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THE SOUTH-SOUTH QUARTERLY

UNDP Newsletter for South-South and Triangular
Cooperation for Sustainable Human Development

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FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to share with you the seventh issue of the South-South Quarterly, dedicated to UNDP's initiatives supporting South-South and Triangular Cooperation -- specifically those presented at the 2016 Global South-South Development (GSSD) Expo, from 31 October - 3 November 2016 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

The UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) organized its annual GSSD Expo on 'Sustainable development through people-centered investment promotion: the path towards 2030 Agenda' to showcase Southern innovations and foster collaboration and partnership among development partners in tackling Southern challenges to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hosted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates through the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, the Expo offered a powerful platform for development organizations to demonstrate the added value of their successful solutions towards achieving the SDGs.

UNDP coordinated four main events regarding its work on South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The first event was the launching of the global development solution exchange system, the SSMart for SDGs.

The SSMart for SDGs addresses the need for a global system that, beyond traditional supply-demand matching, would facilitate project financing and implementation. UNDP also launched four UNDP-commissioned research studies produced by think tanks from the South. These case studies are the results of UNDP's continuing effort to support Southern think tanks' engagement in the global discourse on South-South Cooperation. The findings of these reports explore cutting-edge

issues on South-South Cooperation contribution to SDGs. The launching of the SSMart for SDGs and the four research publications are steps to implement the service packages introduced in UNDP's Corporate Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

UNDP held a panel discussion on the contribution of private-sector impact investment in South-South and Triangular Cooperation and a session on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Tobacco Control. UNDP also participated in the first regional networking forum for the Arab States, Europe and CIS.

Each session introduced successful and scalable best practices of South-South and Triangular Cooperation that UNDP supports worldwide. The plurality and diversity of stakeholders involved in the cases presented by government representatives, UNDP experts and the private sector from across industries were indicative of the quality and strength of UNDP's partnership facilitation role.

Following UNDP's presentations, several governments, civil society organizations, private-sector and bilateral and multilateral organizations expressed their interest in supporting the products and services that UNDP launched at the GSSD Expo. We will continue working with all partners and keep you up-to-date on progress and events.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue, dedicated to UNDP's participation at the 2016 GSSD Expo.

Simona Marinescu
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SSMart for SDGs

To systematically scale up SSC to achieve the SDGs, Mr. Tegegnework Gettu, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator, launched the global development solution exchange system “SSMart for SDG” at the 2016 GSSD Expo in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 1 November, 2016.

The SSMart for SDGs is a global marketplace and end-to-end service that will provide easy and broad access to demands and supply of development solutions addressing challenges in achieving the SDGs. The system will provide both online and offline services to help match demand-supply, broker South-South Cooperation partnerships, provide advisory services and support implementation, when requested by member states. The system will also link solutions to financing mechanisms to help scale up solutions through South-South and Triangular Cooperation. During the SSMart solution forum, Dr. Simona Marinescu, Director of Development Impact Group,

Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP, introduced the first thematic window of the SSMart for SDGs on good practices from community-led implementation of the SDGs. SSMart will offer additional thematic windows, based on demands of countries and partners in their efforts to achieve the SDGs.

The forum presented the added-value of the SSMart exchange, demonstrating how this system will meet the needs and demands of governments, development partners, donors and financiers in implementing local solutions to achieve the SDGs, providing examples from such countries as Argentina, China, Jordan, Lebanon, Viet Nam and Uganda.

The feedback from participants was highly positive. Representatives of governments, civil society organizations and donors expressed their interest in publicizing their demands and sharing their solutions on the SSMart for SDGs.



■ Featured Solutions

The 'Pro Huerta Program Argentina-Haiti,' was presented by Ms. Ana Ciuti, Director General of International Cooperation, Argentina. The project helps to strengthen the Haitian social fabric through fighting hunger and strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR) and the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MSPP). As of March 2016, the programme distributed 38.3 tons of vegetable seeds, corn and beans kits benefitting more than 40,000 families and promoters. The programme also trained 5,294 promoter-volunteers to support about 40,000 farms in the development of family, school or community orchards. In addition, the programme trained 286 promoters on improving feeding practices, nutrition and family health.

The session also discussed the 'China-Bangladesh-Nepal-UNDP regional cooperation: Sharing

and Learning on Community-based Disaster Management in Asia (CBDM).' This South-South Cooperation initiative aims to strengthen regional cooperation and exchanges of best practices on community-based disaster management among countries in Asia. The project supported several collaborative activities, such as policy forums and experience-sharing workshops with partners, focusing on participation at community level.

During the session, the 'Solution for Water Sustainability and Solar Energy: Grey Water Treatment and Water Harvesting,' from Jordan, was also presented by Ms. Mervat Batarseh, the head of Environmental Education Section at The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN). Facilitated by UNDP and the RSCN, the project raised awareness on water scarcity issues in the Azraq Basin community of Jordan, focusing on the local community approach



to saving water and integration of new farming technologies. The project is aimed at reducing poverty and improving socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries in the Azraq Basin by enhancing access to water and decreasing overpumping of the Azraq Basin. In the long term, this project aims to protect the Azraq wetland from further environmental impact of human activities.

UNDP Lebanon showcased the 'Live Lebanon Crowdfunding Platform,' which taps into the immense Lebanese diaspora worldwide to give them the opportunity to support important community-based initiatives for citizens in their homeland. Accessible through an online platform and mobile app, LiveLebanon offers Lebanese diaspora the ability to make a difference towards serious health, environmental and educational issues through their financial and in-kind support.

Government representatives from Uganda and Viet Nam shared their experience in implementing the 'Saemaul Initiative towards Inclusive and Sustainable New Communities' (ISNC), supported by the Republic of Korea (ROK). The ISNC updates and scales up ROK's Saemaul (New Village) Undong (Movement) experience. In Uganda, the overall objective of the ISNC is to enhance proven sustainability innovations, including ICT, environmentally friendly technologies and social enterprises in 15 communities. To date, more than 650 households are directly benefitting from the project. In Viet Nam, the objective of the project is to facilitate "Vietnamization" of the Saemaul Undong approaches and principles locally and set up effective mechanisms, tools and channels for nationwide visionary leadership development. Thanks to such efforts, elements of ISNC were integrated into the design of Viet Nam's National Target Programme on New Rural Development.



■ Research on SSC in the Context of the SDGs

On 2 November, UNDP hosted a solution forum titled 'Research on SSC in the Context of the SDG.' Mr. Tegegnetwork Gettu, UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator, launched four UNDP-commissioned research studies produced by think tanks from the South. The studies aim to contribute and strengthen the global knowledge base on South-South and Triangular Cooperation. As public policy research, analysis and engagement organizations, think tanks can play a vital role in the political and policy arenas at the local, national and global levels and assist governments in understanding and making informed choices on domestic and international

concerns. Thus, they can strategically champion the thought leadership on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

During the forum, the lead authors of the studies discussed their findings and the potential contributions of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in implementing the 2030 Agenda. All of the research findings aim to feed into global policy dialogues on South-South Cooperation, including the upcoming 40th anniversary of Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA40+) in 2018.

Below are the research studies that were presented:

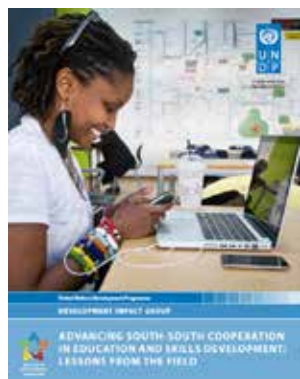
Brazilian Triangular Cooperation in Social Protection: Contribution to the 2030 Agenda

Ms. Bianca Suyama, Executive Coordinator of the South-South Cooperation Research and Policy Centre (Articulação SUL), shared Brazil's trilateral cooperation initiatives on social protection and how they can contribute to the 2030 Agenda. She presented the lessons learned in the implementation of three trilateral partnerships: The Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour, the Purchase from Africans to Africa Programme (PAA Africa) and the World Without Poverty Platform. Ms. Suyama compared the different motivations, structures, outcomes, strengths and challenges of trilateral partnerships, and explored the complementary roles among partners and how they impact the quality of relationships and perceived project results.



Advancing South-South Cooperation in Education and Skills Development: Lessons from the Field

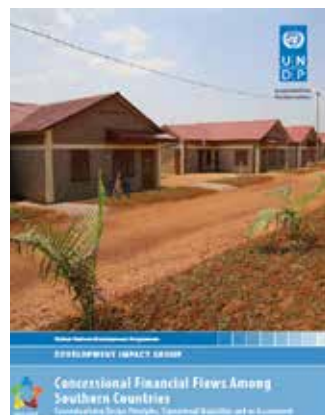
Prof. Karin Costa Vazquez, Nonresident Fellow at the Brazilian Center for International Relations, presented the enabling factors and lessons learned of Brazilian and Indian cooperation in education and skills development in Africa. She discussed initial reflections on how Southern-led policy platforms can advance the implementation of the SDGs in education and skills development. The research study she presented aims to inform policymakers and development cooperation practitioners on the various approaches and instruments that are used



to replicate and scale up South-South Cooperation in education and skills development.

Concessional Financial Flows Among Southern Countries: Conceptualizing Design Principles, Operational Modalities and Assessment Framework

Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in Bangladesh, discussed the collective knowledge on challenges for South-South cooperation and assessed the concessional aspect of Southern financial flows through rigorous analysis of trends in South-South cooperation and the multifaceted nature of its flows.



Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms for South-South and Triangular Development Cooperation: Lessons from Brazil for the 2030 Agenda

Ms. Melissa Pomeroy, Programme Coordinator at the South-South Cooperation Research and Policy Centre (Articulação SUL) in Brazil, gave an overview of the opportunities and obstacles in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices from various Brazilian institutions involved in South-South development cooperation (SSDC) and triangular development cooperation. Her research corroborates the initial hypothesis that there is no unified M&E system for Brazilian development cooperation but heterogeneous M&E practices.





■ The 2030 Agenda and the Evolving Role of the Private Sector and Catalytic Ability of the UN System in Sustainable Development

On 31 October 2016, the UN Global Compact, UN Social Impact Fund (UNSIF) and Global CEO Alliance organized a dialogue on the role of the private sector and impact investment in South-South and Triangular Cooperation titled 'The 2030 Agenda and the evolving dynamic role and contribution of the private sector and the catalytic role of the UN system in sustainable development.'

During this plenary session, the panelists and chief executive officers from the Hainan Air Group, ADEC Group, International Care, Finance Center for South-South Cooperation, United Africa Group and Mena Properties Services discussed the challenges

and opportunities of various mechanisms, tools and approaches for engaging the private sector in concrete, strategic partnership to scale up development initiatives, to enhance positive results and to achieve greater impact.

The participants reviewed the potential for blending financing sources and proposed a broader framework on transparency, corporate social responsibility and profitability for stakeholders. They affirmed that the framework should incorporate viable and innovative models of partnerships through the UN system and private-sector engagement for achieving the SDGs.



South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Tobacco Control

On 2 November 2016, the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and UNDP organized a solution forum that presented results on their efforts to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation for tobacco control.

During the forum, officials from Brazil, Malaysia and Uruguay provided an overview of their emerging results on South-South and Triangular Cooperation projects for tobacco control. These initiatives were implemented as a joint effort of UNDP and the WHO FCTC. The prominent results of the projects included 1) strengthened multisectoral governance for tobacco control; 2) elevating tobacco control as a national development priority; and 3) integrating effective tobacco taxation into countries' development planning and financing frameworks.

The forum also examined the potential to universally scale up initial implementation work of the WHO FCTC to support tobacco control and to advance health, health equity and sustainable development. Participants noted that unleashing the full potential of existing multilateral architecture and information-exchange platforms would not only strengthen support and partnerships for SSTC for tobacco control but also benefit the prevention and control of other global health challenges, including non-communicable diseases and global health crises.

The forum yielded higher awareness and strengthened support and partnerships for SSTC work on tobacco control and non-communicable diseases, as well as better understanding of how best to leverage SSTC for other global health challenges.



■ The Role of South-South (East-East) Cooperation in Advancing the Achievement of National Development Priorities in Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

On 2 November 2016, UNDP, represented by Simona Marinescu, Director of the Development Impact Group, along with the UNOSSC, the Islamic Development Bank and other key regional and global institutions, organized the First Regional Networking Forum for the Arab States (AS), Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to discuss the Role of South-South (East-East) Cooperation in Advancing the Achievement of National Development Priorities in Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Dubai.

At the event, UNDP supported the pre-launching of two regional reports on the value-added of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in attaining sustainable human development in the Arab States, Europe and the CIS regions. As a joint initiative of the UNOSSC and UNDP, the reports assess existing practices, models and instruments that support South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The reports also propose practical approaches to developing national South-South Cooperation strategies that are responsive to national development priorities, as well as



to building a more cohesive and coordinated approach at the regional level.

The two reports are a result of intensive consultations with national focal points for South-South Cooperation, as assigned by governments across the two regions. This high level of national ownership and leadership was important, as it benefitted, first, from relevant evidence and statistics on the scope and nature of South-South Cooperation flows within and beyond the two regions, and, second, formulated realistic and applicable policy recommendations. The

recommendations are intended to help countries tackle challenges at the policy, institutional and operational levels. That includes issues pertaining to financial resources, institutional arrangements, strategic vision, human resources, monitoring and evaluation, awareness and access to information, and participation in global forums, thus allowing them to fully harness the potential of South-South Cooperation.

The reports will help to position the regions more visibly in the global South-South and Triangular Cooperation discourse.

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To learn more about UNDP's work on South-South and Triangular Cooperation,
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