



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**VIRTUAL SIDE-EVENT OF THE 20TH SESSION  
OF THE HIGH-LEVEL COMMITTEE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

***“THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SCALING UP OF SOUTH-  
SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”***

TUESDAY, 1 JUNE 2021  
1.00 PM – 3.00 PM (NEW YORK TIME)

**Concept Note**

**I. Background**

The scale, scope, volume and number of stakeholders of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) continue to witness exponential growth at multiple levels, underpinned by the promotion of partnership initiatives through mutual learning and the sharing of knowledge, experiences and good practices by Southern actors. The outcome document of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) underscored the immense potential of SSTC to further contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With the growth of SSTC and growing recognition of its significance as an international development cooperation modality both within the UN system and among member states, how can the UN system help support member states to achieve SDGs by further leveraging SSTC is increasingly important. This side event focuses on the role of the UN and the scaling up of SSTC to achieve SDGs.

The United Nations system plays a critical role in supporting member states to achieve SDGs. Many efforts are already under way within the United Nations system to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation: to support and facilitate policy dialogues, provide technical assistance, forge collaborative alliances, broker knowledge, develop multi-stakeholder partnerships, and mobilize development assistance from all sources, etc. The BAPA+40 outcome document reaffirms the key role of United Nations system entities in these endeavors, including United Nations country teams (UNCTs).

A recent milestone for SSTC within the UN system is the formulation of the *United Nations system-wide South-South strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development 2020-2024*, following an inclusive and consultative preparation process involving contributions of over 30 UN entities members of the UN Inter-Agency mechanism on SSTC and 15 UN Resident Coordinators. The overarching goal of the UN system-wide strategy is to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation to support Member States' efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, to achieve all sustainable development goals, and to secure peace and prosperity while promoting gender equality and women's empowerment on a healthy planet<sup>1</sup>. In the pursuit of this overarching goal, the strategy aims to provide system-wide policy orientation to United Nations entities in order to galvanize a coordinated and coherent approach to policy, programmatic and partnership support on South-South and triangular cooperation and increase impact across United Nations activities at all levels: national, regional and global.

In order to operationalize the UN system-wide strategy, the action plan was formulated and finalized, under the coordination of the UNOSSC and the close engagement of the UN Inter-Agency Mechanism for SSTC. The action plan and its results framework identify, for each of the five expected outcomes of the strategy, a set of specific deliverables, indicative activities and recommended indicators. The ultimate objective of the action plan and its results framework is to allow the monitoring of implementation of the strategy by the United Nations System. The document is expected to allow for the collection and analysis of relevant information that will inform the monitoring and reporting by each entity of the United Nations System on its South-South and triangular cooperation work.

The ambition is that, through the implementation of the strategy and its action plan, United Nations entities will be better positioned to coordinate and harmonize policies and operations and programmatic support on South-South and triangular cooperation at the global, regional and country levels, with the aim of supporting the national priorities of countries of the South and to drive forward the 2030 Agenda and the decade of Action to deliver on the SDGs.

## **II. Objective**

Under the background of growth of SSTC and the formulation of the UN system-wide strategy and the action plan, this side-event is designed to discuss how the UN entities can, in a more systematic and coherent manner, support member states to achieve SDGs by leveraging and scaling up South-South and triangular cooperation at various levels, thus enhancing the impact of UN operational activities for development.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/United-Nations-system-wide-strategy-on-South-South-and-triangular-cooperation-for-sustainable-development-2020-2024.pdf>.

The discussion will also highlight the importance of national governments as partner to catalyze South-South and triangular cooperation by promoting and sharing homegrown solutions. It can also be discussed how the United Nations system could engage and partner national governments to establish country platforms to document and share those key solutions that could be further scaled-up or replicated in other countries.