

**Management response to the Independent Evaluation of “South-South Integration and the SDGs:
Enhancing Structural Transformation in Key Partner Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative”**

Response by recommendation

In this section, Project Management should address each recommendation that is addressed to UNCTAD, discussing them in the order presented in the evaluation report. This should be done in the format of the Management Response matrix below (see Box 1) and include:

- a. The recommendation number and text copied from the evaluation report;
- b. Indication of whether the recommendation is accepted fully, partially, or rejected;
- c. Description of the actions to be taken, with comments as required on the conditions to be met during implementation, or on reasons leading to a partial acceptance or rejection of a recommendation;
- d. The responsible party for implementing the action/s;
- e. The time-frame for implementation and/or an implementation schedule, if required;
- f. Indication if and what resources are required for implementing the recommendation.

Box 1. Management response matrix¹

Management response to the Independent Evaluation of “South-South Integration and the SDGs: Enhancing Structural Transformation in Key Partner Countries of the Belt and Road Initiative					Date
Evaluation Recommendation (a)	Management response (b) Accepted , partially accepted or rejected	Management plan			
		Actions to be taken, and/or comments about partial acceptance or rejection (c)	Responsible unit (d)	Timeframe (e)	Resources required (Y or N) (f)
<p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>UNCTAD should seek additional resources for a second phase or a related new project to sustain and build on the momentum gained so far. It could:</p> <p>a. Identify and expand the current intervention to other countries and thematic areas. The project’s work in pilot countries has generated interest among other countries as well as in other relevant thematic areas, which can be tapped into for building and sustaining the</p>	Accepted	<p>1.1 ECIDC plans to design and propose a follow-up project for funding consideration by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-fund, which could expand the current intervention to other countries or identify other thematic areas and will continue promoting South-South cooperation and peer learning.</p> <p><u>Indicator of completion:</u> Project concept note drafted and submitted by ECIDC under Call for project proposals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund in 2023.</p>	UNCTAD/GDS/ECIDC	1.1 March 2023	N

¹ Each column is cross-referenced to the bullet letters above.

<p>momentum generated by the project.</p> <p>b. Build on the lessons learned from other fast emerging and recently developed countries. Many stakeholders expressed an interest in peer learning from other countries as well as sharing with each other. This interest in south-south cooperation is worth sustaining in the aftermath of this project's success.</p>					
<p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>The project team should further explore ways to actively engage partners and stakeholders by:</p> <p>a. Transforming the BRI platform from a static knowledge dissemination platform to an active and engaged community. A static one-way communication platform competes with millions of webpages of similar nature and can quickly get outdated, whereas an active community can continue engaging in peer-</p>	<p>Partially accepted</p>	<p>2.1 ECIDC will upgrade the BRI platform to broader South-South peer-learning platform and make it more interactive, pending additional or follow-up resources are available.</p> <p><u>Indicator of completion:</u> Upgraded platform launched.</p> <p>2.2 ECIDC will invite partners and stakeholders to UNCTAD events on South-South cooperation which will include the dissemination of the findings from this project.</p>	<p>UNCTAD/GDS/ECIDC</p>	<p>2.1 December 2024</p> <p>2.2 December 2023</p> <p>2.3 December 2024</p> <p>2.4 December 2023</p>	<p>Y</p>

<p>to-peer learning with limited support from UNCTAD.</p> <p>b. Conducting additional online and in-person events, in conjunction with other UNCTAD events, with a focus on active participation of stakeholders to further disseminate the findings from this project.</p> <p>c. Developing a clear communication strategy for ECIDC’s S-S cooperation work to stand out from the crowded field in which multiple development organizations and projects are competing to spread the word about their findings.</p> <p>d. Strengthening engagement with other UN agencies, including Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) in beneficiary countries.</p>		<p><u>Indicator of completion:</u> At least one event is organized with stakeholders and partners participation.</p> <p>2.3 ECIDC will strengthen the communication and outreach to engage with broader partners and stakeholders. <u>Indicator of completion:</u> A South-South partner/stakeholders database, for communication purpose, is established.</p> <p>2.4 ECIDC will propose to include RCOs and other UN agencies as project partners in the follow-up project. <u>Indicator of completion:</u> Project concept note, with inclusion of RCOs and other UN agencies as partners, drafted and submitted by ECIDC under Call for project proposals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund in 2023.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>ECIDC needs to increase attention to collecting data on key outcomes and impacts to</p>	<p>Partially accepted</p>	<p>3.1 ECIDC will reach out the national partner institutions for data collection on yearly basis, subject to the resources available.</p>	<p>UNCTAD/GDS/ECIDC</p>	<p>3.1 December 2027</p>	<p>Y</p>

<p>document and learn about the changes occurring at different levels. National partner institutions from participating countries could be involved to help with this goal. By demonstrating impact of its work, the project would be in a better position to sustain its momentum.</p>		<p><u>Indicator of completion:</u> A brief follow-up note on the impact is prepared and shared with IEU, subject to the resources available.</p>			
<p>Recommendation 4:</p> <p>ECIDC needs to further incorporate gender and human rights issues in key priority areas by:</p> <p>a. Strengthening research and analysis efforts on human rights, gender and disability inclusion (including conducting in-depth assessment of gender inequalities and disparities) should be considered in research reports and recommendations on operational or policy concerns within key priority areas.</p> <p>b. Systematically collecting gender and disability disaggregated data (including for</p>	<p>Accepted</p>	<p>4.1 ECIDC will include the dimensions of gender equality, human rights and disability inclusion in the follow-up project concept, such as integrating these cross-cutting issues in project related research and analysis work and systematically collecting gender and disability disaggregated data in project monitoring.</p> <p><u>Indicator of completion:</u> Project concept note that is gender sensitive and based on human rights approach drafted and submitted by ECIDC under Call for project proposals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund in 2023.</p>	<p>UNCTAD/GDS/ECIDC</p>	<p>4.1 March 2023</p>	<p>N</p>

virtual and in-person meetings; tracking gender of authors in research-focus projects; tracking disaggregated data on beneficiaries, and so on).					
--	--	--	--	--	--