



Measuring South-South cooperation in the context of SDG indicator 17.3.1

# Capacity development and pilot testing plans

Ms. Anu Peltola  
UNCTAD Statistics  
19 July 2022

## New indicator 17.3.1 - milestones

- In March 2020, the Statistical Commission established a Working Group on Measurement of Development Support.
  - It created a subgroup on the measurement of South-South cooperation.
  - UNCTAD invited by countries to provide secretariat for the subgroup.
- In spring 2021, the initial Conceptual Framework on South-South Cooperation was tested within the subgroup and shared with the Working Group.
- In September 2021, the Working Group endorsed the [outcome](#) of the subgroup supporting the initial framework.
- In November 2021, the IAEG-SDGs endorsed the initial framework and a proposal on the new SDG indicator.
- In March 2022, the UN Statistical Commission adopted the new indicator proposal in its [decisions](#).

# Collaboration on the new indicator 17.3.1

- **The UN Statistical Commission:**
  - “Welcomed the development of an initial conceptual framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation, and
  - requested that further work on this, including on global reporting and capacity-building, be enabled by the co-custodianship of UNCTAD and
  - led by countries from the global South, building on country-led mechanisms, and
  - included under indicator 17.3.1 in the future, and
  - invited countries involved in South-South cooperation to work closely with the Conference.”
- **Existing databases will serve as a starting point for data sourcing.**
  - Reporting started in 2022 based on existing data: OECD/TOSSD & UNCTAD/FDI
  - Data on South-South cooperation will be added gradually.
- **New regional aggregates will become available as country coverage improves.**

# Coordinated approach towards global reporting

- **UNCTAD supports countries to develop their national capacity to collect and report data on South-South cooperation.**
- **Co-custodians will coordinate country data collection to ensure harmonisation and avoid duplication.**
- **Ensure data validation by the recipient countries.**
- **Compare country data reported to both custodian agencies to remove duplicates before calculating aggregates.**
- **Release validated country data in the respective OECD and UNCTAD databases and ensure reporting of consistent country data to the global SDG Database.**
- **Analyse trends in thematic publications, including in joint publications.**

## Next steps towards reporting by developing countries

- Preparatory work and early pilots are rolling out in 2022, wider regional work from 2023.
- Information events in 2022: before and during the UN Statistical Commission, July and autumn webinars, September GSSD Expo etc.
- A capacity development programme 2023-2026 involving:
  - UN Regional Commissions, UNSD, pioneering countries and OECD
  - Test the initial framework and do technical refinement
  - Provide training in national workshops and study tours
  - Share experience and tools for data collection, compilation and reporting
- UNCTAD will build a mechanism for the reporting of South-South co-operation.
- An advisory group will steer capacity building efforts.

# Conclusion

- The new indicator 17.3.1. is a major achievement of the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Measurement of Development Support.
- The indicator to “*Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources*” is key to achieving the SDGs and recovering from the pandemic, addressing the environmental crises and challenges caused by disruptions to global value chains.
- We have the first internationally agreed conceptual framework for measuring South-South cooperation.
- Southern countries expressed strong support at the UN Statistical Commission, including statements by G77 and China, Middle Income Countries, and many individual countries.
- Coordinated international work between will support all countries to collect their own data and report globally.
- A historic opportunity for Southern countries to have their data used as a basis of development finance discussions and decisions.

Thank you for your time and engagement!

For any questions or to join pilots, please contact:  
[anu.peltola@un.org](mailto:anu.peltola@un.org)