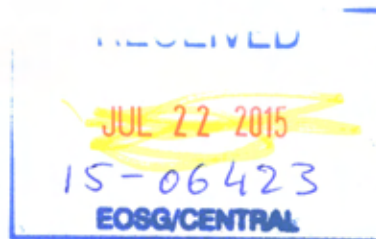


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Note to Ms. Susana Malcorra
Chef de Cabinet

Subject: Further mainstreaming and coordination of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the United Nations system, Report of the Secretary-General

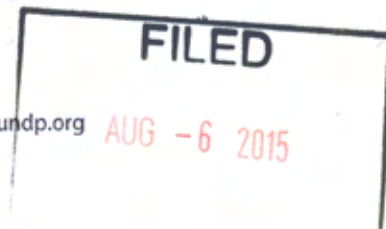
I am pleased to forward the draft report of the Secretary-General on "Further mainstreaming and coordination of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the United Nations system". This has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 69/239 by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the special intersessional meeting of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation in 2015. The intersessional meeting will now take place on 08 September 2015.

The report calls attention to the initiatives of the United Nations development system in response to the growing demands by Member States for greater United Nations support for South-South and Triangular Cooperation. It elaborates on the recent actions taken towards further mainstreaming and United Nations support to South-South and Triangular Cooperation, including initiatives to approach South-South and Triangular Cooperation in a coordinated manner across the United Nations system. As requested by the Member States, it also demonstrates the central role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the policy and programmatic work of UNDP. It concludes with a number of recommendations to further strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and to maximize the contribution of South-South and Triangular Cooperation towards the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda once it is adopted, including through leveraging the expertise, capacities and resources of the wider UN development system.

During the informal consultations conducted on this draft report, a representative of a Member State expressed his country's wish to have the Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) designated a Special Representative of the Secretary-General, whilst another representative (speaking on behalf of G77) drew attention to the above resolution which has called for the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

For reasons articulated in the draft, it is proposed that the Secretary-General considers designating the incoming Director of UNOSSC as his Envoy on South-South Cooperation, with the understanding that the Director will perform that function based on his or her terms of reference as the Director of UNOSSC. I look forward to receiving his views on this proposal.

Helen Clark
21 July 2015





General Assembly

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High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

Intersessional meeting

New York, 8 September 2015

Further mainstreaming and coordination of South-South and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report calls attention to the initiatives of the United Nations Development System in response to the growing demands by Member States for greater United Nations support for South-South and Triangular Cooperation. It elaborates on the recent actions taken towards further mainstreaming and coordination of United Nations support to South-South and Triangular Cooperation across the United Nations system. As requested by the Member States, it also highlights the specific measures undertaken by UNDP to these ends.

The report, which responds to resolution 69/239 of the General Assembly, concludes with a number of recommendations to further strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and to maximize the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation towards the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda once it is adopted. The report also reiterates the recommendation contained in SSC/18/3 that “UNDP continue to serve as institutional host to UNOSSC”.

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 69/239. The report examines the growing demand for United Nations support in a landscape marked by the burgeoning of South-South exchanges and flows. It captures the response of the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes as evidenced by their measures to mainstream South-South cooperation in their policy and programmatic work. It then highlights the actions taken to improve the coherence and coordination of United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation and proposes a range of additional measures to strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). As requested, it also highlights the specific measures undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to these ends. The report builds on earlier recommendations contained in the reports of the Secretary-General on the measures to further strengthen UNOSSC (SSC/18/3) and on the state of South-South cooperation in 2014 (A/69/153).

2. Trade, investment, finance, technology and development cooperation links across the South are growing fast. While world trade has grown almost fourfold since 1990, South-South trade has grown more than tenfold. China, India and Brazil are increasingly significant partners for Africa. In 2011, China accounted for seventeen per cent of total African imports, up from five per cent in 2000. India and Brazil increased their shares in total African trade from 2.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent, respectively, in 2000 to 7 per cent and 3 per cent in 2011.¹

3. Flows of development assistance between developing countries were estimated to be in the range of \$16.1 billion to \$19 billion in 2011.² South-South remittances have also increased and now account for 34 per cent of global remittance flows.³ Furthermore, increased connectivity within and among developing countries is ushering in a new dynamism and fostering opportunities for expanded South-South cooperation. Beyond the socioeconomic benefits within and across regions, South-South cooperation has also gained importance in the global political and economic spheres. Organizations such as the Group of 20 provide major economies of the South with a greater voice and a more important role in global economic governance forums.

4. Middle-income countries are playing an important role in the support that they offer to other developing countries. Some have long track records in South-South cooperation, while others have engaged recently.

5. What is striking is the scale, diversity, dynamism and wide scope of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, often involving innovative or hybrid initiatives that do not fit neatly within traditional development cooperation categories. This has a number of implications. First, there is a growing need for access to better information on partners; on demand and supply; on sectoral and subsectoral distribution; as well as geographic coverage; and financial, in-kind and other types of flows and outcomes. Second, the evolving and diverse nature of South-South and Triangular Cooperation underlines the importance of better-informed and more

¹ OECD, *Perspectives on global development 2013*, pp. 21-23. See "The state of South-South cooperation" (A/68/212) for more details on recent trends in South-South relations.

² United Nations, *Report of the Secretary-General on trends and progress in international development cooperation* (E/2014/77).

³ The World Bank, *Migration and Remittances: Recent Developments and Outlook*, 2015.

intense dialogue among participants to understand what is unfolding and to expand its potential, while also addressing possible weaknesses or bottlenecks. Third, while South-South cooperation has brought new dynamism and hope to countries of the South, their ability to maximize gains – whether to offer or receive assistance so as to advance national development priorities – is partly stymied by asymmetries in capacity at the national level to identify, engage with, manage and monitor cooperation, including through key focal-point institutions in Governments. There is still considerable untapped potential for South-South and triangular cooperation that can be unlocked by examining policy, regulatory and legal reforms that can accelerate the sharing of expertise, technology and services between countries bilaterally, through “neighbourhood” initiatives, and between and across regions.

II. Increasing demand on the United Nations to support South-South cooperation

6. There has been growing awareness of the significance of South-South approaches to development at the intergovernmental level. In various intergovernmental forums, such as the 2009 High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, during the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation, and in recent Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review resolutions, Member States have stressed their commitment to the South-South cooperation agenda while calling for intensified and increased multilateral support for such cooperation. In particular, Member States have called for greater mainstreaming of South-South and triangular cooperation in the policies and programmes of United Nations operational work; coordinated United Nations support to South-South initiatives; support to capacity development through the sharing of Southern knowledge and experience; forging of partnerships, including innovative public-private partnerships and South-South and triangular cooperation arrangements; provision of adequate human, technical and financial support; and the undertaking of data collection, analysis, monitoring and evaluation with respect to the quality and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation.

7. Nearly 80 per cent of United Nations Resident Coordinators who responded to a survey conducted by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in 2014 indicated that they had received requests from programme country Governments to support cooperation with other developing countries. Of particular interest to developing countries is assistance enabling them to gain more access to the knowledge and expertise of other countries of the South and for the identification of potential Southern development partners. These needs are most pronounced in areas such as industry, trade and investment, knowledge and technology transfer, economic growth and employment, environment and natural resources management.⁴

III. Responsive United Nations Development System

⁴ United Nations, Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (A/70/62-E/2015/4).

8. A growing number of United Nations organizations and agencies, have redoubled their efforts to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation in their policies, strategic frameworks, operational activities and budgets as elaborated in the 2014 report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation (A/69/153). The main focus of their support is increasingly catalytic and strategic: it is directed at policy development and dialogue, knowledge-sharing, research and analysis, capacity development, partnership-building to scale up South-South cooperation in their respective areas of competence, and innovative financing as well as monitoring and evaluation. The five Regional Commissions also provide support at the subregional and regional levels, where South-South cooperation is instrumental in the provisioning of regional public goods and services.

9. In total, 20 of the 22 entities that responded to the aforementioned UNDESA survey also stated that South-South cooperation had been integrated into their respective strategic plans and frameworks, while 11 indicated that some form of support had been provided to the projects managed and supported by UNOSSC, with a majority being specialized agencies. A total of 18 entities reported on South-South cooperation in their annual reports. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNDP and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) reported on evaluations and assessments of South-South cooperation, which informed their institutional policies and strategies (A/69/153). Several agencies have adopted strategies on South-South Cooperation, e.g., ILO in 2012 and the World Food Programme (WFP) in 2015. Others are in the process of developing strategies, e.g., UNDP, or piloting funding mechanisms for South-South partnerships, e.g., the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). According to the 2015 Annual Report of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the organization had increased the generation and sharing of good practices from 185 in 2013 to 220 in 2014. UNFPA also reports on the scaling up of the use of South-South cooperation, with 74 per cent of programme countries using this modality to strengthen programme performance. This strategy has been identified as a corporate priority starting in 2015.⁵

10. Responses by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to a survey conducted by UNOSSC in 2014 indicate that many agencies are mainstreaming support to South-South cooperation in their policies and operational programmes in keeping with the framework of guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation (SSC/17/3). FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN-Women (UNW) and WIPO reported support to measures contributing to the shaping of national, regional or international policies and strategies for South-South cooperation.

11. FAO, for example, promotes a continuing dialogue process aimed at ending hunger, improving food security and advancing the sustainable use of new technologies. ILO promotes the Decent Work Agenda through South-South policy dialogue. The work of UNEP reflects the growing significance of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation in sustainable development, as per its Medium Term Strategy for 2014-2017. In 2014, for example, UNEP signed an agreement on Enhancement of Collaboration on South-South Cooperation in Addressing Climate Change with the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC). South-South cooperation was adopted as one of seven

⁵ DP/FPA/2015/5 (Part I).

programme implementation strategies in the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Strategic Plan 2014-2017. WIPO, in cooperation with the Government of Brazil, convened the first interregional meeting on South-South cooperation on governance of intellectual property.

12. The remarkable rise of the South and the related surge in South-South cooperation have spurred rigorous research and analysis on various trends by UNDP, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other entities. In the 2013 edition of its *Trade and Development Report*, UNCTAD made the case that South-South trade has a major role in resetting unsustainable patterns of global production and consumption. In the global Human Development Report issued by the Human Development Report Office of UNDP in 2013, the rise of the South and the contribution of South-South cooperation were also documented.

13. South-South knowledge-sharing is another area receiving considerable support from United Nations common system organizations and agencies, such as ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNICEF, the World Bank and the World Tourism Organization. Since 2010, the World Tourism Organization has collaborated with the Regional Tourism Organization of Southern Africa on a programme to develop and strengthen the national system on tourism statistics for the 14 Member States of the regional organization. The South-South Experience Exchange Facility of the World Bank has been funding specific knowledge-sharing initiatives among low-income countries. UNICEF has supported cross-country sharing of knowledge of and experience in Ebola monitoring and response between affected and unaffected countries in West Africa and with Uganda and Cuba in addition to a number of cross-country and regional exchanges between governments and civil society organizations with respect to the End Violence against Children campaign.

14. Numerous initiatives supported by FAO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP and other members of the United Nations development system are focused on building the institutional capacity of developing countries to strengthen national and collective self-reliance in the global South. A notable initiative is the Centre for South-South Cooperation in Malaysia, which is sponsored by UNESCO and focuses on capacity-building in developing countries in three interrelated critical areas: the discovery of new knowledge (science), its application (technology) and its uses (innovation). An innovative partnership between WFP and the Government of Brazil led to the establishment in 2011 of the WFP Brazil Centre of Excellence against Hunger. Its purpose is to strengthen national capacities and knowledge in Africa, Asia and Latin America to design and implement nationally owned, sustainable school-feeding and other anti-hunger programmes as part of other social policy initiatives.

15. As the United Nations ramps up its response to these demands, it is worth noting that South-South cooperation is a vast terrain encompassing various sectors and geographical expanses. Therefore, United Nations organizations and agencies must choose judiciously where their individual and collective actions are more likely to make the most transformative impact. This will require greater integration of strategies, policies and actions in support of South-South cooperation to avoid the pursuit of divergent outcomes and to maximize the contributions of South-South and triangular cooperation by focusing action on shared development objectives towards the attainment of sustainable development.

A. Actions taken by the Administrator of UNDP as Chair of the United Nations Development Group

16. In its decision 18/1, the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation echoed key recommendations of the Secretary-General in his report on the measures to further strengthen UNOSSC and requested the Administrator of UNDP, as Chair of UNDG, to: (a) establish a more formalized and strengthened inter-agency mechanism coordinated by UNOSSC; (b) give UNOSSC the opportunity to be represented more regularly in the strategic and coordination mechanisms of UNDG when matters affecting South-South and triangular cooperation are being discussed; and (c) take steps to ensure that UNOSSC is adequately staffed, as appropriate, through the secondment of personnel from Governments and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and through the recruitment of Junior Professional Officers (JPOs) to give additional weight to the system-wide coordination function of UNOSSC.

17. In her capacity as Chair of UNDG, the Administrator of UNDP has acted on key aspects of the aforementioned decision. More specifically, the following actions have been taken to date. Additional measures have also been detailed elsewhere in this report.

18. The Chair of UNDG established a task team on South-South and triangular cooperation co-chaired by UNOSSC and ILO as an integral part of the new UNDG coordination mechanisms launched in early 2015. This action aims to foster the application of South-South and triangular cooperation to United Nations operational activities in various sectors at the country and regional levels. To this end, the UNDG Task Team on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, which is open to over 30 United Nations organizations and agencies, is embedded within the UNDG Sustainable Development Working Group that is tasked to support Member States towards the integration of sustainable development goals into their national development plans and actions. The task Team currently comprises designated focal points from a number of United Nations agencies. UNOSSC has led the preparation of its terms of reference.

19. As co-chair of the UNDG Task Team on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, UNOSSC is now better positioned to leverage the human, financial and other capacities of the United Nations system, as appropriate. For example, UNOSSC has led the preparation of an inter-agency work plan through which many United Nations organizations and agencies are committing to concertedly collaborate over the forthcoming biennium on South-South and triangular cooperation in such critical areas as food security, climate change, HIV and AIDS, and decent work. The Task Team is also drawing up joint plans to map ongoing South-South initiatives to identify best practices that will be brought to the attention of United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) roll-out countries so as to foster evidence-based mainstreaming of South-South and triangular cooperation in national development plans and UNDAFs. The inter-agency work plan also commits UNOSSC to lead collaborative efforts in revising the existing framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South cooperation in order to align the guidelines with the post-2015 development agenda. The Task Team has also been invited to contribute to the formulation of UNDG guidance notes that will inform the integration of the sustainable development goals

into national development plans and programmes. This presents an opportunity for the Task Team to apprise developing countries of the complementarity of South-South and North-South cooperation in efforts to attain the sustainable development goals (SDGs) over the coming years.

20. UNOSSC has an unprecedented opportunity to engage with UNDG, with the potential to catalyse inter-agency collaborative initiatives for the integration of South-South and triangular cooperation into United Nations operational activities for development at all levels. UNOSSC has also begun attending UNDG meetings where South-South cooperation is discussed. Hence, UNOSSC should also be able to influence the work of various stakeholders in government, civil society, academia and the private sector through its improved access to the wide range of expertise and networks that its UNDG partners possess and can bring to bear in addressing the needs of Member States for South-South cooperation in such areas as trade and investment, industry, economic growth, employment and the management of natural resources.

21. The Director of UNOSSC has also participated in regular meetings of the UNDG Sustainable Working Group in keeping with the recommendations of the Secretary-General and in accordance with decision 18/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. The inter-agency meetings that UNOSSC organizes for the Task Team on South-South and Triangular Cooperation attract participants from various agencies in New York as well as those in Geneva, Nairobi, Rome and Vienna via teleconferencing.

22. As part of the effort to increase staff capacity of UNOSSC, steps have already been taken to recruit JPOs, as proposed in the report of the Secretary-General on measures to further strengthen UNOSSC and reiterated in decision 18/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation and in General Assembly resolution 69/239. It is envisaged that JPOs, including from the South, would support the UNOSSC regional offices and Headquarters in advancing the concept and practice of South-South cooperation as an effective strategy for achieving internationally agreed development goals. To this end, UNOSSC will continue to work closely with the JPO Service Centre in Copenhagen.

23. In addition, the Chair of UNDG will take steps to advocate for arrangements regarding inter-agency staff mobility between UNOSSC and the United Nations development system on a trial basis, including Non-Reimbursable Loan Agreements as per applicable rules and procedures. The UNDG Chair will also reach out to Member States for secondments to UNOSSC as well.

24. Noting the responses of the United Nations Resident Coordinators to the UNDESA survey, the Chair of UNDG will, with the concurrence and support of the UNDG Task Team on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, take the necessary steps to include South-South cooperation as one of the means of implementation of the SDGs in a UNDG guidance note to Resident Coordinators/United Nations country teams (UNCTs) on support to national governments in their implementation of the SDGs. Given the emphasis placed by the Member States on the sharing of knowledge and experience, the Chair of UNDG will, through the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office, call on the United Nations Resident Coordinators to capture, in their annual reports, initiatives that have used South-South cooperation as a means of implementation.

B. UNDP response to growing demand

25. UNDP, by virtue of its extensive network of country offices in over 170 countries and territories, and given its role as the manager of the United Nations Resident Coordinator system and the role of its Administrator as Chair of undg, has been accorded special responsibilities in all major United Nations frameworks for the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation, as highlighted in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the Nairobi outcome document of the 2009 High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.

26. UNDP has thus strengthened the effective coordination of South-South and triangular cooperation across the United Nations system by hosting UNOSSC while utilizing its far-reaching network of country offices to integrate South-South and triangular cooperation into its programmes. UNDP defines its role in South-South cooperation as that of a trusted partner in brokering knowledge, enhancing country capacities and facilitating partnerships.

27. UNDP has also made a clear and substantial commitment in its Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 to utilize South-South and triangular cooperation as one of its core ways of working at the global, regional and country levels.

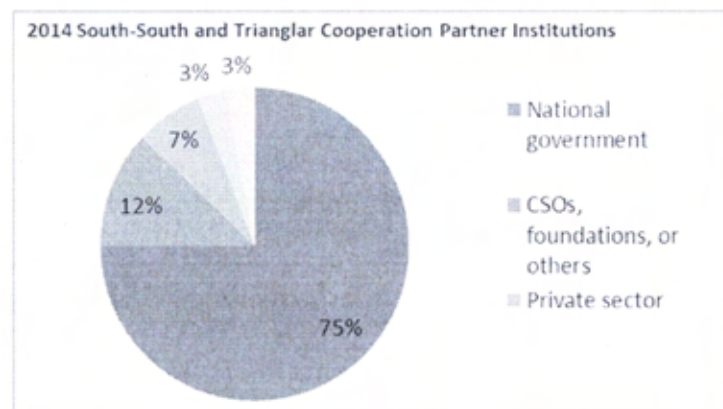
28. UNDP has laid out a wide range of instructional, monitoring and financial instruments for the promotion and strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation, including South-South collaboration in the context of UNDP projects and programmes. To this end, changes in the rules governing its projects and programmes have been adopted to allow for multi-country South-South and triangular cooperation projects and partnerships, common results frameworks, and cost-recovery mechanisms. Similarly, a new cost-sharing template has been developed for its country offices to accommodate both financial and in-kind contributions for South-South and triangular cooperation, guidelines for developing Country Programme Documents, and key parameters that country offices must consider in designing and managing programmes and projects.

29. Additionally, the integrated results and resources framework of the UNDP Strategic Plan includes outputs and indicators designed to measure results in South-South and triangular cooperation. The Results-Oriented Annual Report of the Administrator to the Executive Board (June 2015) on the implementation of the UNDP Strategic Plan has a distinct section on South-South and triangular cooperation where key achievements are noted.

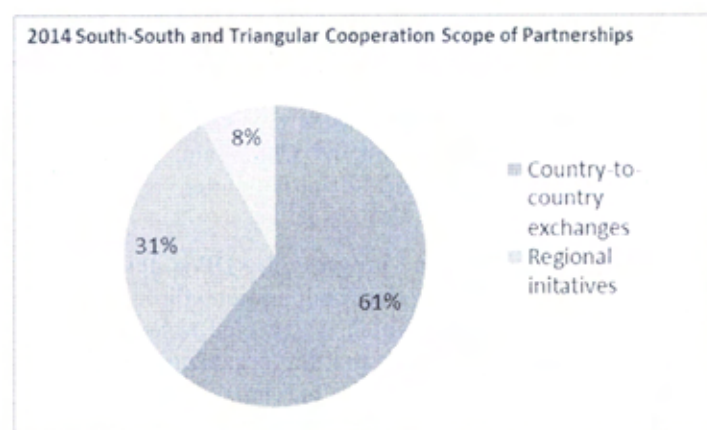
30. As a result of the above-mentioned efforts, UNDP, in 2014, was able to report that 469 projects across 133 countries had mainstreamed South-South and triangular cooperation, compared to the 2013 baseline of 269 projects identified through the comprehensive mapping of UNDP-supported South-South and triangular cooperation programmes. To recognize efforts of UNDP country offices, the Administrator of UNDP will institute the "Administrator's Annual Award for Excellence in South-South Cooperation" to be awarded to the top three country offices demonstrating enhanced support to South-South cooperation. The Administrator will also request the UNDP country offices to actively engage in the work of the undg Task Team on South-South and Triangular Cooperation,

particularly its plans to map ongoing South-South initiatives to identify best practices.⁶

31. UNDP has also enlarged its partnership base for South-South and triangular cooperation. As of 2014, and while the primary UNDP partners in South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives remained national governments (as shown in figure 1), cooperation with the private sector, civil society organizations, academia and research institutions in the South increased to 26 per cent in comparison with 19 per cent in 2013. UNDP is currently exploring different institutional modalities that will enable it to further broaden its partnership base.

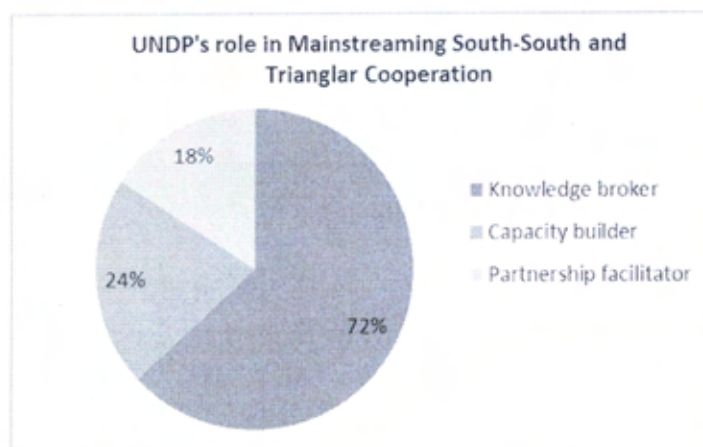


32. As shown in figure 2, while most South-South cooperation projects were exchanges between two or more countries, regional initiatives experienced a three-percentage-point increase from 28 per cent in 2013 to 31 per cent in 2014. This is owing to the prioritization of support to South-South and triangular cooperation in the five regional programmes and to the increased regional capacities dedicated to the advancement of South-South and triangular cooperation.



⁶ In order to set up a baseline and a monitoring and reporting framework that fosters accountability, UNDP conducted a programme mapping exercise on South-South cooperation in 2014 and reviewed over 3,500 country projects to determine what, where and with whom the organization provides support to South-South cooperation while scrutinizing what works and what does not in the process.

33. The role of UNDP in mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation also has a strong knowledge-brokering component, as can be seen in figure 3. For example, in 2014, UNDP supported Indonesia to share best practices with the Philippines to support the recovery efforts from Typhoon Haiyan. In Jamaica, UNDP facilitated the knowledge transfer of the Cuban Risk Reduction Management Centre model. The knowledge exchange between the two countries has resulted in the establishment of a risk reduction management centre in St. Catherine Parish.



34. Capacity-building is another role that UNDP actively plays in supporting South-South and triangular cooperation. For example, UNDP assisted Mexico (the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation) in consolidating its experiences as a South-South cooperation provider. In Iraq, UNDP supported the Government in establishing a South-South cooperation unit in the Prime Minister's Advisory Commission.

35. With its recognized neutrality and convening power, UNDP facilitated important South-South and triangular partnerships in 2014. During the Ebola crisis, UNDP partnered with the Government of South Africa in deploying autoclaves in Ebola-affected countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) to safely dispose of medical waste. In Armenia, UNDP initiated and supported the cooperation between Armenia and Kyrgyzstan in jointly developing a disaster risk reduction strategy. Additionally, UNDP worked with the Governments of China and Denmark to support energy-related activities in Ghana and Zambia under a triangular cooperation framework.

36. To build on the above-mentioned actions and progress, UNDP is developing a corporate strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation through active consultations with Member States. This strategy, which is expected to be completed in 2015, is intended to break new ground in the way that the organization promotes South-South and triangular cooperation and enable it to maximize its development impact to achieve the SDGs.

37. In 2013, the Executive Board of UNDP approved the strategic framework of UNOSSC for 2014-2017 and committed to allocating to UNOSSC core resources amounting to \$14.6 million for the implementation the framework over the period of four years. UNDP has shielded the budget of UNOSSC in the integrated budget in

line with the Executive Board decision on the allocation of resources despite a constrained funding environment.

38. Considering that UNOSSC aims to mobilize, during its current strategic framework, an additional \$20 million to supplement regular resources, the Administrator of UNDP will take steps to call on senior UNDP leadership and UNDG Principals to mobilize and/or support UNOSSC in mobilizing additional resources and contribute to the system-wide asset that is UNOSSC. On a case-by-case basis and subject to applicable rules and procedures, the Chair of UNDG will also request the entities of the United Nations development system to make contributions to the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund.

IV. Conclusions

39. The earlier sections of the present report serve to highlight that the United Nations Development system and particularly UNDP as the host agency for UNOSSC have been able to galvanize a number of actions in response to General Assembly resolution 69/239 and related decisions of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. It is worth noting that many of these and other additional measures have been undertaken and proposed despite a constrained financial environment for the United Nations development system, including for UNDP.

40. The creation of the UNDG Task Team on South-South and Triangular Cooperation provides a further window of opportunity to guide the simultaneous integration of South-South and triangular cooperation as well as the SDGs into national development plans and actions.

41. The unique comparative advantage of UNDP stems from its neutrality, its extensive network of country offices, and its role as the manager of the Resident Coordinator system and the role of the Administrator as Chair of UNDG. In addition to hosting UNOSSC, UNDP continues to play a lead role in the promotion of South-South and triangular cooperation through its policies and programmatic work across the developing world. I reiterate my recommendation contained in my measures report (SSC/18/3) that "UNDP continue to serve as institutional host to UNOSSC" (p.1), and I stated that "delinking UNOSSC from UNDP would also deprive UNOSSC of easy access to the UNDP global scale of operational support and programmatic efforts" (p. 11). UNDP has expressed its commitment to remaining as the institutional home for UNOSSC and to continuing to be the vehicle through which UNOSSC can further offer its policy, knowledge, information and operational support to countries. The UNOSSC budget remains shielded from financial cuts despite a constrained financial environment.

42. The forthcoming first UNDP corporate strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation offers another important reference point for identifying measures that reflect and are consistent with the complementary roles of UNDP and UNOSSC.

43. It is worth noting that fewer than two years have elapsed since the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation transformed the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation into UNOSSC in 2013 by its decision 17/1. It is expected that the mid-term review of the first UNOSSC strategic framework for 2014-2017 in 2016 will provide deeper insight into the role of the Office in the post-2105 development era. It will enable further considerations to strengthen the Office by leveraging the

assets of UNDP and the wider United Nations development system since the UNOSSC mid-term review will also coincide with that of UNDP and other funds and programmes. This is also a moment where a leadership transition is under way in the Office, which allows for building on its extensive and valuable work as well as for a renewed commitment to the mission and work modalities of UNOSSC.

44. I understand the call for the appointment of my Special Representative on South-South Cooperation in General Assembly resolution 69/239 on which a recorded vote was taken. Therefore, and after considering various institutional, financial, operational and accountability implications, and following consultations with the Administrator of UNDP, I am inclined to consider designating the incoming Director of UNOSSC as my Envoy on South-South Cooperation. S/he will perform that function based on his or her terms of reference as the Director of UNOSSC.

V. Recommendations

45. I call on Member States to engage with the United Nations development system as the vehicle of choice for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation and to benefit from the comprehensive architecture of resources and institutional arrangements put in place by the system to enhance South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. In this regard, I also call on UNDP to continue to provide the institutional home for UNOSSC, including through shielding of the current core resources for UNOSSC.

46. I request the United Nations development system to support Member States to take full advantage in identifying the entry points in their respective national strategies for the implementation of the post-2015 agenda, recognizing South-South cooperation as a vital means of implementation to complement North-South cooperation.

47. I call on Member States to designate national institutional focal points for South-South and triangular cooperation (where they do not exist) and to connect them to the United Nations development system through the offices of the United Nations Resident Coordinators and UNOSSC. In the same vein, I also call on those UN agencies, funds and programmes that have not yet done so to designate institutional focal points on South-South and triangular cooperation.

48. As UNOSSC aims to mobilize, during its current strategic framework, an additional \$20 million to supplement regular resources, I call on Member States who are in a position to do so to provide such additional resources to the Office to fulfil its United Nations system-wide mandate. In addition, I call on Member States to support efforts aimed at securing JPOs and/or the secondment of their national officials to strengthen UNOSSC. In this regard, I also call on UNDP to provide support as maybe required to UNOSSC in reaching out to Member States.

49. In an environment in which the core or regular budget of the United Nations system remains constrained, I encourage innovative partnerships and funding modalities between UNOSSC, the United Nations development system, Governments, academic institutions, civil society and the private sector in accordance with established United Nations standards.

50. I request the UNDG Task Team on South-South and Triangular Cooperation to facilitate the integration of South-South and triangular cooperation into United

Nations operational activities for development at the country and regional levels by leveraging the human, financial and other capacities of the United Nations development system. In this regard, I also call on the United Nations development system to respond positively to efforts aimed at securing secondment/loaning of staff to UNOSSC.

51. I request the undg Task Team to support UNOSSC in the effective implementation of the present and future UNOSSC strategic frameworks, focusing on outcome-level achievements, including through supporting the formulation of issue-based inter-agency programmes in the social, economic and environmental fields via UNDAFs and "Delivering as one" programmes.

52. I also request the undg Task Team to explore the possibility of strengthening United Nations country team (UNCT)-level South-South cooperation thematic groups wherever they exist and explore and/or support UNCTs that would benefit from the establishment of such thematic groups. Innovative approaches should also be pursued to ensure greater participation of non-resident agencies in relevant UNCT thematic groups.

53. Since there is growing demand for a repository of experiences and lessons learned, I encourage the United Nations development system to continue investing in capturing country and cross-regional experiences and sharing them with national partners and across the United Nations development system. Where appropriate, I further encourage the formation of communities of practice on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation to promote knowledge-sharing, the codification of lessons and the identification of entry points for collaboration.

54. I encourage undg regional teams to catalyse South-South cooperation for the establishment and/or sustainability of economically, socially and environmentally vibrant regional and subregional neighbourhoods through the concerted provision of regional public goods.

55. I request UNOSSC to undertake a mid-term review of its strategic framework for 2014-2017 in order to: (a) review progress against agreed upon priorities, and (b) propose priorities that should be pursued to better deliver, including through improved leveraging, the complementary capacities of the organizations of the United Nations development system that are already stepping forward to advance South-South and triangular cooperation. The mid-term review should also guide the design of the second strategic framework of UNOSSC for 2018-2021, which should be in synergy with the value that South-South cooperation contributes to advancing the post-2015 development agenda.

**General Assembly**

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Approved on behalf of the Secretary-General.

Chef de Cabinet

[Handwritten signature and date 06/08/15]

High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation
Intersessional meeting
New York, 8 September 2015

**Further mainstreaming and coordination of South-South
and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system**

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report calls attention to the initiatives of the United Nations Development System in response to the growing demands by Member States for greater United Nations support for South-South and Triangular Cooperation. It elaborates on the recent actions taken towards further mainstreaming and coordination of United Nations support to South-South and Triangular Cooperation across the United Nations system.—As requested by the Member States, it also highlights the specific measures undertaken by UNDP to these ends.

The report, which responds to resolution 69/239 of the General Assembly, concludes with a number of recommendations to further strengthen the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and to maximize the contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation towards the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda once it is adopted. The report also reiterates the recommendation contained in SSC/18/3 that “UNDP continue to serve as institutional host to UNOSSC”.

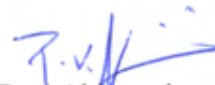
**Note to the Chef de Cabinet
(through the Deputy Secretary-General)**

Report of the Secretary-General: Further mainstreaming and coordination of South-South
and triangular cooperation in the United Nations system

1. Please find enclosed for your clearance and approval, the above report. This has been reviewed by the Economic, Social and Development Affairs Unit and by Ms. Jennifer Boggs of the Office of the Chef de Cabinet. **The report does not contain any programme and budget implications.**
2. The report responds to General Assembly resolution 69/239 and summarizes ongoing efforts of the United Nations development system to deepen and extend investments in South-South and triangular cooperation. It acknowledges, again, the diversity and reach of these modalities, and their potential to contribute effectively and efficiently towards to post-2015 development agenda.
3. Furthermore, the report: (a) outlines the response of the United Nations development system to growing demand; (b) summarizes actions taken by the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as chair of the United Nations Development Group; and (c) provides an account of UNDP own responses, including the ongoing formulation of its corporate strategy for South-South and triangular cooperation.
4. **I would like to draw your attention to paragraph 44 of the report. This paragraph refers to General Assembly resolution 69/239 that requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative for South-South cooperation. After further consultations and considerations summarized in the report, UNDP proposes the designation of the incoming Director of the Office for South-South Cooperation as *Envoy* of the Secretary-General for South-South Cooperation. The enclosed draft report reflects the proposal to designate the new Director as Envoy and not to appoint a Special Representative. I recommend the approval of this paragraph in the edited form.**
5. Please also see Ms Clark's note to you of 21 July 2015 (attached) which also notes that it is proposed that the Secretary-General considers appointing the incoming Director of UNOSSC as his Envoy on South-South Cooperation, with the understanding that the Director will perform that function based on his or her terms of reference as the Director of UNOSCC.

Received in ODSG

4 August 2015
Seen by: P.V.
4 Aug 2015
J


Paul Akiwumi
4 August 2015