

# UNDP Africa Regional Initiative

United Nations Development Programme



## Sustainable Development Goals and South-South Cooperation



### 1. Context

Informed by the Common African Position on the Post-2015 agenda, Africa is actively participating in the global debate on the completion of the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and the definition of the new, global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

There is strong emphasis by African countries and regional bodies on economic structural transformation to achieve more people-centred and sustainable development. This calls for proactive support for dialogue on national, sub-regional and continental development priorities in line with this vision, as well as the integration of agreed goals, such as the SDGs, into national development plans.

In this context, the experience and expertise of many African countries, gained through the MDG implementation process and the growth of South-South and Triangular cooperation (SS&TrC), create a potentially powerful launching pad for effective SDG implementation. Unlocking this potential requires institutions and their operational frameworks to adapt to new and emerging development cooperation

arrangements, while respecting the principles of mutual solidarity and partnership among equals, upon which South-South cooperation is founded.

### 2. Approach

UNDP contributes to the continent's global engagement agenda through 1) supporting the dialogue and preparation for the new SDGs, 2) mapping and brokering South-South and Triangular Cooperation partnerships, and 3) knowledge generation and exchanges.

UNDP is expanding its South-South and Triangular Cooperation technical capacities as well as leveraging its global presence, including Global Policy Centres, to broker knowledge exchange and partnerships.

In line with the African Action Plan for Development Effectiveness, UNDP is working with countries on establishing robust mechanisms to track and document development results, and generate and share knowledge about development solutions within Africa and around the world.

UNDP's approach is anchored in strong partnerships with the African Union, the Regional Economic Communities, civil society organisations, and global and regional think tanks focused on South-South and Triangular cooperation.

### 3. Areas of work

#### Sustainable Development Goals

- UNDP is working with regional institutions and stakeholders (including the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development and non-state actors) to engage more effectively with the ongoing international dialogue on the new global

development agenda, own it and adapt it to the African context and development priorities.

- UNDP is working with African countries in West and Central Africa on fiscal space analysis and policy options to increase countries' access and effective use of development finance.
- UNDP is supporting regional and sub-regional platforms for exchanges between traditional and emerging development partners focused on financing Africa's transformative development agenda and the SDGs.

### **South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC)**

- UNDP is undertaking a comprehensive mapping of existing initiatives (including scale, scope, partners and outcomes) to collect data and establish a knowledge base on these partnerships to support and expand the global 'marketplace'.
- UNDP is setting up a S-Smart Demand-Supply Matching Platform (online and mobile) in collaboration with the UN Office of South-South Cooperation for the global identification, sharing and transferring of successful development solutions, including on the SDGs.
- UNDP is supporting African countries' international development cooperation capacity through brokering relationships and systematic engagements with regional and national institutions and countries of the South.

### **Knowledge generation and sharing**

- UNDP is conducting research to provide thought leadership on current and emerging development solutions in support of Africa's structural economic transformation agenda. These flagship products, including the Human Development Report and African Economic Outlook, will contribute to the continental debate on challenging issues such as poverty and inequality reduction.
- Together with Regional Economic Commissions and other partners, UNDP is sponsoring a series of debates on pertinent regional development challenges and potential solutions to inform policy making.

- UNDP is brokering partnerships with regional broadcasters, media institutions and platforms/networks to disseminate content related to the SDGs and the African development agenda and spur the public's engagement on these issues.

### **Project Details:**

Project Period: 2014-2017

Executing Entity: UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa

Partners: African Union Commission, Regional Economic Commissions, Countries of the South, Lula Institute of Brazil, UNFPA, UN Office of South-South Cooperation, and Civil Society Organisations

Total resources required: USD 50,900,000

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