**Sevilla Platform for Action (2025) – Form for initiatives proposals**

# Name of the initiative

Community of practice to leverage South-South Data: solidarity at the core of sustainable development

# Is it a new initiative or does it represent a significant scaling up of an existing successful effort?

[ ]  It is a new initiative

[x]  It represents a significant scaling up of an existing successful effort.

# Lead implementing countries/entities

Lead entities: UN Trade and Development, UN Economic Commission for Africa, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The initiative is open to other external partners representing countries of the global South, or otherwise wishing to support, including those attending the side event “*South-South Data for development: starting a new chapter” (former title: Data to amplify the voices of the Global South*”) and any others.

# Endorsing countries/entities

*This list can be updated at any time via email to* *ffd4-spa@un.org*

Endorsing entities: UN Statistics Division

The initiative addresses the call of 66[[1]](#footnote-1) developing countries who gathered in Doha, Qatar, in June 2024, for UNCTAD, UNOSSC and ESCWA Inter-Regional Expert Meeting on the UN Framework to Measure South-South Cooperation and requested for strengthened support and follow up, as reflected in the [short report](https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/2020604_doha_ssc_expert-meeting_finalnote_en.pdf).

# Initiative description

*Brief description of the initiative, including how it will contribute to advancing FFD outcomes (max 3000 characters).*

UPDATED VERSION (TO MEET CHARACTER LIMITS)

The momentum to measure South-South cooperation is growing rapidly, spurred by the endorsement of SDG indicator 17.3.1 by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2022 with a related voluntary UN Framework to Measure South-South Cooperation. Developed by the global South, the UN Framework will empower countries of the global South to collect their own data on South-South cooperation. This will enable SDG indicator 17.3.1 to become first-ever globally inclusive indicator of development support, which will also reflect the realities of the global South with their data.

In the First draft Outcome Document of FfD4, Member States "encourage broader reporting by South-South providers, building on the United Nations Voluntary Conceptual Framework to measure South-South Cooperation”. The UN Framework is currently being tested, and the first data was reported. UNCTAD is leading the effort to support interested countries based on its mandate to enable the testing of this Framework, build capacities and report South-South cooperation data to SDG indicator 17.3.1.

While all countries must invest in domestic data capacities, many face financial and technical constraints. International cooperation and capacity-building efforts are essential to bridge these gaps. In June 2024, 66 developing economies gathered in Qatar, for the 2nd Inter-Regional Expert Meeting on the UN Framework to Measure South-South Cooperation. Among the outcomes of the meeting, they underlined the need to increase advocacy activities, and provide spaces for collaboration, exchange of information and knowledge sharing to establish data-to-policy links, as well as to identify resources to scale up technical and methodological support and training activities for all countries interested in the measurement and analysis of South-South flows.

The initiative establishes a community of practice among countries of the South. It is a collaborative, member-driven network focused on enhancing the collection, analysis, sharing, governance and reporting of data among countries of the global South. The community aims to foster peer learning, capacity-building, policy dialogue, and technical collaboration around data-driven development.

The initiative also responds to the request of Member States at the 2nd Committee of the General Assembly (A/RES/79/236) asking UNCTAD to “strengthen capacity-building and support to developing countries, provide technical guidance, data collection tools and reporting systems for applying the initial voluntary conceptual framework for the measurement of South-South cooperation based on country-led mechanisms, and establish a platform to enable country-led development of methodologies and sharing of experience”. The 2nd Committee also recommends the United Nations development system to support UNCTAD’s efforts in raising awareness and developing capacity of national stakeholders in using the voluntary UN Framework to measure South-South cooperation.

# Specific actions

*List specific actions, formulated in a way that they can be monitored, quantified and easily communicated, wherever possible, and with clear implementation timelines (max 3000 characters).*

* **Peer-to-peer learning and capacity building**

Objective: To strengthen the capacity of developing countries to measure and report on South-South Cooperation (SSC) through peer-to-peer learning, collaborative knowledge exchange, and the use of the voluntary UN Framework to measure SSC. The community aims to foster a shared understanding of SSC measurement practices and methods, and support the institutionalization of robust, context-sensitive, and country-owned data systems for reporting to SDG 17.3.1, facilitated by UNCTAD.

Expected outcomes:

1. **Enhanced national capacities** to collect, analyze, and report SSC data using the voluntary UN Framework to measure SSC for enhanced strategic management and analysis of South-South cooperation in countries and future reporting of data for SDG indicator 17.3.1.
2. **Established peer learning mechanisms**, including mentorships, exchange arrangements, and collaborative learning labs, that facilitate continuous knowledge and tools exchange.
3. **Strengthened regional and global networks** of practitioners and institutions engaged in SSC measurement.

The community of practice will support target countries with a number of activities, which can include:

* Peer-to-peer learning through study visits
* Global expert meetings and capacity building workshops
* National and regional training workshops
* Mentorship and knowledge exchange programs
* Knowledge sharing platforms (with tools, case studies, training materials)
* Dissemination and analysis of data for SDG reporting.

Timeline: 4-year initiative (until 2030)

Means of verification:

For each of the activities, the initiative will define a baseline “status 0” (for example: “no data have been reported for SDG indicator 17.3.1”), and an associated “status 1”, representing a stage of significant improvement (for example, “partial data have been reported for SDG indicator 17.3.1”). For each of these, the initiative will also establish a monitoring system to track progress with the overall goal of enhancing collaboration and knowledge exchange between countries of the South on using the UN Framework and report data for SDG indicator 17.3.1.

# FfD action areas

 *Specify all FFD action areas the initiative will address*

[ ]  Domestic public resources

[ ]  Domestic and international private business and finance

[x]  International development cooperation

[ ]  International trade as an engine for development

[ ]  Debt and debt sustainability

[ ]  Addressing systemic issues

[x]  Science, technology, innovation and capacity building

[x]  Data, monitoring and follow up

# Relevant SDG

*Specify all Sustainable Development Goals the initiative will address:*

SDG 17

# Specify the initiative's geographic focus

*[Choose one option]*

[x]  Global

[ ]  Regional

[ ]  National

# Target countries

*If the initiative's geographic focus is regional or national, please indicate the specific regions or countries that it will cover.*

Countries of the global South, that is countries involved in South-South cooperation. including countries with advanced statistical capacities to test the UN Framework, support peer-learning activities and share experience.

# Promotion at FfD4

*Please indicate your interest in launching the initiative during FFD4. A press-facing space at the conference will be ready for lead entities to make brief presentations of SPA initiatives. Please make sure to register for the FFD4 conference to gain access to the venue. Registration page:* [*https://financing.desa.un.org/ffd4/participate*](https://financing.desa.un.org/ffd4/participate)

[ ]  Yes

[x]  No

# Promotion line-up

*If there is an interest to launch the initiative at a press-facing space at FFD4, please provide the proposed line up for this launch, including the names and titles of speakers:*

# Focal point name

Ms. Anu Peltola (Director, UNCTAD Statistics)

# Focal point e-mail address

anu.peltola@un.org

1. Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei, Burundi, Central African republic, China, Colombia, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippine, Qatar, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Türkiye, United Arab Emirates, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zimbabwe [↑](#footnote-ref-1)