable migrants are not to be left behind. Equally needed are peer-to-peer dialogues among Southern leaders and policies on effective governance to transform the countries of the Global South into safer, more prosperous places to live and work.

88. The support of Northern partners for triangular cooperation towards the achievement by developing countries of the Sustainable Development Goals is encouraging. More support is needed, however, for advancing South-South cooperation and strengthening the financial, scientific and technological capacities of developing countries to narrow the digital divide and better harness sustainable technologies to accelerate the achievement of the Goals. Equally needed during upcoming summits such as the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the Summit of the Future, the Summit on Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Third South Summit are inclusive voices to articulate the effective regulation of artificial intelligence and other technologies in order to increase their benefits to all people while preventing related risks.