



United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation 2023
Solidarity, Equity and Partnership: Unlocking South-South Cooperation to Achieve the SDGs

12 September 2023, 3 pm - 4:30 pm
United Nations Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber

High-level Panel Discussion

This year's United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation will fall one week prior to the SDG Summit, and will be an opportunity to raise awareness and accelerate practical actions as we arrive at this halfway point to 2030. The commemoration – organized by the UNOSSC, together with the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka to the United Nations – will be an opportunity to highlight needs emerging from various regions as well as to present transformational initiatives toward achieving the most acute priorities of the 2023 Agenda by Member States, the UN System, private sector, and civil society.

During the [21st session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation](#), Member States recognized the development impacts of robust catalytic collaborations among the countries of the Global South in the areas of trade, investment, regional integration, and digitalization among others. Several reports issued prior to this High-level Committee session illustrated how Southern countries are strengthening institutional capacities while intensifying experience sharing and exchange of good practices toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹

Furthermore, recent global discussions – including the 2023 Development Cooperation Forum and High-Level Political Forum – have recognized the urgent need to leverage South-South cooperation as a means to address the challenges the world is facing in a sustainable and equitable manner. By harnessing the power of shared experiences, knowledge, and resources, countries can enhance their capacity to address climate change, ensure equitable development, and secure a sustainable future for all.

Through leveraging South-South and triangular cooperation – as envisioned in the outcome of the [Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation \(BAPA+40\)](#) – there is an opportunity to address both immediate and long-term needs together, supporting countries to get back on track towards achieving the SDGs.

This year's ['Report of the Secretary-General on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals'](#) reminds us that it will take exceptional efforts and commitments to deliver a “rescue plan for people and planet.” The task ahead is daunting, but still possible. Unlocking the potential of South-South cooperation offers hope for concerted action and results.

¹ SSC/21/1, SSC/21/2

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Welcome

Ms. Dima Al-Khatib

Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

Keynote Message

H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis

President of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly

Panel Discussion

H.E. Mr. Peter Mohan Maithri Pieris

Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, President of the 21st Session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

H.E. Ambassador Gerardo Peñalver Portal

Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations, on behalf of the Chair of the Group of 77

Mr. Achim Steiner

Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, BAPA+40 Secretary-General

Ms. Rabab Fatima

High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Mr. Li Junhua

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Stakeholders' Voices

Reinforcing international solidarity, stakeholders' voices will be highlighted in a short video. Regional and national priorities will be shared, including challenges and opportunities, and how the UN development system may offer support.

Interactive Discussion

Floor is open for messages of Member States.

Closing