



**SOUTH-SOUTH
GALAXY**

**SOUTH-SOUTH GALAXY:
A DIGITAL GLOBAL SYSTEM
FOR SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND
BROKERING PARTNERSHIPS**



Technical discussion with United Nations partners on the functions and features of South-South Galaxy, September 2019, New York

Launch of South-South Galaxy on United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, witnessed by the United Nations Secretary-General, September 2019, New York



UNOSSC, along with its development partners, has established a digital interactive platform, the South-South Galaxy, to respond more systematically and effectively in supporting developing countries' demand to connect, learn and collaborate with potential partners to support the implementation of the SDGs through South-South cooperation. Powered by artificial intelligence, this system was established in response to Member States expectations and recommendations. The platform complements, rather than substitutes for or duplicates, existing national and regional institutional arrangements. Its development was based on consultations with over 15 United Nations entities.

The South-South Galaxy represents the recognition by UNOSSC of the exceptional potential of new digital technologies. It offers transformational cooperation opportunities for enhanced knowledge-sharing and collaboration across borders as well as a chance for businesses and social entrepreneurs to access overseas markets and engage in global e-value chains.

ONE-STOP SHOP TO COMMUNICATE AND SHARE SOLUTIONS

The South-South Galaxy is increasingly serving as a one-stop shop for all partners to communicate and share solutions to address common challenges and as a matchmaker by connecting solution providers and seekers. Southern countries and other interested development partners are able to locate concrete cases, share their knowledge and initiatives, collaborate with potential

RESULT HIGHLIGHTS



180 +

Organizations institutionally registered including:

35

Governments

38

United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies

107

Development partners/non-governmental organizations



3,000 +

Average monthly visitors to the platform



300 +

Development solutions contributed by partners

partners digitally and explore funding opportunities. By the end of 2019, over 300 solutions had been shared to the platform by partners since its launch in September 2019, with an average of 3,000+ monthly visitors accessing the online platform. Beyond the user-generated solutions, the South-South Galaxy offers the most direct search to access all relevant digital repositories of good practices and innovative solutions in South-South and triangular cooperation for the achievement of the SDGs.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIGITAL PLATFORM

More multi-stakeholder organizations are participating in the South-South Galaxy. As of December 2019, over 180 organizations had institutionally registered on the Galaxy; they comprised governments, United Nations entities, the private sector, think tanks, academia, international financial institutions, development banks, civil society organizations (CSOs) and foundations that are actively contributing to the



LESSONS LEARNED

- Establishing a dynamic and demand-driven knowledge-sharing system for different stakeholders is necessary to improve South-South cooperation. However, it is challenging to have a one-size-fits-all approach to knowledge-sharing, especially within regional, interregional and subregional organizations.
- Partnership-building is one of the most valuable means of sharing information. The sharing of institutional knowledge by two or more organizations can spur innovation and create greater impact through complementing one another's efforts rather than competing.

platform, enabling them to connect with one another directly, making it easier to build partnerships digitally. Given the interactive nature of the platform, the organizations are connecting and collaborating with one another through peer learning, replication of good practices, joint research and learning from experiences.

MAKING THE EXCHANGE OF SOUTH-SOUTH SOLUTIONS MORE HORIZONTAL

By providing a direct link to connect to solution owners and recipients, the platform is contributing to the democratization of access to information and making the exchange of South-South solutions more horizontal. The platform has started enabling tangible interactions between Southern partners and providing customized support to their needs. Through South-South Global Thinkers, the associated platform, it is connecting governments, experts and think tanks, ensuring that Southern perspectives and insights are included in mainstream policy dialogue and research.



WAY FORWARD

- The South-South Galaxy has been embedded in the forthcoming United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South cooperation, which seeks to galvanize and operationalize South-South and triangular cooperation in a coordinated, coherent manner throughout the United Nations development system.
- The South-South Galaxy will continue to enhance the currently used engagement modalities and search for even more ways to collaborate with existing and new partners.
- Expanding partnerships and the user base within the United Nations system and beyond, engaging governments, international financial institutions, businesses and other social entrepreneurs, the South-South Galaxy will facilitate access to markets and participate in the global e-value chain.

KEY FEATURES OF THE SOUTH-SOUTH GALAXY



One-stop shop for development actors to **communicate and share solutions** to address common challenges



Integration of **artificial intelligence (AI)** in order to respond to user/partner needs in a more customized manner



Connects and links existing South-South knowledge-sharing platforms



Serves as **needs broker and matchmaker**, connecting solution providers and seekers



Facilitates access to available **financing mechanisms, capacity development initiatives and research**



Facilitates collaboration to enable access to markets and engagement in the **global e-value chain**