

Nigeria National Workshop on Quantifying South-South Cooperation

Date: 17-19 December 2024

Place: Abuja (Nigeria)

Background

The voluntary Conceptual Framework (CF) for the measurement of SSC, was developed by countries of the global South and adopted by the UN Statistical Commission and the General Assembly in 2022. It came as a response to the request second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to all development actors to support initiatives for information and data collection, coordination, dissemination and evaluation of South-South cooperation (SSC). It was also “requested that further work on this, including on global reporting and capacity building, be enabled by the co-custodianship of UNCTAD and be led by countries from the global South, building on country-led mechanisms”. Consequently, a United Nations Development Account Project on measuring SSC was set up to meet these requirements. Led by UNCTAD, UN Statistics Division and four UN Regional Commissions, jointly with partners in the UN system, the project intends to support eight pilot countries (among which Namibia) in Africa, Asia and Latin America to measure the financial and non-financial modalities of SSC to inform and target policy action with the aim to manage and mobilize resources for efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Purpose of the workshop

The objective of the workshop is to strengthen the capacity of national agencies in Nigeria to identify, measure and report on South-South cooperation flows as contributing factors to the 2030 Agenda.

Provisional Agenda

The agenda of the workshop will consist of the following items:

1. Launching/Setting up an inter-agency working group on the subject
2. South-South Cooperation and SDG achievement
3. Framework to Measure South-South Cooperation
4. Coordination mechanism for quantifying South-South Cooperation: principles and example of National institutional set-up
5. Institutionalization of SSC flows registration
6. Piloting SSC data collection: instrument and mechanism
7. Uses of SSC data

Annotated agenda:

1. Launching/Setting up an inter-agency working group on the subject

This session will acknowledge the community of all national interveners in south-south cooperation activities in Nigeria. The session will kick off an inter-agency network of focal points representing all institutions involved.

2. South-South Cooperation and SDG Achievement

This session aims to analyse the role of South-South Cooperation (SSC) in accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To the extent possible, case studies of successful SSC initiatives that have contributed to SDG progress will be reviewed. This will include the definition of the concept of south-south Cooperation and its relations to cooperation flows in support to development as well as challenges encountered and opportunities for SSC in supporting SDG implementation. The goal is to understand the potential of SSC to contribute to SDG achievement and identify areas of collaboration and support in Nigeria.

2. Framework to Measure South-South Cooperation

Given the importance of SSC's flows as a contributing component to SDG achievement, a proper measurement of SSC's flows, diversity and trends is essential to gauge the extent of support to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda as well as other regional and national development agendas. The methodology of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) indicator 17.3.1 on 'additional financial resources mobilized for developing countries from multiple sources' was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) at its 53rd session in March 2022, and is encapsulated in the voluntary Conceptual Framework to Measure South-South Cooperation which will support countries' reporting on the SDG indicator.

This session aims to establish a common understanding of how to measure SSC effectively and communicate it in the context of the SDG progress monitoring.

3. Coordination Mechanism for Quantifying South-South Cooperation: National Institutional Set-Up

The spread of south-south cooperation interventions spans over various government agencies, research institutions involved in and performing south-south cooperation activities. The inclusion and active participation of each entity in the reporting process will help ensure comprehensive coverage of these interventions, as well as the application of common practices and principles of recording and reporting the SSC data, leading to consistency and reliability of the reported data.

This session will advance the process of institutional mapping and discuss institutional provisions and role distributions to ensure best and effective coordination mechanisms to effectively collect, process and report south-south cooperation data at country level.

4. Institutionalization of SSC Registration Flows

To consistently capture, synthesise and analyse south-south cooperation activities of a country, the institutionalization of flows registration and a standardized system for registering SSC

projects and initiatives are important requirement. These will allow for improved data quality over time and transparency.

This session will take stock of best practices around the world and explore options applicable in the case of Namibia. The objective is to develop a plan for establishing a robust system for registering SSC flows and ensuring data integrity.

5. Piloting SSC Data Collection: Instrument and Mechanism

To facilitate the implementation of the agreed Framework to Measure South-South Cooperation, guidelines have been defined and tools designed to support the collection of the basic SSC data. These are meant to be pilot-tested sur ensure their robustness and explore ways to improve them based on feedback received through the process. The tools to collect existing data on past SSC projects and initiatives in Namibia will be presented and guidance for the data collection and reporting mechanism clarified.

The goal is to ensure practical understanding of mobilising SSC data from sources and establish best approaches of the process.

6. Uses of SSC data

This session will present and discuss various ways in which SSC data can be used.