



United Nations
Office for South-South Cooperation

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation 2025
New Opportunities and Innovation through South-South and Triangular Cooperation

12 September 2025 | 3:00pm - 6:00pm
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 1

High-level Panel Discussion
CONCEPT NOTE

In recognition of the continued importance of South-South cooperation, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 58/220, endorsed the observation of the [United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation](#). 12 September marks the adoption of the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), a pivotal framework for technical cooperation among developing countries.

As we move beyond the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, and in the wake of the 2024 Summit of the Future, the global community faces critical challenges. The Summit's Pact for the Future has renewed momentum toward multilateral reform, solidarity, and shared progress. The international landscape continues to be shaped by persistent crises – climate change, debt distress, digital inequality, food insecurity, and uneven post-pandemic recovery. As of 2025, [more than 800 million people](#) still live in extreme poverty, and many developing countries continue to spend more on debt servicing than on essential public services.

Yet, amidst these challenges, South-South and triangular cooperation offer tested, scalable, and context-sensitive approaches for mutual development. They present complementary pathways to traditional North-South modalities and bring into focus the value of solidarity, shared knowledge, and collective action.

This year's theme, ***New Opportunities and Innovation through South-South and Triangular Cooperation***, focuses on translating commitments into action and ensuring no country is left behind. It underscores the capacity of countries of the Global South to respond collectively to complex and transboundary challenges.

South-South and triangular cooperation mobilize local and peer-adapted solutions, promote inclusive partnerships, and enable innovative, scalable approaches. From digital transformation and climate resilience to health systems and sustainable financing, these modalities are unlocking new pathways to development. The Global South is not just a recipient but a source of ideas, leadership, and resilience. Harnessing this potential is key to accelerating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and building a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world for all.

In the lead up to the 80th UN General Assembly, the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation offers the opportunity to celebrate South-South and triangular cooperation successes, while building upon decisions taken during the [22nd Session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation](#).

Invited high-level participants include the United Nations Secretary-General, the President of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and the Acting Administrator of UNDP, among all Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York, and partners.

[Register here.](#)

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TENTATIVE AGENDA

Welcome

Ms. Dima Al-Khatib

Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

Keynote Messages

Mr. António Guterres (video remarks)

United Nations Secretary-General

H.E. Ms. Annalena Baerbock

President of the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly

Remarks

H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa

Permanent Representative of Nepal, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

H.E. Ms. Majda Moutchou

Chargé d'Affaires of Morocco, on behalf of H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, President of the 22nd Session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

H.E. Mr. Lukman Al-Faily

Permanent Representative of Iraq, Chair of the Group of 77

Mr. Haoliang Xu

UNDP Associate Administrator and Acting Administrator

Interactive Discussion

Floor is open for messages of Member States, regional entities, and other partners

Closing

Ms. Dima Al-Khatib

Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

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Key Messages

- At the [22nd High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation](#), Member States called for sustainable financing beyond ad hoc contributions. They urged enhanced access to instruments such as blended finance, debt swaps, and impact investment, and called on UN entities to help develop dedicated financing windows to support South-South and triangular cooperation.
- UNOSSC's new [Global Report titled 'Bridging Horizons and Continents'](#), offers data-driven insights into how South-South and triangular cooperation are evolving in a context of overlapping crises and systemic inequalities. Key takeaways include:
 - South-South and triangular cooperation is a platform for resilience and collective action in a polycrisis world, but unlocking its potential requires tackling structural gaps and investing in institutional mechanisms for knowledge, finance, and innovation.
 - Triangular cooperation enhances scale and sustainability — connecting developing countries and international actors to co-design solutions based on demand and context.
 - South-South and triangular cooperation strengthens its voice in global governance — and advances the 2030 Agenda with grounded, adaptive approaches that leave no one behind.
- Mobilizing international solidarity and **global partnerships through South-South and triangular cooperation** can accelerate SDGs achievement for the people of the Global South, home of most of humanity.
- The **Pact for the Future** calls for urgent action to deliver a just, peaceful, and sustainable world. South-South and triangular cooperation are crucial modalities to operationalize this vision.
- **Leveraging South-South cooperation** in digital transformation, climate resilience, health systems, trade, and sustainable financing can unlock development potential at scale.
- The Global South is a source of **innovation, leadership, and resilience** that can shape the future of international development cooperation.
- We must take stock of progress, accelerate efforts to meet our existing international commitments, and highlight opportunities and challenges for South-South cooperation toward **building a better tomorrow for the people of the Global South**, home of most of humanity.
- Member States in various fora – including the [BAPA+40 High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation](#), and recently at the Summit of the Future, 22nd High-level Committee for South-South Cooperation, Third South Summit, the High-Level Conference of Middle-Income Countries, among others – have recognized the **urgent need to leverage South-South cooperation more strategically to address the challenges the world is facing** more effectively.
- By **harnessing the power of shared experiences, knowledge, and resources** – through South-South and triangular cooperation – countries can enhance their capacity to address the impact of climate change, ensure inclusive development, and secure a sustainable future for all.
- Driven by an economically empowered Global South, South-South and triangular cooperation can pave the way towards a **more inclusive and sustainable economic development landscape**, one in which all stakeholders and beneficiaries are meaningfully engaged.
- **The Global South has something to bring to the table** – all countries regardless of the level of development have something to offer in sustainable development.
- Through **regional cooperation and solidarity**, countries of the Global South can collectively address transboundary crises with home-grown and peer-adapted solutions.

- UNOSSC's [South-South Galaxy](#) features over 950 solutions from over 190 countries and 600 partner organizations – providing access to a rich repository of South-South and triangular cooperation good practices, knowledge products and data from around the world.
- UNOSSC new [South-South and Triangular Cooperation Solutions Lab](#) is an innovative and scalable solutions incubator offering a comprehensive range of services, including focused research, capacity development, solution incubation, and integration support.