

SECTION 4. KNOWLEDGE AND TOOLS

This section connects policy to practice and responds to a key goal of the UN system-wide strategy and action plan: to improve “exchanges of experiences, know-how, appropriate technologies and adaptable development solutions among developing countries and Southern policymakers, institutions, professionals, civil society, academia, and private-sector organizations”.⁴¹

Country-level implementation of this goal is made possible through the global and regional knowledge-sharing and support architecture. This architecture constitutes the continuous knowledge loop through which country-level experiences are captured and filtered to identify good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation and to help in the designing and scaling up of country-tailored solutions.

South-South knowledge exchange has gained prominence among developing countries because good practices generated from the global South have been increasingly recognized as cost-effective, easily adaptable and scalable. Exchanges of expertise and knowledge from countries of the South offer viable pathways for addressing common challenges among developing countries and accelerating progress in the achievement of the SDGs. The UN development system plays an important brokering role in such knowledge-sharing through its global architecture of digital platforms, hubs and knowledge networks for South-South and triangular cooperation.

This UN development-system architecture provides: (a) a global and regional support structure; (b) integration of South-South and triangular cooperation into development cooperation frameworks, including UNSDCFs; (c) advocacy, outreach and communication; (d) leveraging of existing UN fora; (e) sharing of South-South and triangular cooperation information and good practices; (f) support for access to funding for South-South and triangular cooperation; and (g) promotion of UN system coordination and synergies regarding South-South and triangular cooperation.

4.1 South-South and triangular cooperation knowledge sources and networks

Knowledge sources and networks for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are well established and have helped scores of partners and stakeholders over the years to explore and access the solutions and benefits of South-South and triangular cooperation and apply them in different country contexts. Despite these sources and networks, challenges have remained, however. These include limited access to existing information and learning, capacity gaps between countries and partners, insufficient funding, and limited accessibility to partners. In response, Governments of developing countries have requested that the UN systematically share knowledge and good practices on South-South and triangular cooperation, including through one-stop-shop knowledge portals that facilitate knowledge exchange, partnerships, and access to research,

⁴¹ Outcome 3 of the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development, p. 41.

training in capacity development, funding mechanisms and partners. Scaling up the UNOSSC one-stop-shop online knowledge portal – South-South Galaxy – is a key element of this effort.

Resident coordinators, UNCTs and RCOs are encouraged to become familiar with, engage with and use the rich array of South-South and triangular cooperation tools at their disposal. These include not only avenues to expand partnerships but also ample South-South and triangular cooperation databanks, good practices and networks of experts. These tools deliver the greatest benefits when UNCTs regularly engage with them.

- **Digital South-South and triangular cooperation platforms and hubs** – common online South-South and triangular cooperation platforms and hubs for knowledge-sharing, good practices, research databanks, thematic experts and funding mechanisms that are easily accessible and readily available.
- **Knowledge networks hosted by the UN development system and partners** – virtual networks and events that constitute the global and regional meeting ground where interested parties are able to exchange ideas and interact in the common pursuit of successful South-South and triangular cooperation solutions from one setting that can in turn be tailored and contextualized to another with similar results.

4.1.1 Digital South-South and triangular cooperation platforms and hubs

The following digital platforms are vast libraries that provide a diverse range of opportunities for development cooperation through South-South and triangular cooperation. They offer easily accessible platforms for multi-stakeholder engagement in knowledge-sharing and act as repositories of securely digitized information, knowledge and data on South-South and triangular cooperation. The digital platforms enhance UN development system support to South-South and triangular cooperation in a systematic and effective way, and they ensure that partners can access and navigate a wide range of knowledge and information on good practices, research and experts. There is currently a proliferation of digital South-South and triangular cooperation platforms of UN entities and other actors, creating a common space for partners.

- **South-South Galaxy** is the central South-South and triangular cooperation knowledge hub that links existing South-South cooperation knowledge developed by UN entities and other development actors. The platform aims to strengthen inter-agency collaboration on South-South and triangular cooperation and complement existing efforts of the UN development system and partners by improving interlinkages among their South-South and triangular cooperation platforms. It further aims to eliminate barriers to accessing the reliable and diverse range of South-South and triangular cooperation knowledge, information and partners.

Figure 5. South-South Galaxy



- **South-South Global Thinkers** is a global coalition of think-tank networks for South-South cooperation. Together with South-South Galaxy, it offers resident coordinators, UNCTs and RCOs an immediate go-to place for evidence-based sustainable development solutions through South-South and triangular cooperation from across the globe to inform and create policy-to-programme bridges.

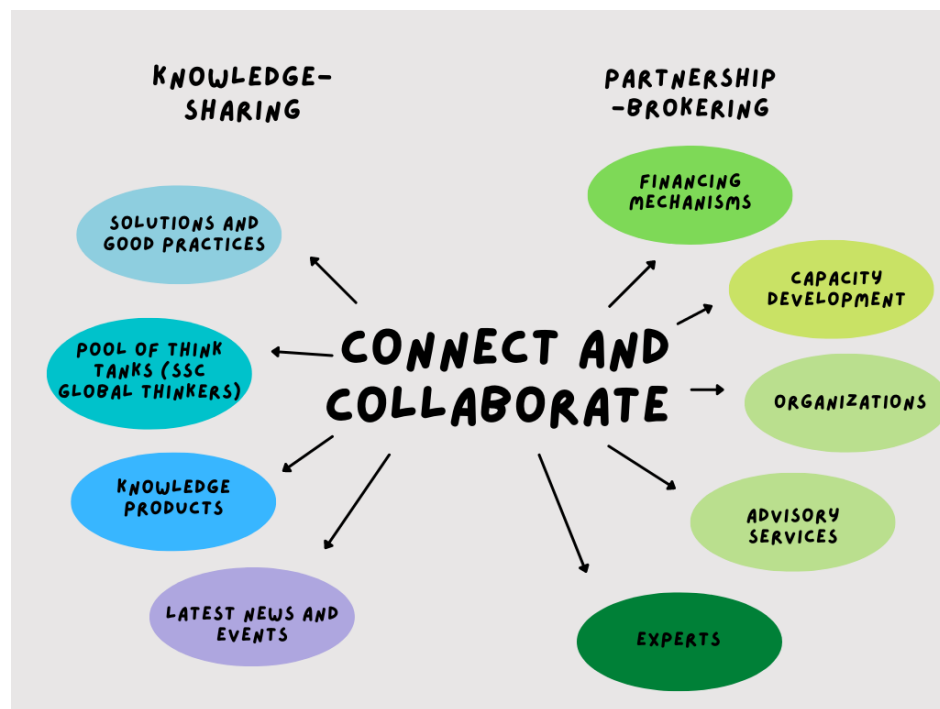
In addition, the **United Nations Global Platform** offers a source of data and information for official statistics and big data, while the South-South Galaxy **South-South Solutions Database** provides an extensive repository of knowledge, solutions and research, including good practices relating to each of the SDGs, funding mechanisms, capacity development initiatives, thematic experts, and an extensive database on organizations to contact regarding South-South and triangular co

- operation.

These platforms (a) **take stock of successful South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives** being implemented by Governments and UNCTs, including cross-border initiatives, for possible partnering and scaling up; (b) support resident coordinators, UNCTs and RCOs in **documenting and disseminating information on innovative solutions**, thereby facilitating South-South knowledge

exchanges, partnerships and capacity development; and (c) provide access to information on **new funding opportunities** for South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives.

Figure 6. Knowledge-sharing and partnership-bro



4.1.2 Knowledge networks hosted by the UN development system and partners

Box 12 contains information on networks and hubs hosted by UN development system entities and partners that showcase South-South and triangular cooperation solutions in their mandated and specialization areas. A link to the specific network for further information and assistance is included. Links to information on and access to other networks and hubs hosted by UN entities and partners are available in [South-South Galaxy](#) (under the “*knowledge-sharing*” and “*partnership-brokering*” tabs).

Box 12. Examples of existing South-South cooperation portals established by UN entities	
<p>Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo⁴²</p> <p>The GSSD Expo, jointly organized yearly by UNOSSC with a host Government, is an in-person event “to showcase Southern development solutions, celebrate South-South</p>	<p>World Bank Group South-South Experience Exchange Facility⁴³</p> <p>The facility fosters “sharing of development experiences and knowledge among World Bank Group client countries by funding knowledge exchange activities...based on</p>

⁴² <https://www.expo.unsouthsouth.org>.

⁴³ <https://www.southsouthfacility.org>.

<p>and triangular cooperation successes”, disseminate information, “share knowledge and lessons learned, explore new avenues for collaboration, and initiate new partnership efforts”.</p>	<p>demand expressed by the knowledge-recipient countries.”</p>
<p>WFP Centre of Excellence against Hunger, Brazil⁴⁴ WFP Regional Centre of Excellence against Hunger and Malnutrition, Côte d’Ivoire⁴⁵ These World Food Programme (WFP) Centres of Excellence are global and regional hubs “for South-South public policy dialogue, learning, capacity building and technical assistance to promote action against hunger” and malnutrition.</p>	<p>WFP Centre of Excellence for Rural Transformation, China⁴⁶ This WFP Centre “sha’e[s] China’s rich experiences in food security, nutrition improvement and poverty alleviation with other developing countries by facilitating policy dialogue and research, technical training, and field-level engagement in pursuit of Agenda 2030 and the...SDGs, particularly SDG 2 for Zero Hunger and SDG 17 on Partnerships [for the Goals].”</p>
<p>UNIDO Centre for South-South Industrial Cooperation (UCSSIC China)⁴⁷ “As a joint collaboration between MOFCOM [the Ministry of Commerce], UNIDO [and] the China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchanges (CICETE), UCSSIC China aims to create a practical, institutional and operational platform for SSTIC [South-South and triangular industrial cooperation] and ISID [inclusive and sustainable industrial development] in partnership with relevant institutions, counterparts and stakeholders, both in and outside of China.”</p>	<p>ILO South-South Meeting Point⁴⁸ This is “a multilingual, interactive virtual space where people from different countries can meet, engage, exchange and cooperate within the South-South and triangular cooperation approach towards the advancement of the ILO agenda and the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals.”</p>
<p>FAO South-South Cooperation Gateway⁴⁹ The FAO South-South Cooperation Gateway “provides information about Southern countries’ expertise and public institutions in the realm of food security and agriculture”, an</p>	<p>IFAD Rural Solutions Portal⁵⁰ The Portal is a knowledge-sharing hub on agricultural productivity, food security and nutrition. It offers innovative South-South and triangular cooperation solutions for</p>

⁴⁴ <https://centrodeexcelencia.org.br/en/>

⁴⁵ <https://cerfamevents.com>.

⁴⁶ <http://www.wfpchinacoe.net>.

⁴⁷ <https://www.unido.org/our-focus-cross-cutting-services-partnerships-prosperity/unido-centre-south-south-industrial-cooperation-ucssic-china>.

⁴⁸ <https://www.southsouthpoint.net>.

⁴⁹ <https://www.fao.org/south-south-gateway/en>.

⁵⁰ <https://ruralsolutionsportal.org/en/home>.

entry point where countries can engage FAO facilitation of South-South cooperation and obtain details of FAO-facilitated South-South cooperation initiatives.	agriculture and rural development that include concrete initiatives that have met country-specific development challenges and promoted sustainable and inclusive rural transformon.
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4.2 Good practices in integrating South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into the CCA and UNSDCF processes

This section focuses on case studies of a broad range of countries with different typologies, levels of development and regions where UNCTs have successfully integrated South-South and triangular cooperation into the CCA and UNSDCF processes. It includes good practices in that integration, including in relation to cross-cutting issues and joint programmes.

Table 3. Examples of good practices in integrating South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into the CCA and the UNSDCF		
Country <i>(with links)</i>	Details	Applicability
Algeria Strategic Cooperation Framework, revised 2019–2021 ⁵¹	The Algeria UN Strategic Cooperation Framework was revised at mid-term to include South-South and triangular cooperation following a UNCT and Government reassessment of what was needed to achieve the national sustainable development goals and the SDGs.	Example of integrating South-South and triangular cooperation once UNSDCF implementation has already begun
Azerbaijan UNSDCF, 2021–2025 ⁵²	The Azerbaijan UNSDCF places strong emphasis on the role of East-East cooperation through the Eastern Partnership ⁵³ between the European Union and Eastern European and South Caucasus partner countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).	Example of integrating regional and subregional cooperation models (i.e., East-East cooperation) into UNSDCF outcome areas
Brazil	The Brazil UNSDCF highlights South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as important elements of	Example of integrating South-

⁵¹ <https://algeria.un.org/fr/36638-cadre-de-cooperation-strategique-revise-2019-2021>.

⁵² https://azerbaijan.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/AZERBAIJAN%20UNSDCF%202021-2025%20FINAL%20SIGNED_1.pdf.

⁵³ https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/european-neighbourhood-policy/eastern-partnership_en.

Partnership Framework for Sustainable Development 2017–2021 ⁵⁴	the national strategy and a UN comparative advantage. It also identifies South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as key enablers of one UNSDCF priority area on promoting international cooperation to reduce inequalities.	South and triangular cooperation into two specific priority areas
Caribbean Multi-country UNSDCF, 2022-2026 ⁵⁵	The multi-country UNSDCF for the Dutch- and English-speaking Caribbean highlights South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as important elements in a multi-country-office setting to mobilize financing to combat climate change and build national capacity for sustainable development.	Example of including South-South and triangular cooperation in a specific outcome and performance indicator
China UNSDCF, 2021–2025 ⁵⁶	The China UNSDCF strategic priority 3, focused on partnerships, includes a dedicated outcome to support China’s role in international development and to promote economic, social, environmental, and cultural sustainability and contribute to achievement of the SDGs in China and across the world.	Example of South-South cooperation contributors (and countries interested in expanding their contributions to international development through South-South cooperation)
Comoros UNSDCF, 2022–2026 ⁵⁷	The Comoros UNSDCF accords an important place to South-South and triangular cooperation throughout its new UNSDCF. It stresses that the promotion and facilitation of South-South and triangular cooperation are a primary UN development system comparative advantage. It also emphasizes the potential of existing South-South and triangular cooperation that Comoros already enjoys. It highlights South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as important accelerators in the theory of change and rich sources for impactful partnerships.	Example of integrating South-South and triangular cooperation into the theory of change and partnership strategies
The Government of India and	The India UNSDF focuses on South-South and triangular cooperation and generating good practices and implementation	Example of South-South and triangular

⁵⁴ <https://brasil.un.org/pt-br/node/52529>.

⁵⁵ <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/multicountry-sustainable-development-framework-english-and-dutch-speaking-caribbean-2022>.

⁵⁶ <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2021-06/UNSDCF-China-2021-2025.pdf>.

⁵⁷ <https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/comoros>.

<p>UN Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDF), 2023–2027⁵⁸</p>	<p>lessons for strengthening South-South Cooperation beyond India’s borders. South-South Cooperation is identified as a strategy to facilitate investments in research, technology and innovations. The GOI–UNSDCF, 2023–2027 is the first to include specific outputs related to South–South and triangular cooperation efforts. South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are integrated as enablers and facilitators in each UNSDCF priority area, a central focus of its partnership strategy towards programming and a national comparative advantage.</p>	<p>cooperation contributors (and countries interested in expanding their South-South and triangular cooperation contributions)</p>
<p>Jordan UNSDF, 2018–2022⁵⁹</p>	<p>The Jordan UNSDF positions South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as key drivers of national SDG achievement through knowledge-sharing and technical expertise, facilitated by the UN development system in line with UN entities’ comparative advantages.</p>	<p>Example of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as overall drivers of change</p>
<p>Nigeria UN Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF), 2018–2022⁶⁰</p>	<p>The Nigeria UNSDPF is an example of a UNCT identifying specific priority areas where South-South and triangular cooperation can play a crucial role: (a) outcome 7 on diversified economic growth, and (b) outcome 8 on population dynamics. In the results framework, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation are identified as key modes of engagement to achieve these two outcomes.</p>	<p>Example of integrating South-South and triangular cooperation into specific priority areas</p>
<p>Somalia UNSDCF, 2021–2025⁶¹</p>	<p>The Somalia UNSDCF integrates South-South cooperation into a fragile and crisis setting and draws on regional good practices in outcome 2.3 on strengthening security, rule of law and anti-corruption.</p>	<p>Example of integrating South-South cooperation into a crisis setting</p>
<p>Thailand UNSDCF, 2022–2026⁶²</p>	<p>The Thailand UNSDCF cites South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as UN comparative advantages that can be leveraged in each priority area as needed and as key elements of its partnership strategy. It also underscores the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation lenses in the CCA capacity assessment process. South-South</p>	<p>Example of mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation throughout the UNSDCF, including</p>

⁵⁸ https://digitallibrary.in.one.un.org/PdfViewer.aspx?FileName=8090_1.pdf&Resourcekey=P9B+2pl5wYE=

⁵⁹ <https://jordan.un.org/en/40978-un-sustainable-development-framework-jordan-2018-2022>.

⁶⁰ <https://nigeria.un.org/en/29318-united-nations-sustainable-development-partnership-framework-unsdpf-2018-2022>.

⁶¹ <https://somalia.un.org/en/96542-un-sustainable-development-cooperation-framework-somalia-2021-2025>.

⁶² <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/un-sustainable-development-cooperation-framework-thailand-2022-2026>.

	cooperation and triangular cooperation are highlighted as considerations in UNSDCF M&E and evaluations to cull South-South and triangular cooperation lessons and good practices for policy- and decision makers.	in capacity assessments M&E.
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4.3 Toolbox

This section lists and includes links to policy, practice and knowledge tools and resources for the three main areas of these guidelines: policy, practice and knowledge. Funding resources are listed in section 6.2.

Table 4. South-South and triangular cooperation policy, practice and knowledge portals		
Policy		
United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development, 2020–2024 (with action plan and M&E framework) ⁶³		
Practice		
UNSDCF: Internal guidance, 3 June 2019⁶⁴	Consolidated annexes for cooperation framework guidance, 24 May 2019⁶⁵	<i>Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development, v ols. 1–4⁶⁶</i> UNOSSC flagship publications on South-South and triangular cooperation good practices, including thematic and special editions on SDG 2 , SDG 3 , LDCs and SIDS . Available in multiple languages.
Knowledge		

⁶³ <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/2021/11/19/united-nations-system-wide-strategy-on-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-for-sustainable-development>.

⁶⁴ https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/UN-Cooperation-Framework-Internal-Guidance-Final-June-2019_1.pdf.

⁶⁵ https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-10/CONSOLIDATED-Annexes-to-the-Cooperation-Framework-24-May-2019-Submitted_Revised.pdf.

⁶⁶ <https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/knowledge-sharing/solutions>.

<p>South-South Galaxy⁶⁷ and other UN South-South cooperation knowledge portals, including regional collaborative platforms</p>	<p>South-South Galaxy global and digital repository of South-South and triangular cooperation solutions⁶⁸</p>	<p>United Nations Global Platform⁶⁹ “A global collaboration to harness the power of data for better lives”</p>	<p>South-South Global Thinkers initiative⁷⁰ (focused on research)</p>	<p>Global South-South Development Expo⁷¹ and regional workshops, knowledge events anirs</p>
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4.4 Global and regional support

To complement the tools, resources and platforms listed earlier, resident coordinators, UNCTs and RCOs receive support at the global and regional levels through UNOSSC, DCO, the UN Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the DCO regional hubs and the UN regional commissions.

4.4.1 UNOSSC support

At the **global level**, UNOSSC:

- provides **advisory, capacity-building, knowledge-sharing and solutions support** to the UN development system in integrating South-South and triangular cooperation into UNSDCFs; conducting national stocktaking and gap-analysis exercises; monitoring, reporting and evaluating; and integrating South-South and triangular cooperation into voluntary national reviews;
- provides centralized hubs for **knowledge dissemination and partnership-brokering**, improving access to information;
- manages tools to **map and take stock** (including surveys) of the efforts of subnational, national, regional and global actors;
- offers **follow-up mechanisms**, including knowledge fairs and events at the local, regional and global levels, such as the South-South Development Expo; and
- prepares **guidelines** and conducts **training** on South-South and triangular cooperation for the regional and country levels.

At the **regional level**, UNOSSC:

⁶⁷ <https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org>.
⁶⁸ <https://www.southsouth-galaxy.org/knowledge-sharing>.
⁶⁹ <https://unstats.un.org/bigdata/un-global-platform.cshtml>.
⁷⁰ <https://www.ssc-globalthinkers.org>.
⁷¹ <https://www.expo.unsouthsouth.org>.

- supports the specific needs identified in the **regional collaborative platforms** and **issue-based coalitions** to facilitate South-South and triangular cooperation at the regional and subregional levels;
- serves as the information hub for **cross-regional knowledge exchange and partnerships** on South-South and triangular cooperation; and
- strengthens regional cooperation and integration by enabling partners to create **regional networks of expertise** to formulate regional and cross-regional programmes through better access to knowledge.

Resident coordinators, UNCTs and RCOs can reach out to UNOSSC for assistance concerning South-South and triangular cooperation in theas.

4.4.2 DCO support

The five DCO regional offices provide strategic support to resident coordinators and UNCTs to advance the 2030 Agenda at the country level through the UNSDCF. They coordinate resident coordinator and UNCT engagement with the Regional Collaborative Platforms and enable access by resident coordinators and UNCTs to regional expertise as well as advise and support members of Regional Collaborative Platforms, including on cross-border and subregional matters.

Resident coordinators, UNCTs and RCOs can reach out to DCO headquarters and regional offices to request assistance in thess.

4.4.3 Regional support

The regional architecture of support for South-South and triangular cooperation is being reinforced through the following elements:

- **Regional collaborative platforms (RCPs)** – The RCPs in all regions are chaired by the Deputy Secretary General with the respective Executive Secretary of the Regional Commission and UNDP Regional Director as co-Vice-Chairs ⁷².RCPs foster UN development system regional collaboration and joint planning aimed at supporting country-level achievement of the SDGs, including through South-South and triangular cooperation.
- **Issue-based coalitions** are thematic subgroups of the regional collaborative platform that bring together regional expertise and advance work in the region on cross-border, subregional and regional issues and areas of common interest.
- **UN regional commissions** foster economic and social integration in the five main regions and subregions, regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda and regional sustainable

⁷² MAF:

<https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/202109/MAF%20-%20Final%20-%2015%20September%2021.pdf>

development. This includes knowledge exchange, peer learning and support to the provision of technical assistance as well as annual regional forums that bring together the heads of entities of the UN development system.

Box 13. Sources of additional information on support by regional commissions to South-South and triangular cooperation

- [Regional Commissions New York Office](#)⁷³
- [Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia](#)⁷⁴
- [Economic Commission for Africa](#)⁷⁵
- [Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific](#)⁷⁶
- [Economic Commission for Europe](#)⁷⁷
- [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean](#)⁷⁸

Central to this regional support architecture are the **DCO regional offices** and **regional inter-agency groups**: *regional peer support groups, regional SDG gateways and regional offices of UN entities*. These entities are mandated to support common country planning and programming, including for South-South and triangular cooperation. Detailed information on how to access these resources is provided in the section on integrating South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation at the regional level.

Resident coordinators, UNCTs and RCOs can reach out to these regional mechanisms for assistance on South-South and triangular cooperation when preparing the CCA and the UNSDCF.

⁷³ <http://www.regionalcommissions.org>.

⁷⁴ <https://www.unescwa.org>.

⁷⁵ <https://www.uneca.org/regional-integration-and-trade>.

⁷⁶ <https://www.unescap.org/south-south-cooperation>.

⁷⁷ <https://unece.org/economic-cooperation-and-integration>.

⁷⁸ <https://www.cepal.org/en/subsidiary-bodies/regional-conference-south-south-cooperation-latin-america-and-caribbean>.