

## **UNOSSC Statement on “Measurement of South-South Cooperation: Global Policies, advocacy and capacity development at country level”**

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1. Let me start by thanking ABC, IPEA and UNCTAD for inviting UNOSSC to participate in this very important Expert Meeting on the framework to measure South-South cooperation.
2. The adoption of the new indicator methodology to measure South-South Cooperation as part of SDG indicator 17.3.1 on *‘additional financial resources mobilized for developing countries from multiple sources’* by the UN Statistical Commission and the Member States, is truly a landmark in the evolution of South-South Cooperation.
3. In the last few years, South-South and triangular cooperation has proven to be an effective mechanism in the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals. South-South Cooperation became even more

important for countries of the South during COVID 19 as they supported each other in the spirit of solidarity regardless of their development status.

**What have been the challenges in measuring SSC? Why is the measurement framework important?**

4. The key challenge has been to gather data and information to measure these diverse and intensified efforts in South-South and triangular cooperation. Given the focus of South-South Cooperation is not on financial contributions but more importantly on technical cooperation, capacity building and knowledge sharing, it has been challenging for the countries of the South to quantify, measure and monetize this kind of cooperation and collaboration.
5. Methodological limitations on data, monitoring and evaluation or the limited statistical capacities of the countries of the South have also made it difficult to measure and evaluate the impact of South-South Cooperation on developing countries.
6. Given these challenges, the adoption, by the 53rd Statistical Commission, of a new indicator methodology to measure South-South Cooperation is an important milestone.
  - The measurement framework will allow countries to show how SSC is being implemented and how it is contributing to the SDGs.

- The measurement and reporting of South-South cooperation flows will also help policy makers to get a clearer picture of financial resources available and in mobilizing partnerships and resources for financing for development, including recovery from the pandemic and progress towards the 2030 Agenda.
- The measurement framework will allow for a comparable system to measure South-South Cooperation flows covering a range of financial and in-kind modalities of South-South Cooperation.

### **Recent Global Policy decisions**

1. The measurement of South-South Cooperation has been at the centre of the deliberations of several inter-governmental conferences and decisions in recent years including the Second United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40 conference) held in Buenos Aires in March 2019. The BAPA+40 outcome document invited interested developing countries to engage in consultations, within the regional commissions and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, on voluntary methodologies related to monitoring and evaluation while taking into account the specificities and different modalities of South-South cooperation and respecting the diversity within South-South cooperation and national approaches.
2. Second Committee resolution in 2022 A/RES/77/185 welcomed the development of an initial conceptual framework for the measurement of

South-South cooperation, and the role of UNCTAD co-custodianship in capacity-building, led by countries of the global South and building on country-led mechanisms.

3. More recently, the decision adopted by Member states at the 21st High level Committee on SSC in May-June 2023, welcomes the new framework and encourages developing countries to report to UNCTAD to support the further improvement of the conceptual framework. It also acknowledges the importance of exploring possible options for the measurement of triangular cooperation.
  
4. At the thematic discussion during the High-level Committee as well the measurement of South-South cooperation received much attention - Based on their successful experiences, several delegations urged more countries to pilot such measuring because doing so would demonstrate the contributions of the Global South to sustainable development at a time when assistance from traditional sources was declining. Some delegations, however, argued that any initiatives to measure the impact of South-South cooperation should be voluntary and should not be used to reconsider the financial obligations of developed countries to provide ODA.

## **Role of UNOSSC**

5. As the focal point for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation globally and within the UN system, UNOSSC provides advisory and technical support to Member States to strengthen their South-South and triangular cooperation institutional eco-systems.
6. On the policy side, UNOSSC has been working closely with the Bureau of the High-level Committee, G77 and China and Second Committee facilitators for the resolutions on SSC – we will continue to propose language to further the work on measurement of SSC through these policy decisions.
7. The High-level Committee on SSC is keen to take up the issue of measurement and we could think of a side event during the Sept Summit and GA along with UNCTAD and Member States.
8. UNOSSC also supports UN partners to integrate South-South and triangular cooperation in their work at global, regional and country levels, including in programming, monitoring and reporting.
9. UNOSSC's service offer to Member States, the UN system and other partners includes knowledge sharing and exchange of good practices through the South-South Galaxy platform for knowledge sharing which includes a digital repository of over 800 good practices,

through publications, policy dialogues, Global South-South Development Expo, South-South trust funds, amongst others.

10. To encourage developing countries to engage in South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and support the institutionalization of SSC, its policy framework, implementation and monitoring, UNOSSC also convenes a forum of Director Generals of national Development Cooperation Agencies. This Forum, along with other platforms and mechanisms promote more and better South-South and triangular cooperation among multiple stakeholders.
11. UNOSSC also manages and supports implementation of South-South trust funds and programmes that facilitate collaboration and piloting of South-South initiatives and innovations in developing countries, with implementation support provided by the UN system at country-level.
12. UNOSSC welcomes the pilot testing of this conceptual framework and the design of data gathering mechanisms to facilitate reporting and capacity-building, under the co-custodianship of UNCTAD, led by countries from the global South, building on country-led mechanisms.

## **Advocacy and Capacity Development**

13. UNOSSC stands ready to join and support UNCTAD in its efforts as co-custodian for the indicator through advocacy on the measurement framework and capacity building for gathering data and reporting using this framework by leveraging the various mechanisms and platforms that we host such as the DG Forum.
  
14. Building on the ongoing work of the UNOSSC on development of Guidelines/ Training modules for the United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and the capacity development tools designed to strengthen reporting on South-South Cooperation in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), UNOSSC can engage UNCTs in their quest to support Member States in reporting on SDG indicator 17.3.1. This week at the HLPF, UNOSSC is presenting the draft Guidelines for UNCTs. To support Member States, we are also launching a Voluntary National Review Handbook in collaboration with the co-chairs of the Group of Friends of the VNR, (the Philippines and Morocco); other UN Member States; the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA); the UN Regional Commissions and other stakeholders. The handbook also gives guidance on reporting on SSC in the VNRs using the new measurement framework.
  
15. UNOSSC will continue to engage with UNCTAD to orient UN agencies on the measurement framework – this will be useful as they work with their national partners on capacity development efforts to gather data on SDG indicators.

## **Importance of coordination**

16. I am looking forward to hearing the experience of pilot countries in gathering data and using the measurement framework. It would be particularly important to learn about mechanisms to ensure coordination between the various agencies/ departments of Government in the data gathering exercise – the statistical offices, individual ministries and development cooperation agencies – and how this coordination was implemented.
17. With these efforts of the Statistical Commission, Member States, UNCTAD, UNOSSC and other partners, we are confident that we will soon have a rich body of evidence and data on the strong contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development.
18. Finally, we would like to congratulate the Statistical Commission and UNCTAD for addressing the longstanding challenge on the measurement of South-South cooperation and for the significant progress we see today. We would also like to thank the pilot countries for their efforts in gathering data using the framework and for leading the way in our journey to measure SSC.
19. Sincere thanks to the organizers for this expert meeting ABC, IPEA and UNCTAD for hosting us in this unique city.