



South-South cooperation for development

Distr.: General
14 April 2023

Original: English

High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

Twenty-first session

New York, 30 May–2 June 2023

Items 2 and 4 of the provisional agenda*

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

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Summary

The present report, submitted in response to decisions 20/1 and 20/2 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, provides a review of progress made 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 is focused 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.

During the reporting period, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, climate change and the war in Ukraine, in addition to many other conflicts, greatly constrained South-South cooperation. However, 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

* [SSC/21/L.2/Rev.1](#).



several recommendations emphasizing the need for bigger investments 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 provides a review of progress made 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, the 1995 new directions strategy for South-South cooperation, the 2009 Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation¹ and the 2019 Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

2. During the reporting period, South-South cooperation evolved in the context of global crises resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, climate change, the war in Ukraine and other conflicts around the world. Those crises, in addition to 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, Governments, the private sector and United Nations entities applied such South-South cooperation principles 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 initiatives in Arab States to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and build forward better while contributing more to development finance, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and support for 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. 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 leveraged South-South cooperation initiatives 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 effective South-South cooperation, including dialogues that contributed to policies and strategies to facilitate trade and private sector development for small and medium-sized enterprises 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 Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation provided to South-South interregional initiatives, such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, the India-Africa partnership, the Türkiye-Africa

¹ For historical background on these three foundational documents, see the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to the twentieth session of the High-level Committee (SSC/20/1), paras. 2–7.

partnership and many others that have become the premier expression of solidarity among developing countries.

II. Global context and trends

10. During the reporting period, actions towards collective self-reliance among developing countries became more urgent than ever but were also highly constrained. 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. According to the UNDP *Human Development Report 2021/2022: Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives – Shaping our Future in a Transforming World*, a reason for hope and resilience 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 the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. 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 set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

11. In 2021, at its twentieth session, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation agreed that there was a need to bolster interdependence and multilateral solidarity in confronting the current multifaceted crises of the world. In that context, developing countries and their partners in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific 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 and landlocked developing countries and the interests of small island developing States. They also bolstered the participation of the global South in international engagements, as emphasized in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

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 were 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 following a decline in income levels. Estimates show that the global poverty rate rose from 7.8 per cent in 2020 to 9.1 per cent in 2021. 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 impact 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 Moreover, simulations in

² *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022* (United Nations publication, 2022).

2020 suggested that the COVID-19 pandemic had set progress in reducing Multidimensional Poverty Index values back by 3 to 10 years.³

14. The increasing intensity of extreme weather events, which has been driven by climate change and resulted in frequent tropical cyclones, floods and extreme heatwaves that caused unprecedented human distress, was 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 in 2022.

15. Nevertheless, there have also been 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 twenty-seventh 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 slowdown in trade 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 with 2020, the share of South-South trade in 2021 increased in all regions except Africa.⁴

17. In 2021, while foreign direct investment flows to developing economies rose more slowly than those to developed countries, they nevertheless increased by 30 per cent, to \$837 billion. This was due mainly to the strong growth performance in Asia, a partial 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 and triangular cooperation frameworks were critical in addressing the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa. South Africa was the first country to establish a COVID messenger ribonucleic acid (mRNA) vaccine technology transfer hub with support from the World Health Organization

³ UNDP and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, “Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022: unpacking deprivation bundles to reduce multidimensional poverty”, 2022, p. 2.

⁴ *Key Statistics and Trends in International Trade 2022: The Remarkable Trade Rebound of 2021 and 2022* (United Nations publication, 2023).

⁵ *World Investment Report 2022: International Tax Reforms and Sustainable Investment* (United Nations publication, 2022).

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

21. The region also faced tremendous obstacles to South-South cooperation. Globally, the human impact of the pandemic was projected to hit sub-Saharan Africa the hardest 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 pandemic.⁸

22. Despite those challenges, prospects for enhanced South-South trade and investment in Africa improved as the ambitious Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area became operational in January 2021. Through the Agreement, the continent set out a framework to regulate intra-African trade and help to spur prosperity for member States. The Agreement provides a useful mechanism for promoting South-South cooperation by facilitating the contribution of intra-African trade to increasing overall trade by member States and by improving the continent's performance in the global political economy and its engagement with emerging Southern trading partners and potential investors. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has predicted that, by 2040, the implementation of the Agreement will help to raise intra-African trade by 15 to 25 per cent, or \$50 billion to \$70 billion. Furthermore, the World Bank has estimated that its implementation will help to 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 entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area encouraged leaders to accelerate the ratification of the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement, which is aimed at bolstering South-South exchanges between three regional economic communities: the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the Southern African Development Community and the East African Community. The Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement has three pillars that are critical to regional integration: market integration, industrial development and infrastructure development.¹⁰

24. The Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement would be a major boost to South-South trade. It is expected to link the markets of 29 countries representing 53 per cent of the States members of the African Union, 60 per cent of the African continent gross domestic product and a population of about 800 million. To date, 11 countries have ratified the Agreement, and 3 more must ratify it for it to become operational. While negotiations for the ratification of the Agreement continued, the East African Community expanded in 2022 to include the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

⁶ WHO, "WHO supporting South African consortium to establish first COVID mRNA vaccine technology transfer hub", press release, 21 June 2021.

⁷ Daniel Gerszon Mahler and others, "The impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) on global poverty: why sub-Saharan Africa might be the region hardest hit", World Bank Blogs, 20 April 2020.

⁸ African Union, *African Integration Report 2021: Putting Free Movement of Persons at the Centre of Continental Integration*, Addis Ababa, 2021.

⁹ Landry Signé, "Understanding the African Continental Free Trade Area and how the US can promote its success", testimony before the United States House Foreign Affairs Committee: Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Global Human Rights, 27 April 2022, p. 3.

¹⁰ Douglas Okwach, "Africa's free trade on track, more efforts needed", *Africa Renewal*, 6 January 2023.

25. Another noteworthy development was the new initiative by Zambia and Zimbabwe to establish the common agro-industrial park with support from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, ECA and the African Development Bank. In 2021 and 2022, those partners made progress in drafting a policy, legal, regulatory and institutional framework to build consensus for managing the park.¹¹

26. South-South partnerships were another noteworthy feature of international cooperation to support the response to and recovery from COVID-19 in 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, through which more than 20,000 African health workers were trained. The Dakar Action Plan (2022–2024) adopted at the most recent Forum on China-Africa Cooperation is aimed at continuing efforts to pursue the vision of innovative, coordinated, green and open development and to promote effective China-Africa cooperation to advance post-pandemic economic recovery.

27. Through the Türkiye-Africa partnership, efforts were made to promote development and reinforce 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 such fields as education, health and energy to empower women and youth.¹³

28. The transition to a green economy prompted 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 entities: UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

29. Regarding peacebuilding, South-South cooperation was a galvanizing force in the creation of mechanisms to confront global threats posed by crises due to conflicts in 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

30. The COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing conflicts in such countries as the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen exposed the Arab region to multiple challenges. The region continued to struggle 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 a rise in food prices, a financial crisis and political instability. However, the crises also provided the impetus

¹¹ United Nations, ECA, “Zambia and Zimbabwe hold an experts meeting on the establishment and management of a common agro-industrial park”, 11 August 2022.

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

¹³ United Arab Emirates, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, “Diplomacy lab announces UAE Africa Connect”, 24 October 2022. Available at <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”, United Nations News, 25 September 2022.

and opportunities for the region to enhance its South-South engagements and support in certain 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, comprising the group that was the most adversely affected 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), was the cornerstone of support for 5.7 million Syrian refugees and their host Governments. 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. In addition 45,000 women and men benefited from parenting support.¹⁶

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 the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. They provided debt relief, in particular for least developed countries, in support of the countries' recovery efforts from COVID-19 and other ongoing crises. For example, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development participated in the Debt Service Suspension Initiative of the World Bank, which is aimed at enabling least developed countries to mobilize and focus their own resources to face the repercussions of the pandemic by postponing the payment of their foreign debt. A total of 26 countries benefited from the Fund's participation in the Initiative, while the total debt suspended amounted to approximately \$63.9 million.¹⁷ The Saudi Fund for Development continued to provide soft loans to developing countries, in particular least developed countries and low-income countries, for development projects in areas such as transport and communications networks, energy and education to help them to achieve their development goals and improve the quality of life for their people.¹⁸ The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) launched emergency programmes to support the people affected by the recent earthquakes in the region and 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 countries¹⁹ for accession to the World Trade Organization.²⁰ Under the initiative, the countries are expected to fully integrate into the multilateral trading system.

¹⁵ Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and International Labour Organization, "Impact of COVID-19 on migrants and refugees in the Arab region: technical paper", 2020. Available at https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---arabstates/---ro-beirut/documents/publication/wcms_764756.pdf.

¹⁶ UNHCR, *Global Report 2021: The Stories Behind the Numbers*, Geneva, 2021, p. 132.

¹⁷ Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, *Annual Report 2020–2021*. Available at <https://www.kuwait-fund.org/en/web/kfund/annual-reports>.

¹⁸ 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.pdf>.

¹⁹ Algeria, Comoros, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Syrian Arab Republic.

²⁰ IsDB, "Islamic Development Bank and Arab Monetary Fund to build capacity for eight Arab States to join WTO", 7 February 2022.

34. The pandemic revealed the need to create robust regional platforms that leverage digital solutions, including artificial intelligence, while minimizing risks to serve the growing number 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 of the League of Arab States announced that it would establish a regional data centre in Bahrain to boost the digital transformation of Arab States. The centre will support States members of the League and the private sector in the region in improving the competitiveness of Arab economies by fostering their integration into the global economy in areas such as e-government, e-commerce, e-health, financial technologies, transportation, digital identity, telecommunication systems, cybersecurity systems and other business solutions.²¹

35. Regarding humanitarian assistance, members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf strengthened their South-South collaborative arrangements to support countries in the region and beyond in their COVID-19 recovery efforts and their response to recent crises, such as the earthquake in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye. The United Arab Emirates, through the International Humanitarian City, coordinated an emergency humanitarian response that included 67 aid shipments with a total value of about \$13 million to affected countries, while also providing support through WHO, the World Food Programme and UNHCR. The International Humanitarian City also dispatched aid to more than 50 countries, including Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia, the Sudan and Ukraine.²² In the spirit of South-South solidarity, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the State of Palestine 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, the delegation from China stated the country's intention to work with the Arab States to implement the Global Development Initiative and drive sustainable development through South-South cooperation. In a declaration made at the summit, participants committed to enhancing the China-Arab strategic partnership and strengthening cooperation, while promoting world peace and global development and safeguarding the interests of Arab States.

C. Asia and the Pacific

37. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises, the Asia and the Pacific region maintained its dynamism in South-South cooperation, as can be seen, for example, in collaborative policies and actions to improve the health and well-being of the 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 pandemic, climate change and related disasters and rising debt levels, as well as to address obstacles to conducting effective 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 the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations

²¹ 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.

²² 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.

(2021–2025) was initiated during the pandemic.²³ It is aimed at, among other things, enabling inclusive socioeconomic recovery in a manner that is resilient, sustainable and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. India, under the Vaccine Maitri (“Vaccine Friendship”) programme, exported more than 100 million doses of vaccines to neighbouring countries, such as Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar and Nepal.²⁴

40. Leaders in Asia and the Pacific 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 the mid-century.²⁵ The region witnessed many weather-related setbacks, including landslides, windstorms, sea surges, droughts and cyclones, requiring South-South collective action. Such disasters are expected to increase in the near future. Droughts are projected to be more intense in the 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 the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, IsDB, the New Development Bank and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Catalytic Green Finance Facility, collaborated on the design of their climate change policies.²⁶

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 that account for about 30 per cent of global gross domestic product, making it the largest trading block in the world in economic size, with a total value of about \$12.7 trillion.²⁷ 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. Under the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, established in 2022, India and ASEAN aim to advance maritime cooperation, including on maritime security; enhance cooperation on efforts to combat terrorism and transnational crime; strengthen cooperation on cybersecurity; and enhance cooperation on environmental issues, including biodiversity and climate change, and exchanges and cooperation on issues related to culture, education, the media and academia, among others.²⁸ For example, through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme, 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 has invited 161 countries in Africa, Asia, East Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as small island developing States and

²³ See <https://asean.org/plan-of-action-to-implement-the-joint-declaration-on-comprehensive-partnership-between-asean-and-the-united-nations-2021-2025/>.

²⁴ Amitabh Kant, “One billion doses: India’s leadership in the world”, National Portal of India.

²⁵ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Protecting our Planet through Regional Cooperation and Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific (2022)*.

²⁶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, “South-South cooperation for climate adaptation and sustainable development”, Geneva, 2022.

²⁷ Asian Development Bank (ADB), “Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership: overview and economic impact”, brief No. 164, December 2020.

²⁸ 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>.

Pacific island small States, to make use of the country's development experiences to strengthen substantive South-South cooperation among the countries.²⁹

43. In view of 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 to 2030 for the region to maintain economic growth, eradicate poverty and be able to respond to climate risks.³⁰ This is more than double the level of investment recommended by ADB in 2009. To address those regional challenges, the two Southern banks in the region – the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank – mobilized resources and approved projects focused on creating more green infrastructure.³¹

45. India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America, through 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 States members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, ASEAN member States, Australia, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea were among the most popular labour migration destinations. In this context, Governments in the Asia-Pacific region signed a number of bilateral labour agreements and memorandums of understanding to regularize and promote labour migration and regional collaboration, which equally benefit countries of origin and destination.³² For example, Thailand signed 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 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 States in the region to strengthen their institutional mechanisms governing South-South cooperation. In December 2021, States members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) approved the renaming of the Committee on South-South Cooperation of the region to the Regional

²⁹ See <https://www.itecgoi.in/about>.

³⁰ ADB, *Meeting Asia's Infrastructure Needs* (Manila, February 2017).

³¹ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, *2021 AIIB Annual Report* (2022); and New Development Bank, "All projects". Available at <https://www.ndb.int/projects/all-projects/>.

³² International Organization for Migration, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, "Shifting patterns: the impact of COVID-19 on labour mobility in Asia and the Pacific", Labour mobility and COVID-19 issue brief No. 2, 2022, p. 6. Available at <https://roasiapacific.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1671/files/documents/IOM%20Labour%20Mobility%20and%20COVID19%20Issue%20Brief%202%20-%20The%20impact%20of%20COVID-19%20on%20labour%20mobility%20in%20Asia%20and%20the%20Pacific.pdf>.

Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Objectives of the new subsidiary body of ECLAC include 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 external stakeholders, including donor countries and international organizations, to facilitate technology and knowledge transfers and joint activities; 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 such experiences, in conjunction with the relevant subsidiary bodies that conduct studies in the field.³³

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 on ways to leverage South-South cooperation in the efforts by States 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, in addition to highlighting actions to address the urgent needs of the region, the strategy should be focused on redesigning the development indicators, going beyond per capita income to address the specific challenges to State governance that emerged 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 entitled *Evaluating South-South Cooperation in Six Latin American and Caribbean Countries: Shared Challenges for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The publication is an innovative resource for those 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 solutions to and discuss their needs with other countries. Leaders of the international cooperation agencies of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico and Peru participated. Guatemala offered to collaborate on South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives with other countries in the region. The meeting also served to demonstrate 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 follow-up on cooperation agreements. Furthermore, regional and subregional organizations, such as the Andean Community, the Caribbean Community and the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development, joined a 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 the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, facilitated knowledge-sharing 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, in 2021, the Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions, the Inter-American Development Bank and ECLAC collaborated on the development of a knowledge-sharing platform for development banks on green

³³ See <https://www.cepal.org/en/subsidiary-bodies/regional-conference-south-south-cooperation-latin-america-and-caribbean>.

financing.³⁴ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development signed a memorandum of understanding with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture. The Institute supports 24 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in boosting the agriculture sector and the well-being of the rural population.³⁵

51. In 2022, the Association of Caribbean States focused on exploring opportunities for institutional strengthening and providing knowledge on South-South and triangular cooperation 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 its members in South-South and triangular cooperation.

IV. Developed countries

52. During the reporting period, the support of developed countries for triangular cooperation was provided through a wide range of initiatives, which were focused on such issues as COVID-19 recovery, climate change and food security, with a view to helping developing countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2022, Germany updated its position paper on triangular cooperation, establishing dedicated financial and institutional resources as part of its broad approach.³⁶ It was an active partner in 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 developed a policy to guide its triangular cooperation approach.

54. Through its Development Cooperation Charter, Japan continued to emphasize the importance of supporting South-South and 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 New Southern Policy, a foreign policy initiative launched by the Republic of Korea in 2017, was adapted during the COVID-19 pandemic to become the New Southern Policy Plus. While the country continued to focus its triangular cooperation with ASEAN member States and India as key Southern partners, it increased the number of areas for international cooperation through the New Southern Policy Plus, on the basis of seven initiatives: (a) promoting comprehensive cooperation on health care; (b) sharing the country's education model for human resource development; (c) promoting mutual cultural exchanges; (d) developing mutually beneficial and sustainable trade and investment relations; (e) supporting rural villages and urban infrastructure development; (f) facilitating cooperation in future industries for common prosperity; and (g) ensuring cooperation for safe and peaceful communities.³⁷ In 2022, Spain, the Republic of Korea and Latin American countries collaborated on the promotion of green economies through triangular cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and build forward better during the

³⁴ *Towards Transformation of the Development Model in Latin America and the Caribbean: Production, Inclusion and Sustainability* (United Nations publication, 2022).

³⁵ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, "UNCTAD scales up development cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean", 4 November 2022.

³⁶ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, "Triangular co-operation in German development co-operation".

³⁷ Korea Institute for International Economic Policy, *The New Southern Policy Plus: Progress and Way Forward* (Sejong, 30 December 2021).

COVID-19 recovery phase. Spain and the Republic of Korea shared experiences in designing measures to promote the green economy and digitalization while tackling economic downturns.³⁸

V. Civil society, think tanks and the private sector

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

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, which facilitated the building of partnerships among their civil society and private sector members, respectively, from around the Pacific region.

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

59. The African Union hosted the thirteenth African Private Sector Forum in July 2022 that furthered dialogue and partnerships between 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 in such areas as business development, regulatory reform 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 through the fast-tracking of approvals, preferential market access, cuts in tariff barriers, the set-up of free trade zones and the creation of new jobs. The 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 offered under the agreement; South-South trade between the two countries has grown by 27.5 per cent since its entry into force.³⁹

61. In 2022, the Chinese telecommunication company Huawei and the Digital Incubation Center affiliated with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Qatar announced a new partnership to accelerate the digital transformation process of technology start-ups in the Middle East and North Africa.⁴⁰

³⁸ Elcano Royal Institute and Korean Council on Latin America and the Caribbean, “Republic of Korea-Spain cooperation for supporting Latin America’s digitalization and green economy”, webinar, 26 April 2022.

³⁹ The Economic Times, “A year after signing India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, bilateral trade grew by 27.5%”, 18 February 2023.

⁴⁰ Qatar, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, “Digital Incubation Center partners with Huawei to empower tech startups”, 16 November 2022.

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. BRAC collaborated with the International Fund for Agricultural Development to support programmes focused on empowering rural women to build climate-resilient livelihoods in Africa.⁴¹

63. Rehabilitation International, an international organization focused on the rights of persons with disabilities, partnered with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to implement projects aimed at supporting and empowering persons with disabilities in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The partnership enabled 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 for social protection services.

64. The International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries championed initiatives for landlocked developing countries to benefit from South-South cooperation. It engaged in global dialogues on related issues and signed an agreement with UNITAR in 2022 to support such countries through customized training solutions and to strengthen their capacity development activities. The initiative is crucial to helping landlocked developing countries to develop networking opportunities in areas related to trade and transport policy development, business and investment facilitation, digital finance and frontier technologies, entrepreneurship and private sector development.⁴²

65. The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and UNDP developed the South-South Global Thinkers online community, a global coalition of think tank networks on South-South and triangular cooperation bringing together think tanks from the global South. Since 2021, over 20 research papers and thematic reports have been issued to foster new thinking and provide evidence-based analyses and policy recommendations to inform key dialogues and discussions on South-South and triangular cooperation. The think tanks under the initiative were also given the opportunity to contribute to major policy advocacy tools, including the UNDP *2022 Special Report: New Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene – Demanding Greater Solidarity* and the *Human Development Report 2021/2022*, which contributed to the capacity development of the think tanks and provided insights, perspectives and experiences from the South.

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

66. There has been a surge in the formation of interregional South-South cooperation alliances in recent years that have benefited from significant support from UNDP and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation. For example, during the reporting period, UNDP and the Office for South-South Cooperation continued to actively support activities relating to the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, 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.

⁴¹ International Fund for Agricultural Development, “Spearheading South-South and triangular cooperation with partners in Asia”, 6 May 2021.

⁴² UNITAR, “UNITAR and ITLLDC sign agreement to support LLDCS through customized training solutions”.

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 of Brazilian experiences and good practices in cotton farming with 15 African countries. UNDP and the Office for South-South Cooperation also supported the International Solar Alliance, led by India, and the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation, among many other South-South interregional initiatives.

68. In 2022, the Ministry of International Cooperation of Egypt and UNDP launched a coordination platform to enhance the sharing of Egyptian experiences in development cooperation and lessons learned in South-South and triangular cooperation from projects implemented with international partners. The initiative is aimed at sharing expertise and experiences in a manner that enhances integration among developing countries, emerging economies and countries in Africa.⁴³

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 conducted through the 91 UNDP accelerator labs to benefit 115 countries in the global South. Drawing from local innovators, the UNDP accelerator labs identify, test and reproduce development solutions to address climate change, the future of work and digital transformation.

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 goals to explore the bio-circular-green economy model. The model integrates three economic approaches using technology and innovation to create value, reduce waste and advance resource efficiency, thereby promoting sustainable business models. In addition, UNDP, in partnership with the Governments of China, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka, implemented a trilateral cooperation project on biogas, biomass and solar energy to improve local access to clean, renewable energy in Ethiopia and Sri Lanka.

71. With the support of UNDP, the non-governmental organization Patagonia Compassion in Chile and Global Light Ministry in Kenya collaborated on a South-South cooperation project to promote agricultural entrepreneurship in small-scale farmer communities in Kenya. Similarly, UNDP Bangladesh and UNDP Yemen facilitated the scaling up of the Dukkan freelance working platform for information technology workers in Bangladesh in order to connect similar professionals in Yemen with opportunities for jobs and skills development. The approach used by the Government of Bangladesh for that initiative, referred to as the “aspire to innovate” approach, was replicated in Somalia to provide youth with vocational training and job placement services.

72. The funds managed by the Office for South-South Cooperation were used to support several interregional initiatives during the reporting period. For example, the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation funded the deployment of solar-operated systems of water pumps to expand access to clean, affordable energy and safe water for household and agricultural use. The initiative was implemented by UNDP India and the International Solar Alliance to benefit 10 countries in Africa and the Pacific.⁴⁴

73. The India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund, also managed by the Office for South-South Cooperation, helped the Ministry of Health of Trinidad and

⁴³ Daily News Egypt, “Egypt’s Ministry of International Cooperation, UNDP launch sustainable development solutions for South-South cooperation platform”, 19 April 2022.

⁴⁴ Benin, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, Tuvalu and Uganda.

Tobago to learn about the experiences of Rwanda in introducing telehealth robots in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In another project, the experience of India in financial and insurance technologies was leveraged to help Fiji to develop a climate disaster risk financing framework and a parametric insurance model in order to improve disaster preparedness in the country, thereby enhancing the availability of climate risk insurance to low-income and remote communities.

74. The United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation, also managed by the Office for South-South Cooperation, supported a pilot project to develop the rice value chain between African countries and China. The project was implemented under the Global South-South Development Centre project of the Office for South-South Cooperation, in partnership with the World Food Programme 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 efforts to boost sustainable tourism and promoted the preservation of cultural heritage. The Office for South-South Cooperation, with the World Tourism Organization, the World Heritage Centre of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region, facilitated several interregional online exchanges and training sessions among stakeholders in the tourism sector from over 20 cities in Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Fiji, Mexico, Peru and Uzbekistan, highlighting the role of South-South cooperation in supporting the growth of the tourism sector in cities, in particular in promoting the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises.

75. The Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation, also managed by the Office for South-South Cooperation, with the operational support of UNDP, continued to prioritize intraregional projects. For example, it increased preparedness and diagnostic capacities, supported education and awareness-raising and enhanced control of Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever in humans and livestock in Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Pakistan, Tunisia, Türkiye and Yemen. In another example, the Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries, based in India, helped 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 2021, in the context of COVID-19 and the 2030 Agenda, the Office for South-South Cooperation organized an interregional policy dialogue to assess the status of public policy leadership and institutional arrangements for advancing South-South and triangular cooperation in the Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The objective was to identify public policy challenges and opportunities for strengthened interregional, intraregional and subregional collaboration.

77. South-South Galaxy, managed by the Office for South-South Cooperation, 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 for sustainable development and its action plan. As of the end of 2022, over 900 good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation had been added to its repository. The Galaxy made significant strides in fostering knowledge exchanges, learning and opportunities for collaboration and in showcasing concerted South-South and triangular cooperation efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

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

78. UNDP continued to comply with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, 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 the Office for South-South Cooperation. 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 the Office for South-South Cooperation.

79. Those resources supported the Office for South-South Cooperation in implementing its strategic frameworks. Its current strategic framework, for the period 2022–2025, prioritizes support for intergovernmental processes; the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation and action plan; knowledge co-creation and management; and South-South trust fund management. Additional support from UNDP and other United Nations organizations for South-South and triangular cooperation is described in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in implementing decision 20/1 of the High-level Committee (SSC/21/2).

80. In 2022, UNDP facilitated the reorganization and realignment of the Office for South-South Cooperation and the consolidation of its work programmes and regional offices at Headquarters. In March 2023, UNDP appointed a new Director for the Office.

VIII. Conclusions and recommendations

81. As shown in the present report, 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 made from South-South exchanges. Nevertheless, 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 bigger investments in health care and education for all, digitalization, sustainable technologies, humanitarian assistance, governance, and monetary and financial systems.

82. During the reporting period, there was an urgent need for international collective action to address numerous crises that affected the global South most adversely. Inadequate access to COVID-19 vaccines for millions of people of the global South, extreme weather events and shortages of food, fertilizers and digital and renewable technologies underscored 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 in a sustainable manner in order 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 efforts to address other global challenges through South-South and triangular cooperation.

84. The strategy developed by countries in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve carbon neutrality by the mid-century is another example of effective South-South cooperation that other regions should consider adapting at all levels, while also 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 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 the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

86. As highlighted in the present report, interregional South-South initiatives supported by UNDP and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation have become the premier expression 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 essential to implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to ensure that millions of vulnerable migrants are not 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 to help developing countries to achieve 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 important will be the need for a broad range of voices at 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, to articulate the effective regulation of artificial intelligence and other technologies in order to increase their benefits for all people while preventing related risks.