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

Capacity development and pilot testing plans

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New indicator 17.3.1 - milestones

  • 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:
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