First African South-South Cooperation Report

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FAO/Oliver Asselin

Acknowledgements

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this document are those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the official views of the UNDP, AUDA-NEPAD, the IsDB and SEGIB.

Contents

List of Acronyms

AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda
AASROC	Asian-African Subregional Organizations Conference
ACFTA	ASEAN-China Free Trade Area
ACM	Aid coordination mechanism
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Agreement
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGCID	Chile Development Agency
AMADER	Malian Rural Electrification Agency
ARC	Africa Regional Centre
ASA	Africa-South America
AU	African Union
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
BAPA	Buenos Aires Plan of Action
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CAP	Common African Position
CELAC	Community of Latin American and Caribbean States
CPLP	Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCF	Development Cooperation Forum
DFID	Department for International Development
DIRCO	Department of International Relations and Cooperation
DPF	Development Partners Forum
EAPD	Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
FfD	Financing for Development
FOCAC	Forum on China-Africa Cooperation
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation
HEC	Higher Education Commission
IBSA	India, Brazil and South Africa
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
INVENT	Innovative ventures and technologies for development
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
JPCC	Joint Permanent Commission for Cooperation
MCPS	Member Country Partnership Strategy
MIAC	Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation
NDB	New Development Bank
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NSC	National Steering Committee
ODA	Official development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PICI	Presidential Infrastructure Champions Initiative
PIFCSS	Ibero-American Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation
RCI	Rwanda Cooperation Initiative
RGB	Rwanda Governance Board
RSCA	Regional Service Centre for Africa
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADPA	South African Development Partnership Agency
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEGIB	Ibero-American General Secretariat
SIDICSS	Integrated Ibero-American Database System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation
SSC	South-South Cooperation
TrC	Triangular cooperation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNOSSC	United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation

FOREWORDS

Makola Market, Accra by Erin Johnson on Flickr.com

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME REGIONAL BUREAU FOR AFRICA

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Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa
Assistant Administrator and Director
Regional Bureau for Africa
United Nations Development Programme

This report, the first of its kind in Africa, marks an important milestone in South-South Cooperation (SSC), and will strengthen Africa's contribution to the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda places a premium on SSC, noting that it is a fundamental part of goal 17 – 'Partnerships for the goals' – and recognizes the role that developing countries can play in sharing knowledge and expertise from their own experiences. Indeed, the growth of SSC has been so rapid and remarkable that it provides not only strong but also innovative and tangible ways to achieve these ambitions. The Second United Nations (UN) Conference on SSC took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 2019 and represents forty-years since the Global South formally defined its objectives and principles of SSC, in a document known as the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA). This BAPA+40 conference is an opportunity to take stock of SSC achievements to date, to celebrate the gains made in SSC and to continue to find ways to scale up these efforts.

Africa has made commendable progress in defining its own priorities and agenda for SSC, including through the adoption of Agenda 2063, the implementation of developmental goals through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and its transformation into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA). The signing of the African Continental Free Trade Area (ACFTA) agreement also heralds a new era for African industries and markets. African countries are carving out their space on the global stage, promoting regional solidarity and ensuring self-reliance. They have demonstrated their ability to share home-grown solutions that are locally relevant and contextually appropriate. Moreover, SSC is becoming institutionalized in a variety of ways. Some countries are creating their own SSC agencies and units, crafting networks of focal points and facilitating efforts to measure SSC interventions. Such endeavours will allow for national capacities that can be scaled up into regional frameworks, thereby further promoting intra- and interregional partnerships. The wealth of best practices on the continent must be recognized and enhanced. As featured in the report, the majority of partners involved in SSC activities are African, demonstrating that SSC in the continent is increasingly becoming Intra-African. This report is a historic turning point for African reporting on SSC that will allow for the upscaling of knowledge and technical exchanges, and for showcasing the important contributions that African countries have made to SSC.

The United Nations (UN) is proud to be supporting African developmental efforts. It is developing a system-wide strategy to promote SSC and will continue to mainstream SSC throughout all of its activities. In particular, UNDP, in close coordination and collaboration with the UNOSSC, remains poised to promote SSC and triangular cooperation (TrC) as a means of achieving the 2030 Agenda, as detailed in its Strategic Plan 2018-2021.

UNDP considers SSC and TrC as part of its DNA and consequently offers its services along three functional areas, as planned through its corporate SSC and TrC Strategy. Firstly, UNDP plays the role of a knowledge broker and offers services such as building global development solutions exchanges. UNDP is in the process of developing platforms that allow for improved knowledge management and sharing of expertise on the innovative and data-driven solutions that come from the Global South. It has developed the SSMART and Africa Solutions platform with over 50 good practices from Africa and will continue to provide assistance through the targeted support of its country offices around the world. UNDP can also integrate country and regional-level solutions into the UNOSSC's global platform which is being broadened to become an SS Galaxy. It is envisaged that the information featured in the SSMART and Africa Solutions platform could be synchronized with this system. UNDP also intends to use the UNOSSC's database of experts, known as the WIDE roster, to feature key national technical experts. UNDP has the ability to collect information through its network of a broad range of development experts in its country offices, particularly linked to its Country Accelerator Labs connected to its regional bureaux, and to feed this into the global level.

UNDP is promoting the enabling environment for SSC at the country and regional levels by offering advisory services to Southern partners to enhance the institutional capacity development for SSC. This could include improving policies, legal frameworks and regulations to make them more conducive for SSC, or developing and expanding SSC capacities. As Africa continues to create SSC agencies/units, strategies and systems, UNDP can offer technical assistance to countries that wish to increasingly fill a role as world leaders. UNDP can provide capacity assessments

for SSC structures, strategic advice on the establishment of SSC units and strategies, support the creation of a system of focal points, and enhance capacity on SSC planning, policy and measurement through strategic advice. Technical assistance could extend to developing a database of experts, acting as a partnership and broker and adviser and establishing dialogue, consultation and consensus building among SSC stakeholders. Regionally, UNDP can facilitate policy discussions to build regional integration and cohesion, as recommended by BAPA. This could take the form of providing support to regional policy forums led by regional organizations, coordinating regional policy discussions on administrative and legal arrangements, and supporting the creation of regional governance mechanisms and the development of regional reports, such as this one, that can capture key trends and opportunities. UNDP also intends to assist regional institutions in putting forward key positions on key development areas.

UNDP is providing services to promote global dialogue and system-wide coordination and collaboration. SSC requires building partnerships, and UNDP can be a partnership facilitator at an inter and intraregional level by providing the space for regional meetings and conferences, which promote horizontal exchanges on the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNDP has already initiated two SSC match-making events for SDG implementation, brokering Intra-African SSC partnerships, and anticipates organizing these meetings from a thematic perspective. UNDP can also support South-South leaders to develop TrC projects in various regions, through its country offices. UNDP can assist in matching SSC funds with country priorities and can support countries to access, manage and monitor SSC/TrC initiatives. Leveraging its universal presence and Global Policy Network, UNDP offers to promote the visibility of key activities through research, analysis and by promoting representation in global forums.

Ultimately, African SSC efforts must be at the forefront of promoting solutions to strengthen the continent's own development, as nationally led efforts lead to more sustainable and longer-term outcomes. The African continent has the ability to chart its future, and UNDP will do whatever it can to support it in this regard as well as to ensure that Africa's accomplishments are maximized.

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK

Dr. Mansur Muhtar
Vice President for Country Programs
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

The release of this report is quite timely as the global community met in March 2019 in Argentina to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA). BAPA provided a solid foundation for the promotion of South-South Cooperation (SSC). Since then, SSC has considerably changed the landscape of international development cooperation and become an important means to address economic, political, social and environmental challenges globally.

During these four decades, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has been at the forefront by adhering to the SSC principles and putting them into action. With membership entirely drawn from the Global South, the IsDB naturally spearheaded a South-South development approach, right from its establishment in 1974. We strengthened cooperation and knowledge-sharing among our member countries through various initiatives. We firmly believe that irrespective of the level of development, all our member countries have expertise in one or more areas to be tapped into for the benefit of other countries.

The IsDB's extensive work in Africa in the last four decades strengthens our faith in the ability of the continent, its governments and citizens to devise innovative and home-grown solutions that can be scaled up and shared through SSC. Many countries in Africa are experiencing sustained economic growth, and the whole continent has demonstrated remarkable progress on many socio-economic indicators in a relatively short period of time.

That is why I sincerely welcomed UNDP's initiative of preparing the "First African South-South Regional Cooperation Report". It was timely, and I am glad that IsDB became part of the report preparation right from its inception. The IsDB is confident that this initiative will mark a new pathway for SSC in Africa, whereby a unified process for monitoring SSC is set in place and practiced by African countries. The IsDB firmly believes that this report will stimulate a "Double-Loop Learning" within Africa and beyond. Firstly, the SSC community in Africa will learn how to improve and expand the SSC data-collection process. Secondly, the IsDB will learn how to improve the SSC itself to achieve bigger and faster results on the ground.

Releasing this report coincides with the IsDB's effort to reposition itself to meet the needs of its stakeholders by becoming a Bank of Developers and contribute significantly to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I would like to use this opportunity to renew the commitment of IsDB to serve as an enabler of engagements on SSC, whereby member countries within and outside Africa exchange knowledge, expertise, technology and resources to develop capacities and devise solutions for their own development.

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE
FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

Mr. Jorge Chediek
Director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) proudly welcomes the First African South-South Cooperation (SSC) Report and commends the efforts of African countries to document and scale up their SSC practices. It is hoped that this report will mark the start of a systematic trajectory that gains momentum as more African countries join the initiative under the leadership of the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Service Centre for Africa, working in close collaboration with UNOSSC.

This report, supported by regional institutions such as AUDA-NEPAD, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), highlights data from several African countries. African countries are not only enhancing their own national SSC frameworks, but also promoting national-level and regional political dialogue around the key policy and institutional aspects that enable SSC in Africa. This in turn is enhancing collaboration, integration and intra-African partnerships towards the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

UNOSSC considers the measurement and reporting of SSC to be critical for its successful implementation. Indeed, the Report of the 19th Session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation notes that the design of more robust mechanisms for systematic coordination, measurement and reporting is one of the six engines that would make SSC a powerful driver of innovation, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and growth.

UNOSSC has itself been making efforts to better document development cooperation at the global level and has been working with the United Nations to prepare the annual Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the State of South-South Cooperation. Our office is also supporting the preparation of the first independent report on South-South and triangular cooperation, which will review the history and transformation of collaborative frameworks for such cooperation, and how they can be further supported, including how they can contribute towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

In addition to these reporting efforts, UNOSSC has committed in its strategic framework for 2018–2021 to enhance coherence and coordination of support to SSC and triangular cooperation across the system. The framework focuses primarily on assisting Member States to make informed policy choices. UNOSSC has also committed to building capacity among Member States and has already held a number of consultations ahead of BAPA+40 in this regard. We have also created an inter-agency coordination mechanism that is strengthening the United Nations' collaborative efforts.

Furthermore, we have developed the innovative web portal www.unsouthsouth.org, which showcases the work of numerous partners on SSC and triangular cooperation and allows for greater knowledge-sharing, partnership-building and advocacy.

UNOSSC has also mapped, documented and disseminated development solutions for its "South-South in Action" series, and over 20 additional issues are currently in production. We have also compiled two publications on good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation, outlining over 100 Southern solutions across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is hoped that the African countries involved in this reporting will continue to contribute to sharing solutions on the portal and in further issues of the "South-South in Action" series.

SSC has the potential to transform our world by providing unique solutions that are appropriate to the local African context. It is for this reason that this report is so important for the African continent. UNOSSC stands ready to support Africa in directing its own future.

BENIN

Mr. Aurélien A. Agbénonci
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Republic of Benin

The First African South-South Cooperation Report provides an opportunity for South-South Cooperation (SSC) actors to measure developing countries' progress in helping one another work towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), both individually and collectively.

Benin's relationship with SSC and triangular cooperation (TrC) began in 2007, when it signed a cooperation programme with Bhutan and Costa Rica, supported by the Netherlands. This saw the three countries implement a sustainable development programme in the priority sectors of agriculture, tourism, biodiversity, the promotion of sustainable energy, and gender issues.

Since then, Benin has embraced SSC as an opportunity to develop innovative solutions that are suited to its circumstances and respond to sustainable development challenges.

Partnerships with Cuba, India and Brazil have helped create new jobs, build the capacities of small farmers in Benin, foster the exchange of knowledge and skills and formulate joint projects.

The Government of Benin is a firm believer in the virtues of SSC as an accelerator of development for countries with the same realities and, above all, identical constraints in terms of access to capital in the international financial market, the acquisition of know-how and advanced technology.

It is fitting that the Government of the President of the Republic of Benin, Mr. Patrice Talon, has incorporated this promising form of cooperation into its vision and strategy for sustainable development. SSC is therefore at the heart of all of its development programmes, including the Government Action Programme (2016–2021) and the National Development Plan.

Held in Cotonou on 21–23 February 2017, the Workshop on South-South and Triangular Cooperation as Acceleration Tools for Achieving SDGs enabled the Government of Benin to demonstrate its commitment to SSC. The Government also intends to integrate SSC into its strategy to achieve the internationally and regionally agreed development goals, namely the 2030 Agenda and the African Agenda 2063.

The Republic of Benin calls for SSC to be intensified and strengthened. BAPA+40, the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation that took place in March 2019 in the Argentine capital, was undoubtedly a significant step towards this goal, for the well-being of the people of Africa, including Benin.

I offer SSC my full support.

BOTSWANA

Dr. Unity Dow
Minister of International Affairs and Cooperation
Republic of Botswana

It gives me great pleasure to share Botswana's contribution to the first ever African South-South Cooperation (SSC) Report.

The Report is submitted as part of the fulfilment of the commitments made by our Heads of State and Government, during the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in September 2015. SSC is fast gaining traction as the premier avenue through which countries can mobilize resources for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Botswana remains committed to SSC in all its aspects. She is further committed to cooperating with fellow developing countries in accordance with the Nairobi Principles, which include: solidarity; respect for national sovereignty; national ownership; equality; non-conditionality; non interference; and mutual benefit.

To this end, we have taken steps to institutionalize SSC activities; first through the formulation of a "South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy", and our contribution to the first African Regional Report.

We consider SSC to be an important avenue through which we can achieve our development goals in line with our national roadmap, Vision 2036, and the National Development Plan 11 (2017-2023). Botswana's technical and economic cooperation with fellow developing countries is informed by the objectives of Vision 2036, in particular, the creation of a diversified, private-sector-driven and export-led economy.

In the area of technical cooperation, we seek partnerships aimed at developing human capital, to foster a knowledge-based economy. These include providing training opportunities and scholarships to enhance our people's knowledge and skill-set. Botswana also stands ready to share expertise with the Global South in our areas of competence such as political governance, macro-economic management, beef production, animal health, tourism and mining.

The diversified and jobs-rich economy that we endeavour to build requires infrastructure and financial resources. As a result, our scope of economic cooperation targets transport, communications and energy infrastructure. For instance, the country has embarked on key infrastructural projects, which also advance regional economic development and integration. These include the Kazungula Bridge and one-stop border post (a joint project with Zambia) and a dry port in Walvis Bay, with Namibia.

As regards financing for SSC activities, Botswana will continue to tap into the lines of credit and grants that are available in the Global South. Triangular cooperation financing partnerships will also be sought in line with the Nairobi Principles.

Against this background, we submit recent data on SSC activities that Botswana has participated in. We had looked forward to the 40th Anniversary of the Buenos Aires (BAPA+40) Conference on South-South Cooperation and are pleased to note that its concrete outcomes will give Botswana and fellow developing countries an opportunity to share experiences and chart the future of SSC, as a critical component for the realization of the SDGs.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Côte D'Ivoire

Built on the premise of a less restrictive relationship, South-South Cooperation (SSC) has taken a leading role in the global partnership for development in recent years. SSC offers a broader perspective and solutions to country-specific realities, and provides one of the best means of implementing the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063.

In the years since its independence, Côte d'Ivoire has been developing its diplomatic relations to derive the best possible benefit from them. However, in the face of the new development challenges reflected in the international 2030 Agenda and the African Union Agenda 2063, the country is relying on the promotion of good practices in SSC, which serves as a normative instrument for reforming the institutional, organizational and operational framework that guides its economic diplomacy.

Africa, and in particular Côte d'Ivoire, has made undeniable progress. This must be sustained, both in terms of accelerating the effectiveness of country interventions and of those involved in the internal and external management chain, from an economic, social and environmental development perspective.

Significant works are under way as part of SSC, including work on structural infrastructure, and this is having a positive and sustainable impact on the populations' well-being. The most disadvantaged groups–women and young people– are gaining confidence in themselves and their futures, on the basis of South-South models and knowledge transfer.

SSC is a veritable repository of innovations and opportunities that can sustain best practices in development. I remain confident that the African continent, which is best placed to experiment with sustainably implementing the wealth of partnerships available in all sectors, will be able to capitalize on these best practices to achieve its development goals, with the aid of SSC.

DJIBOUTI

Ms. Mouna Yonis Hoche
Director of International Cooperation and Regional Integration
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Republic of Djibouti

Following its independence, the Republic of Djibouti was engaged in cooperation with a number of traditional bilateral and multilateral partners, including France, Italy, Japan, the United States, the European Union and the World Bank, as well as the UN system, notably UNDP. This cooperation certainly produced results on the ground in terms of grants, loans, technical and material assistance and training for civil servants.

However, from 2000, the volume of aid from these traditional donors decreased significantly, leading Djibouti to diversify its partnerships with the rest of the world, particularly with a large number of countries in the South, such as India (2003), Cuba, and Turkey (2014). On the African continent, cooperation has been established with neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia and Sudan, but also with the French-speaking countries of North and West Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia. In the Middle East and Asia, Djibouti has cooperation agreements with Malaysia and Saudi Arabia in particular, and in terms of food security, the country has developed cooperative partnerships with Ethiopia and Sudan, which have granted arable land.

Djibouti is working towards Djibouti Vision 2035 and since 2014, has been implementing a Strategy of Accelerated Growth and Promotion of Employment (SCAPE) in the form of its first five-year plan (2015–2019). The country's main objectives in implementing SCAPE are to modernize infrastructure, develop economic growth and reduce poverty and social and territorial disparities. With this in mind, the Government is continuing to expand its diplomatic relations and seek more active international cooperation to intensify and diversify its economic, financial and technical cooperation through bilateral and multilateral relations with the countries of the South.

Djibouti therefore maintains partnerships with many countries in Africa, America, Asia, Europe and the Arab world, through its chanceries across the globe. These partnership agreements generally take the form of friendship treaties, joint committees and cooperation agreements, which have enabled Djibouti to strengthen its trade relations with certain neighbouring countries (for example, Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen) and countries in the Middle East (for example, Dubai, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia). This form of cooperation has also enabled doctors to be trained (Cuba, Morocco, Tunisia) and students to attend certain French-speaking African universities (Algeria, Morocco, Senegal), as well as universities in India, Malaysia and Turkey. Furthermore, Djibouti promotes regional integration and cooperation by actively participating in forums such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

In the field of higher education and knowledge transfer, Djibouti has benefited from sharing expertise and knowledge, particularly with Southern countries. For example, it established partnerships with Addis Ababa University in 2013 for geology degrees and with Cheikh Anta Diop University (Dakar) for humanities. Similarly, since 2011, stronger cooperation with the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (a global network for the French-speaking academic community) has supported the modernization and transformation of the University of Djibouti. In order to better manage the increasing number of students, partnerships have been established with overseas higher education institutions to enable students to pursue master's and PhD studies.

ETHIOPIA

H.E. Admasu Nebebe
State Minister of Economic Cooperation Division
Ministry of Finance
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

The Government of Ethiopia is implementing the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP ll) to realize its long-term vision of reaching middle income country status by 2025. GTP serves to guide the country's medium-term development priorities and provides a framework for aligning the works of domestic non-state actors and external development partners.

Due to the country's huge infrastructure deficit, Ethiopia requires large investment in economic and social infrastructure and services each year. The country finances these large investment costs largely from domestic sources through mobilizing tax revenue. However, it is critical for the country to mobilize additional resources from external sources in order to fill the financing gap required to meet the targets set in the GTP and the SDGs. In support of the above objectives, the Ethiopian Government is working with many partners, including emerging and developing economies, where a South-South Cooperation (SSC) framework will be important.

The 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of 2015 identified SSC as a useful international cooperation framework. Through SSC, developing countries are expected to benefit from the various opportunities and greater collaboration among themselves, thereby complementing the traditional and still dominant North-South flow of trade, investment, development assistance and technical cooperation.

Although the development and deployment of a formal country-level framework for SSC will help further guide Ethiopia's engagement with other developing countries, various fields in Ethiopia are already benefitting from the organic growth and expansion of its collaboration with emerging and developing countries. Collaborations in fields such as the health sector, agro-industry, education, e-commerce, information technology, biodiversity, labour policy and road construction are some of the areas of current focus.

Despite all this, there is a need to develop an SSC framework for Ethiopia, which may subsequently need to be supported through policy and legal frameworks. Down the line, strategies and programmes in each sector on how to use opportunities in SSC as well as how to share experiences and knowledge in the area will have to be developed.

For the above reasons, the first consolidated data on SSC in Ethiopia will serve as a stepping stone to further build a more comprehensive information basis and reports on the subject in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank the UNDP Regional Office and all those who were involved in the compilation of these data and I am pleased to share this dataset towards the First African South-South Cooperation Report. We look forward to the 40th Anniversary of the Buenos Aires (BAPA+40) Conference on South-South Cooperation.

KENYA

Dr. Julius Muia
Principal Secretary
State Department for Planning
Republic of Kenya

Kenya remains supportive of South-South Cooperation (SSC) as a critical means of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa's Agenda 2063. All SSC activities in Kenya are coordinated by the State Department for planning in the National Treasury and Planning. As a country, we are pleased to contribute to the First African South-South Cooperation Report and are grateful for the opportunity to showcase Kenya's experiences.

Kenya has been practising SSC since its independence in 1963. The country remained at the forefront in promoting collaboration among developing countries initially within the framework of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) which later evolved to become SSC. We have evolved with the changing dynamics in the developing world, which have increased the need for the scope of collaboration to go beyond technical cooperation to all aspects of development.

Currently, Kenya is engaging with many developing nations across the globe on a wide spectrum of issues such as: exchange of knowledge and skills; promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation; promotion of trade and investment; and solidarity on many issues affecting the Global South. There is however no adequate policy, legal and institutional framework for managing SSC in the country. This has led to less than adequate coordination of South-South and Triangular Cooperation as many institutions/agencies would normally collaborate at their various respective levels without feeling obliged to report such cooperation to the South-South Unit at the ministry responsible for planning (currently the National Treasury and Planning).

Kenya has however made various attempts at centralizing reporting of South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Such attempts include the formation of a South-South Technical Standing Committee in 2007 with membership from 15 ministries/agencies aimed at enhancing management of cooperation between Kenyan institutions/agencies and institutions in other countries of the South. The Standing Committee was later expanded to 17 members in 2009. Following the successful hosting of the 2009 UN High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation (1-3 December 2009), Kenya began another attempt to institutionalize the management of SSC.

The Standing Committee expended considerable efforts in gathering data and updating institutional profiles on SSC, with the eventual development of a Scoping Study entitled "Assessing Options for the Creation of a South-South Centre by the Government of Kenya". The Scoping Study recommended establishing a South-South Centre to coordinate all SSC activities in Kenya. The above recommendation was followed keenly by wide consultations across the Government, which resulted in the President issuing an executive order through a gazette notice in 2012 to create a South-South Centre. An appropriate office space and initial staff were identified for the office while an initial budget was allocated to help establish the centre. However, the South-South Centre was not fully operationalized.

Kenya has since reinvigorated the bid to institutionalize SSC by reconstituting the Standing Committee with an enlarged membership to reach more than 40 institutions. The reconstituted Standing Committee was launched on 25 September 2018 and is expected to support implementation of a Draft Road Map for the development of a policy and later a formal institutional and legal framework to support management of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Kenya.

Since 2013, the Government has continued to build the capacity of its officers in SSC management. However, more remains to be done in order to improve the visibility of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Kenya and to support its recording, reporting and overall management. Kenya needs technical and financial support to develop the policy and legal frameworks, and establish an institution to manage SSC. We also require support in undertaking intensive capacity development on South-South and Triangular Cooperation Management for the Technical Standing Committee members, as well as in developing a local database on centres of excellence and best practices/solutions.

SSC has been mainstreamed into Kenya's Third Medium-Term Plan (2018-2022) and the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (2019/20-2021/22). Going forward, concentrated efforts will be made to centralize management of all SSC activities in Kenya and ensure that the country maximizes its benefits without disregarding North-South cooperation.

LESOTHO

The Honourable Minister
Hon. Tlohelang Peter Aumane
Ministry of Development Planning
Kingdom of Lesotho

Due to its geographical location, Lesotho is both a recipient and provider of development aid under the South-South Cooperation (SSC) model. It should be noted that Lesotho is a small country, both in terms of its size and economy, hence it has only a handful of projects that are classified under SSC. Like many other developing countries of the Global South, Lesotho has not been reporting on these initiatives. However, with this first report, the Government of Lesotho commits itself to reporting on an annual basis, as this has proved to be one of many avenues where the country can access assistance from its neighbours and offer assistance where possible. Reporting on SSC will help the country to reflect and evaluate the economic benefits brought by the cooperation.

SSC is based on mutual respect and equal partnerships between recipients and the providing countries. It is also aimed at strengthening national efforts and facilitating capacity-building and development. SSC also provides faster implementation, lower transaction costs and better value for money, among others. The assistance in this case can be in the form of technical know-how, financial resources (budget support, project financing), expertise, skills transfer and many more. SSC is anticipated to expedite development initiatives in the Kingdom of Lesotho, as the country is in the process of developing its five-year Second National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP II).

The overall goal of the NSDP II is to create jobs and achieve inclusive growth. This will be realized through promoting sustainable economic growth and private sector-led job creation, strengthening human capital, building an enabling infrastructure and strengthening governance and accountability systems. These priorities will be achieved by promoting private sector competitiveness, increasing employment levels in the productive sectors, advancing technology especially in research, increasing agricultural productivity by increasing vertical integration and value creation, improving health services. and graduating orphans and diversifying programmes offered by institutions of higher learning to provide market-related skills.

The Ministry of Development Planning has been mandated with the task of reporting on development agendas and initiatives and will continue doing so, including reporting on SSC.

MADAGASCAR

Permanent Secretariat in charge of Aid Coordination
Prime Minister's Office
Republic of Madagascar

Official development assistance (ODA) is a major source of funding for Madagascar. Following donors' reluctance to provide funding in the wake of the 2009–2012 institutional crisis, the country's return to constitutional order in 2015 regained the support of technical and financial partners (TFPs) and, in turn, its economic and social climate has gradually been improving. In recent years, TFPs have been reintegrated into Madagascar's development support infrastructure and ODA has been constantly increasing, reaching US$717 million in 2017.

South-South Cooperation (SSC) and triangular cooperation (TrC) accounts for almost 26 percent of the ODA received by Madagascar, mainly from Asian States (India, Indonesia, China and Thailand) and Morocco. China is the country's main, most significant partner, with the economic and diplomatic relationship between the two dating back to 1972. The cooperation relates to health, humanitarian assistance, infrastructure support, the productive sector and trade.

Madagascar is a member of many regional groups. Within these groups, it is represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Regional Integration Directorate which, in its capacity as a coordinator, is central to optimizing Madagascar's membership in groups such as the African Union, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). In general, this coordination occurs across all the technical government departments, within specially created national committees that bring together stakeholders from the public and private sectors.

Madagascar's ability to cooperate with both Northern and Southern countries is underpinned by a rapidly expanding industrial network within the textile industry, a constantly improving business environment and diversified agriculture.

Following the 2018 presidential elections, Andry Rajoelina was inaugurated on 19 January 2019. This was the first peaceful transition between two elected presidents, which has enabled the progress made towards peace, stability and economic development to be maintained.

Strategic documents will be drawn up this year, including the 2030 Vision for Madagascar and the National Development Plan. This will therefore be a particularly opportune year for finalizing the development cooperation policy, which will include a component on the SSC strategy. This will, by definition, differ from the strategy used with "traditional" partners. The development cooperation policy will formalize the role of each individual in the development cooperation management chain.

The main objective of promoting SSC in Madagascar is to mobilize additional technical and financial support to aid the implementation of the national development strategy, and furthermore, the achievement of the SDGs. Its specific objectives will be to diversify and increase Madagascar's TFPs, but also to promote Madagascar's expertise in specific fields internationally.

By virtue of its functions, the Permanent Technical Secretariat for Aid Coordination is the country's main aid coordination body and seems to be the structure best suited to managing SSC.

While SSC already has a presence in Madagascar, it would benefit from being strengthened by a framework conducive to maximizing the benefits and opportunities of South-South trade. At the same time, partnerships and innovation should be facilitated, promising ideas should be scaled up and knowledge transfer on adaptable development solutions should be strengthened.

The political will is there to strengthen SSC and there is considerable room for improvement in this area, since Madagascar currently has few cooperation agreements with African States. Moreover, the current context seems particularly favourable to promoting and strengthening SSC. Madagascar will look to sustain the positive momentum generated by the BAPA+40 survey and to achieve noticeable, conclusive results in the short term.

RWANDA

Mr. Louis-Antoine Muhire
Chief Executive Officer
Rwanda Cooperation Initiative
Republic of Rwanda

Rwanda has made tremendous progress in development and believes that South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC) are increasingly becoming important sources of solutions to common development challenges, especially through international cooperation.

Rwanda would hereby like to express its commitment to contributing to SSC and TrC and to the implementation of the SDGs. This foreword contributes to the First African South-South Cooperation Report that will inform the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) scheduled for March 2019, forty years after the adoption of the BAPA.

The African Union Agenda 2063 and its first 10-Year Implementation Plan (2014-2023) are dedicated to building an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.

As part of global cooperation efforts, a coordinated Pan-African mechanism is required in order to share sustainable solutions to several development challenges that developing nations face.

Through its ambitious vision, political will and leadership effort, the Government of Rwanda has built and acquired knowledge, expertise and good practices in these areas. These key initiatives, commonly known as Home Grown Solutions (HGS) and Public Sector Expertise (PSE), have been key in addressing some of Rwanda's major post-genocide challenges and are informed by Rwanda's local, historical and cultural values that have been central in addressing social, political and economic challenges.

As a result, in recent years, there has been increasing interest and demand from different countries and international organizations to learn from Rwanda's experience. Many African countries are also keen to share their own experience with Rwanda, in return for learning from the social-economic development model.

In the hope of promoting SSC and TrC and to ensure effective knowledge-sharing, in its cabinet decision of 14 September 2018 the Government of Rwanda established the Rwanda Cooperation Initiative (RCI). This company, fully owned by the Government of Rwanda, aims to serve as a "Single Window Access" for foreign parties interested in sharing lessons and experience from Rwanda's Public Sector Expertise and its Home Grown Solutions for a mutually beneficial development journey. RCI services will ensure effective management and prompt response to foreign parties interested in sharing experiences effectively.

Going forward, I wish to emphasize Rwanda's commitment to publish a comprehensive report on the SSC study visits conducted in Rwanda and to provide regular reports in order to sustain SSC and TrC momentum for effective development through cooperation.

I would like to express my highest consideration to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and various players in the ecosystem that put forward development goals through SSC and TrC.

SUDAN

Mr. Mirgani Abdalla Glood
General Directorate of Foreign Cooperation
Ministry of International Cooperation
Republic of the Sudan

Sudan remains supportive of South-South Cooperation (SSC) as a crticial mean of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa Agenda 2063.

SSC activities in Sudan are coordinated by Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning as a focal point, hence we are pleased to contribute to this African South-South Cooperation Report to showcase Sudan's experience.

We are in the process of providing an update on the contribution of SSC. Finally I wish to express my deep gratitude to the UNOSSC and others involved in producing this report.

UGANDA

Mr. Matia Kasaija (MP)
Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development
Republic of Uganda

Since the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) in 1978, South-South Cooperation (SSC) has increasingly offered solutions to development challenges that are common for countries in the Global South. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on Financing for Development (FfD), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union 2063 Agenda recognize the value of SSC and Triangular Cooperation (TrC). SSC proves to be complementary to, and not a substitute for, North-South Cooperation.

Uganda prepared a policy statement to provide an update on the contribution of SSC and TrC to the country's development. The statement also presented the agenda of Uganda in promoting the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The statement was designed to contribute to the First African South-South Cooperation Report. The report informed the second High-level United Nations Conference on SSC scheduled for March 2019.

Uganda's ambition to transform into a modern and prosperous country by 2040, coupled with the drive to realize the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, requires global alliances that offer practical solutions to development challenges that the country faces. In line with the above aspirations as enshrined in the second National Development Plan (2015/16-2019/20), the Government of Uganda highly appreciates the value of SSC and TrC to the country's development agenda. SSC has offered Uganda unique solutions, including knowledge-sharing and the exchange of best practices with partners with a similar development trajectory, technical support, technology transfers as well as financial support to realize development objectives. Therefore, Uganda will continue to provide an enabling environment to promote South-South partnerships.

As the President of the UN High-level Committee on SSC, Uganda aims to enhance the efforts of African countries to use SSC, including in the area of trade, with the goal of achieving initiatives such as an African Free Trade Zone. Also, we aim to intensify information-sharing, while continuing to promote activities in line with the SSC principles, namely mutual benefit, sovereignty, ownership, equality, non-conditionality and non-interference.

I am pleased to present a compilation of SSC and TrC activities undertaken in Uganda over the past year. Uganda has benefited from a number of partnerships in various policy areas. On health, the Government cooperated with Zambia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Mexico. The Government worked together with Mauritius on governance. Cooperation was enhanced with China and Ethiopia on industrialization and infrastructure development. South Korea was instrumental in Uganda's business development and refugee management. With the Republic of Korea, India, Nigeria and Egypt, education and skills development were strengthened. All these partnerships contributed to the national development agenda.

Secondly, Uganda has demonstrated commitment and capacity to offer development solutions to other countries. Uganda extended support in peacekeeping to Somalia under the AMISOM regional peacekeeping mission and will continue to offer this support in the foreseeable future. Assistance was also given in the area of refugee and immigration policy. During the 2017 Solidarity Summit on Refugees, Uganda demonstrated an innovative and novel approach that emphasizes building refugees' resilience by empowering them to "assist themselves". Furthermore, several notable engagements have been showcased in the area of health, particularly in humanitarian and emergency response to epidemics such as Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Liberia and Sierra Leone. Following the recent oil discoveries in the East African region, Uganda has provided technical assistance to Kenya and Tanzania on oil and gas management, particularly in the development of mining policies.

Several important lessons have been drawn in Uganda over the past year, a few of which I wish to mention here. Firstly, the establishment of a sound and conducive regulatory and implementation environment is essential to promoting SSC. Imbedding SSC and TrC in existing cooperation and partnership policies is key to promoting sustainable development and guiding future engagements. Secondly, institutionalizing SSC and TrC is important for effective coordination. One ministry in each country should be appointed to promote the use of SSC and TrC. This will ensure that planned SSC activities are adapted to the local context. It will also enhance flexibility in implementation of

SSC activities for all partners so as to achieve the desired development outcomes. Thirdly, while knowledge-sharing is a critical aspect of SSC and TrC, it requires adequate guidelines to contribute meaningfully to development solutions. One-off technical support in the form of knowledge transfer through trainings or benchmarking visits has proved to be ineffective. There is a need for continuous learning and involving implementers and end users to sustain impact. In this regard, support by development partners to facilitate long-term engagements with participating countries in SSC and TrC is vital.

As this statement only covers the activities that started within the last year, the Government of Uganda is preparing a comprehensive SSC Report which will be published in 2019 and will cover all activities over the past five years. The Government is committed to publishing regular reports of this nature, with the aim of encouraging debate and policy dialogue on SSC for sustainable development.

Finally, I wish to express my deep gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme and others involved for producing this report. I call upon partners to support the country's effort to achieve its development goals through SSC and TrC as elaborated on in the Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-level United Nations Conference on SSC.

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The past decade has seen such rapid growth in many of Africa's economies that some countries are becoming active providers of South-South Cooperation (SSC). The contribution of SSC to the global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the continent's Agenda 2063 is well recognized and established. SSC can provide context-specific, innovative and sustainable development solutions that allow countries to enhance their own national capacities and self-reliance.

Forty years ago, Southern countries came together in Buenos Aires at the first United Nations Conference on SSC. The outcome document, which became known as the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), produced a number of recommendations for strengthening SSC. The second United Nations Conference on SSC, held in March, provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress made. The global context has remarkably changed over this period and Africa's transition has been particularly noteworthy.

This report reflects on Africa's achievements in terms of SSC. As evident in the forewords presented, African countries are outlining their SSC priorities and commitments. In doing so, the continent has the opportunity to take greater ownership of its development and increase the visibility of its efforts. In the spirit of true SSC partnership, this report has been supported by the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Ibero-American General Secretariat (Secretaría General Iberoamericana—SEGIB).

Chapter 1 begins by analysing global, regional, interregional and national efforts to institutionalize SSC. It establishes the framework for developing an African SSC ecosystem through the lens of the original BAPA recommendations and assesses the progress achieved.

It makes reference to the growth of SSC on global and continental agendas and looks at the variety of institutional models and mechanisms that countries have used to implement their SSC activities, ranging from developing fully-fledged agencies to networks of SSC focal points and frameworks.

Chapter 2 then takes an initial look at the extent to which SSC is happening on the African continent, based on data provided by nine African countries. It also looks at how these activities are contributing to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, the types of partners involved and examples of the types of ongoing activities.

Chapter 3 looks to the future, offering suggestions for increasing and scaling up SSC. It includes a contribution from SEGIB, which shares its experiences in the monitoring and reporting of SSC in Ibero-America—this includes 10 years of the Ibero-American report on SSC and the secretariat's data management platform, the Integrated Ibero-American Database System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SIDICSS). The chapter also includes contributions from the IsDB on its efforts to develop innovative approaches to scaling up SSC, including the Reverse Linkage mechanism it is developing, as well as its means of mapping centres of excellence. Furthermore, this final chapter incorporates a UNDP analysis on how triangular cooperation (TrC) can be used to develop wider and more inclusive partnerships globally, and to mobilize additional knowledge and expertise.

It is hoped that this report will be the first of many. Africa is an active player in the field of SSC/TrC and its efforts need to be recognized and praised. By clearly articulating its own path, Africa can maximize its potential.

Sameer Halai via USAID

United Nations Development Programme's renewed offer for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in Africa

I. Introduction

Since the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was established, distinct efforts to work with governments of the Global South to maximize development impact and accelerate poverty eradication has been integral to our work. Prior to the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA), UNDP convened a group of high-level thinkers and planners in Kuwait to outline the main issues to be considered at the conference. The sentiment was that the conference would be a decisive event in the evolution of a new international order, an opportunity for the world community to help unleash the creativity of two billion people, thus opening new horizons for mankind.

Remaining true to the letter and spirit of the 1978 BAPA, UNDP has a long legacy and credentials as a knowledge broker, partnership facilitator and capacity-development supporter for South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular Cooperation (TrC) to help countries maximize their development impact and to accelerate poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals (IADGs). Furthermore, and as reflected in UNDP's own strategic planning documents – the country programme documents – South-South and Triangular Cooperation have always been part of UNDP's DNA.

In the era of new development agenda, UNDP will continue to leverage its mandate, its role in countries and its global network, as well as trusted partnerships with national partners and regional institutions. Building on the key tenets of the 2016 UNDP Strategy on SSC and TrC, UNDP's Strategic Plan 2018– 2021 embraces SSC and TrC as essential drivers to support the implementation of the 2030 agenda. UNDP's systematic and designated SSC and TrC focus is anchored in and able to leverage UNDP's development offer, business model and programme modalities to work collaboratively with partner countries and as determined by national governments, in accordance with their policies.

In line with the 1978 BAPA, UNDP is also proud to continue hosting the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). UNDP and UNOSSC's partnership is rooted in collaboration based on complementary strengths. UNDP's country presence and operational capacity are the main facilitators of its contribution to SSC and TrC, while UNOSSC plays a global convener role, enabling various United Nations legislative bodies to make informed decisions and achieve policy outcomes regarding SSC, as well as supporting United Nations system-wide coordination to accelerate, expand and deepen support from the United Nations Development System for SSC and TrC.

II. UNDP's global and regional strengths for South-South and Triangular Cooperation promotion

UNDP embraces support for South-South cooperation as a critical pathway to helping countries achieve their development goals.   UNDP's country presence and operational capacity are the main enablers of its contribution to SSC and TrC.

UNDP's renewed SSC and TrC offer rests on several compelling comparative advantages:

- **Extensive country presence and trusted local partnerships in nearly 170+** countries to support country-led exchanges, partnerships, financing and transfer of expertise within the African continent and at the interregional level. UNDP's existing staff capacities and programmes, as well as new/planned strategic initiatives across our signature solutions and sustainable development goal (SDG) knowledge areas will help effectively operationalize and contribute to SSC and TrC. Within the wider network, UNDP can draw on select country offices (including, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda in Africa). Through their experience, these offices have become **centres of excellence** and act as global-drivers, connectors and knowledge hubs for deepened and strengthened engagement on SSC and TrC across UNDP.

- **UNDP's six signature** solutions bring a multidisciplinary approach to SDG implementation by keeping people out of poverty, strengthening governance, enhancing crisis prevention and recovery, promoting nature-based solutions for development, closing the energy gap, and advancing gender equality. These solutions can be adapted to the relevant context, be it widespread poverty, structural transformation or crisis and recovery, and, as they are implemented, will also build experience, learning and knowledge across programme countries. Within each signature solution, UNDP can bring technical expertise to support the strengthening of institutional and policy capacities for African countries to partner and share knowledge, scale up good practices and foster bilateral and regional partnerships for SSC and TrC.

- An emerging **network of up to 50 Country Support Platforms and 60 Country Accelerator Labs positioned as key vehicles for helping launch, develop, replicate and scale southern development solutions,** thereby deliberately incorporating South-South learning and expertise into operational approaches and related knowledge networks. Twenty-seven of the 60 labs are

being setup in the Africa region, including a range of initiatives aimed at building critical capacities (technical knowledge, innovation methods, mapping solutions), reforming the enabling environment (policy, tax, regulatory space), growing networks (partners, mentors, social entrepreneurs, disruptors), leveraging new sources of finance (outcome-based finance, impact investment, equity, among others) and communication and advocacy.

• **UNDP's role as provider of an integrator function on the 2030 Agenda** is at the heart of a new generation of United Nations country teams, where UNDP's expertise is offered as a service to the wider development system, including through expanding cross-border South-South learning and networking, in partnership with the UNOSSC.

III. UNDP's offer in Africa and globally

Building upon its experience and these programmatic comparative advantages, and in order to support the implementation of the recently approved BAPA+40 Outcome Document, UNDP will continue providing support to African countries in two key service areas:

i. Fostering an enabling environment at country and regional level for SSC

As the development architecture has continued to evolve, many countries are not only recipients of development cooperation but are also active South-South partners. UNDP will continue to foster SSC and TrC at the country and regional levels through its network of regional hubs and country offices to support countries in their strengthening of their institutional and policy capacities to share knowledge, scale up good practices and foster bilateral and regional partnerships. In Africa, the ultimate aim is to support the transformation of the development cooperation landscape and promote African countries' role as development leaders at the global level. This includes:

• Helping to improve policies, financing and investment strategies, legal and administrative frameworks and regulations to facilitate engagement around development solutions

• Supporting emerging economies to strengthen institutional capacities in order to manage development cooperation programmes and investments

• Developing national and regional tracking, analysis, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms

• Facilitating bilateral and intra- and interrregional South-South initiatives and partnerships to address priority development issues

• Developing and/or expanding capacities of stakeholders, including governments, regional institutions, academia, civil society organisations and think tanks, among others

Under its Africa Regional Programme, UNDP has been partnering with the African governments to support the development of the institutional framework for South-South cooperation at the national level. This support has included overseeing the development of a national SSC Strategy that is aligned with national priorities (in Botswana and currently under way in Cape Verde); supporting the systematization of good practices and tracking of SSC partnerships (in Côte d'Ivoire and currently under way in Mauritius, Mozambique and Rwanda); creating the enabling environment for the establishment of specific South-South cooperation agencies (currently under way in Cape Verde, Ethiopia and Rwanda); and supporting the implementation of stocktaking assessments at the national level to encourage national policy discussions around South-South cooperation (as is the case of Ethiopia and Uganda).

At the regional level, UNDP has been leading the development of the herein presented African SSC Report with its partners and will continue supporting the process through the engagement of additional voluntary countries, as well as key regional organizations.

ii. Providing a southern development solutions network and exchange platform
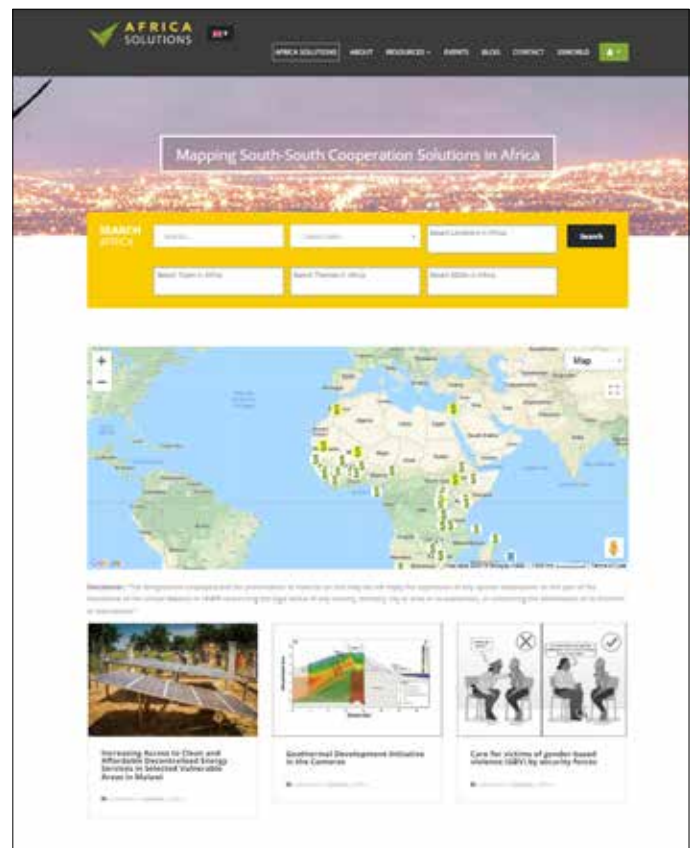
UNDP will draw on its unparalleled network to drive a global southern development solutions network and exchange platform. Partnerships between peer developing countries to exchange, replicate and adapt southern development solutions is a context-savvy, sustainable and often cost-effective strategy to be pursued by countries and communities over time. The integrated approach of the SDG Agenda and the commitment to "leave no one behind" provide opportunities for further extending such approaches.

UNDP will:

- Harness its network of accelerator labs to rapidly launch and signal local solutions that work in different contexts and improve collective knowledge across the network

- Ensure that, as country support platforms are operationalized, they focus on complex development challenges and provide a collaboration space for relevant South-South exchanges

- Continue supporting the systematic knowledge codification of southern development solutions and offer SS Mart and the African Solutions Platform as dedicated spaces to access and exchange these solutions and good practices. Building on the African-born southern development solutions, this open platform will in future be linked to other South-South knowledge repositories and the UNOSSC-led South-South Galaxy.

- Continue creating the spaces to bring together the demand and the supply sides of development solutions through the African matchmaking events

The implementation capacity for this offer is facilitated by UNDP's country offices and regional hubs. The measurable results are being captured integrally through UNDP's reporting on its Strategic Plan implementation, as shown in the graph below, which provides a snapshot of UNDP's SSC work in Africa in 2018 – helping countries to broker knowledge, build capacity and facilitate partnerships.

South-South Matchmaking for Sustainable Development Goals

The UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) is facilitating the establishment of intra-African South-South cooperation partnerships for knowledge transfer through the organization of South-South Matchmaking for SDGs events. Due to the success of the first and second matchmaking events, a number of countries have begun establishing South-South Partnerships with their peer countries **(Benin, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire,** **Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Uganda and South Africa)**. A number of African countries have expressed interest in showcasing their good practices (becoming providers of development cooperation) and several traditional partners are also exploring the possibility of participating in these events and thus promoting triangular cooperation partnerships.

South-South and Triangular Cooperation

South South Cooperation (SSC) is visualized by connecting the project location with the location(s) that the project is cooperating with. Project locations are marked with a colored bubble proportional to the number of connections in total from the location. Both the connecting lines and the originating project locations are color-coded according to the *mechanism of SSC*.

CHAPTER 1

Ghanian Fishermen via Pixabay.com

Analysis of national, regional and global South-South Cooperation ecosystems in Africa

I. Buenos Aires Plan of Action: Setting norms for SSC

Africa has made significant headway in institutionalizing South-South Cooperation (SSC), following a number of recommendations made by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA). BAPA was a seminal document that made the first-ever provisions for developing an SSC ecosystem, including strengthening the mechanisms and instruments for SSC. The original 1978 BAPA document was a consensus plan of action signed by 138 Member States, with the ultimate aim of aim of contributing meaningfully to a new world order that was more representative, democratic and equitable, based on the principles of multilateralism, including global trade. In the document, Member States agreed to enhance SSC at the national, regional, interregional and global levels. It is now 40 years down the line and although the context has changed considerably, its recommendations are more relevant than ever, providing new opportunities to enhance SSC. This chapter examines how SSC has progressed, specifically in the African context, using the BAPA recommendations as a framework within which to view these developments.

II. SSC at the global level

BAPA committed to strengthening mechanisms that could facilitate SSC at the global level. In this regard, it outlined ways to promote the perspectives and home-grown solutions of developing countries and to strengthen their influence on the world stage. It also carved out the role of the United Nations in supporting these activities. The BAPA document asserted that SSC must permeate the entire United Nations system and the global development cooperation agendas that were agreed to by Member States, which is now seen through different international development agreements and agendas for action.

The institutionalization of SSC is reflected in the United Nations global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This agenda replaced the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were established for 2015. It is worth noting that the African Union's Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 development agenda, which contributed to the establishment of the 2030 Agenda, emphasized the promotion of mutually beneficial partnerships, specifically with regards to strengthening South-South, North-South,

triangular and diaspora cooperation. Additionally, the CAP advocated for strengthening technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South cooperation, SSC and TrC, reiterating the importance of human resources development such as training, the exchange of experiences and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity development.[1]

For the United Nation's new, people-centred 2030 Agenda, which aims to leave no one behind, 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were approved following extensive global consultations with wide-ranging stakeholders. The scope of the goals is broader than that of the MDGs, aiming to address the root causes of poverty and promote shared prosperity. The goals are divided into economic, social and environmental spheres.[2] One of the key features of these goals is the emphasis on resource mobilization. SDG 17 (Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development) recognizes the role that SSC can play as a complementary instrument to North-South, regional and international cooperation for achieving the SDGs.[3] It also stresses the importance of trade, technology, capacity development, finance and systemic/institutional dynamics.

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which resulted in the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), provided a framework for enhancing financial flows, including through SSC, geared towards achieving the SDGs.[4] The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or Rio+20 (2012), the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit (2015)[5] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 also have outcome documents that refer explicitly to SSC.[6] The Paris Agreement that was signed in 2015 by 174 developed and developing countries focused on intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) to address climate change and stressed the importance of transferring these solutions among countries and sharing new technologies.[7],[8]

In promoting SSC, the United Nations has also begun to mainstream SSC throughout its structures and institutions. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has focused on SSC and TrC specifically through the Forum on Financing for Development (FfD). The Development Cooperation Forum (DCF), which engages in dialogue on international cooperation trends, has also placed growing emphasis on SSC and TrC, as demonstrated by the Fourth Preparatory High-level DCF Symposium held in Argentina in 2017, which had this as a

1   AU, Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 2014
2   https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/
3   Mariella di Ciommo, Approaches to measuring and monitoring South–South cooperation, 2017
4   UNGA, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 27 July 2015, 17 August 2015
5   http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E; UN, Third International Conference on Financing for Development Addis Ababa, 15/07/2015
6   http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_69_283.pdf
7   The number has subsequently grown to 184, as cited by UNFCC, Paris Agreement – Status of Ratification, https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/status-of-ratification
8   https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf

primary focus. As of 2018, almost 30 United Nations entities had integrated an SSC focus into their frameworks, plans, strategies and budgets.[9] The United Nations Secretary-General also produces reports on the state of SSC, which are now released on an annual basis. These reports cover topics such as the progress made by the United Nations in mainstreaming SSC into policy frameworks and strategies, innovative approaches to supporting SSC, United Nations actions to support Member States with their SSC efforts and ways to enhance SSC across the United Nations system.[10]

In January 2018, the United Nations General Assembly resolution 72/237 affirmed a role for the United Nations Office of South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) in promoting and facilitating SSC/TrC on a global and system-wide basis. The resolution also emphasized the need for an inter-agency mechanism, to be coordinated by UNOSSC, that would provide support to SSC/TrC initiatives and enhance information-sharing across these different organizations.[11] This mechanism is now in operation.

There is also a consortium of partners working on TrC, including Canada, Japan, Mexico, UNOSSC, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). This is known as the Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation within the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation.[12]

The Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, otherwise known as BAPA+40, was held in Argentina in March 2019. UNOSSC had been tasked with organizing the conference, which had the overreaching theme of 'The role of South-South Cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Challenges and opportunities'. The challenges and opportunities for strengthening the institutional framework for SSC and TrC are among the four key sub-themes on the agenda.[13]

III. SSC at the regional level: Current practices

Regionally, BAPA committed to enhancing existing institutions and improving linkages with other regional institutions. This has been subsequently incorporated into African policies and frameworks, such as the 2001 New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) framework document, which clearly articulates that Africa is committed to developing and strengthening South-South partnerships geared towards ensuring sustainable development.[14] In 2010, the Second Regional Meeting on Aid Effectiveness, South-South Cooperation and Capacity Development emphasized the importance of synthesizing African case studies to foster cross-regional learning and knowledge transfer in promoting SSC. NEPAD efforts are further detailed in the following section.

Africa has also been involved in establishing a number of South-South partnership frameworks, particularly with Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). Included among these partnership arrangements are the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the Africa-South America (ASA) framework, the Tokyo International Conference of African Development (TICAD) and the India-Africa Forum.

In Latin America, the Ibero-American Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation (Programa Iberoamericano para el Fortalecimiento de la Cooperación Sur-Sur—PIFCSS) has made efforts to strengthen SSC politically, technically and conceptually through common views and understandings of SSC. The programme also contributes to Ibero-America's annual reports detailing SSC activities in Latin America and to the strengthening of methodologies for reporting on SSC.[15] Aside from providing facts and figures on SSC, the process of collecting this data and producing the report has encouraged stronger SSC partnerships in the region and thus, resulted in stronger regional political and economic integration. Moving forward, the Ibero-American programme acknowledges that countries still face political, institutional and regulatory challenges in developing a comprehensive SSC policy and is endeavouring to find ways of addressing these challenges to further institutionalize SSC in Ibero-America. A comprehensive policy would allow for a clear identification of national SSC priorities and solutions that could then be scaled up through stronger intraregional partnerships, thereby promoting integration and collaboration on key cross-border topics. Measuring and accounting for SSC initiatives also remains a challenge. However, the Ibero-American programme highlights that in the future, not only will it be important to measure the quantity of SSC engagements, but also to assess their verifiable impact and promote the efficient use of resources.[16]

This report, which has been partly inspired by Ibero-American efforts and adapted to the current African strategic context, marks the beginning of renewed efforts by Africa to strengthen the regional institutional framework, promote intra- and interregional partnerships, and encourage continental policy dialogue on SSC, as described in BAPA.

By outlining mechanisms and institutions for engagement, Africa can clearly identify how to strengthen partnerships, particularly pan-African partnerships, as well as consolidating its position vis-à-vis other regions, on the basis of mutual priorities and respect.

IV. Agenda 2063: Continental and regional efforts

Africa has clearly articulated its long-term development and transformation priorities through 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want', which was adopted at the January 2015 African Union (AU) Summit. Agenda 2063 is noteworthy for its focus

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9   UNGA, State of South-South Cooperation, 13/08/2018

10   These reports are found at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B-buqyoV0jpSXzF6d1k2TzZtS1U

11   UN General Assembly, Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 December 2017, 23/01/2018

12   Secretaría General Iberoamericana, Report on South-South Cooperation 2017

13   UN General Assembly, Preparatory process of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation Note by the Secretary-General, 29/01/2018

14   http://www.nepad.org/agenda-2063/publication/agenda-2063-framework-document

15   See for example https://www.segib.org/en/?document=informe-de-cooperacion-sur-sur-en-iberoamerica-2017

16   Ibid.

on ownership, mobilization of the continent and promotion of African self-reliance.[17] Increasingly, there have been efforts to align Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. United Nations resolution 72/310 commends efforts made by the African continent to implement Agenda 2063, reaffirms support for the United Nations declaration on NEPAD and emphasizes the importance of SSC.[18] Activities have also been undertaken to support this alignment, for example, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) organized the 2017 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

To fully explore its potential and realize its development objectives, Africa is committed to continuously building well-capacitated, strategic and more effective partnerships. These partnerships should be reflected in the design of an all-encompassing strategy for the continent, governing its relationship with its Southern partners.

The African regional context has changed substantially since BAPA. The AU has developed frameworks and mechanisms for enhancing regional integration on the continent and has made concerted efforts to become more efficient and effective.[19] As part of these reforms, a decision was taken in July 2018 to transform the NEPAD agency—the AU development arm—into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA), with its own legal identity. In November 2018, the AUDA mandate was approved.[20] NEPAD aims to contribute to building "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena" and thus, its primary focus is on SSC.[21] These efforts will enable the continent to progress with its vision for development, as defined in Agenda 2063.

The NEPAD 2017 annual report details its contribution to Agenda 2063 in five major outcome areas: a) Skills Revolution and Entrepreneurship; b) Sustainability and Resilience; c) Improved Health and Nutrition Services; d) Transformed Agriculture and Food Systems; and e) Integrated Corridor Infrastructure, Trade and Markets.[22] Across these areas, NEPAD has worked to enhance SSC across multiple levels. At the continental level, this has included measures such as upscaling new technologies for innovation through the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD) Science, Technology and Innovation Initiative, developing a stronger African position on climate change and adopting the African Medicines Agency Treaty.[23]

AUDA-NEPAD is enhancing the implementation of continental, regional and national frameworks and agendas through regional economic communities (RECs) and member states, with SSC becoming an increasingly critical modality for delivery. It should be noted that the RECs are the building blocks of the AU, as detailed in its 2016–2020 road map. There are eight AU-recognized RECs.[24]

As RECs have developed differently, it is impossible to apply a 'one-size-fits-all' approach.[25] Some have also been held back by political and economic differences. These organizations have begun to develop regional frameworks that are based on jointly identified national interests and efforts. While SSC exchanges are carried out across different RECs, the lack of comprehensive regional SSC frameworks means that these exchanges remain ad hoc, there is a lack of systematization and information is not widely available. In the absence of specific frameworks, such exchanges lack long-term sustainability and do not feed into an overarching regional framework based on countries' national SSC priorities. The division of labour between RECs and the AU is a challenge that is still being addressed, through the institutional reform of the AU, championed by President Paul Kagame of Rwanda. These discussions will provide an opportunity to harmonize continental, regional and national priorities and ensure an efficient division of labour.[26]

This report is an attempt to encourage the establishment and use of a standard system for an African regional reporting process, based on national reports that will ultimately promote alignment with key national, regional and global planning processes and priorities, including the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. As proposed by BAPA, this report captures the key trends, challenges and opportunities derived from SSC activities, as outlined in chapter 3.

This report can pave the way for discussions on establishing regional SSC and TrC policy forums to promote dialogue, consultation and consensus-building on SSC and TrC, as recommended by BAPA. These forums would be led by regional institutions and would include representatives from Government, development partners, the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), think tanks and other actors that would generate data on SSC and TrC. Such data could facilitate evidence-informed policy discussions around the key SSC priorities to foster sustainable development. The proposed policy forum could promote regional policy discussions on administrative and legal arrangements on the entry, employment, obligations and privileges of SSC experts and consultants within these regions. BAPA also supported the idea of creating regional governance mechanisms within regional institutions that would drive uniform technical standards on procurement, trade rules and fiscal and currency regimes to promote SSC/TrC. Finally, BAPA

17   https://au.int/sites/default/files/pages/3657-file-agenda2063_popular_version_en.pdf
18   http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/72/310
19   https://au.int/fr/node/34952
20   https://www.tralac.org/news/article/13708-11th-extraordinary-summit-of-the-african-union-summary-of-key-decisions.html
21   https://www.nepad.org/who-we-are/about-us
22   https://www.nepad.org/publication/annual-report-2017
23   Ibid.
24   These are: Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Arab Maghreb Union (Union du Maghreb Arabe—UMA).
25   http://www.dfa.gov.za/docs/2003/au0815.htm
26   http://www.ecowas.int/ecowas-commission-restates-commitment-to-deepening-cooperation-with-the-au/

recommended providing support to regional institutions for developing common positions on key development opportunities.

Africa has already made headway in this regard. In its bid to promote greater integration and intra-African trade in goods and services, the AU has facilitated the signing of an African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). By February 2019, 49 of its 55 African member states had signed an agreement to remove tariffs on the majority of African goods, facilitated by the movement of persons, and to liberalize the African market.[27] Member states are also in discussion over the guidelines for producing an African passport in accordance with the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons.[28] Furthermore, the AU has developed a number of common positions, such as the CAP on Climate Change and the CAP for Negotiations of a New Cooperation Agreement with the European Union.[29],[30] The current Cotonou Partnership Agreement will expire in 2020, providing an opportunity to promote a partnership based on African development priorities. These initiatives must be supported and promoted.

The AU is currently engaged in various mutually beneficial partnerships with the Global South to drive its socio-economic transformation agenda. These include Africa-South America, Africa-India and Africa-Turkey, Africa-Japan (TICAD), the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the Asian-African Subregional Organizations Conference (AASROC).

V. SSC at the interregional level

BAPA recognized that developing countries should have access to a wealth of SSC experiences and acknowledged that this may also come from other regions. As such, the proposal is to develop and strengthen interregional cooperation. Interregional cooperation has expanded with the development of new groupings, such as the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) grouping[31] and the India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) fund. These groupings have been partly led by the growth of major countries involved in SSC,[32] which have created new routes for trade that open up the global infrastructure. China is in the process of developing the Belt and Road Initiative, which promises to develop infrastructure to enhance trade from East to West and transform the world economy.[33] As mentioned earlier, African countries other than South Africa have already established relationships with Brazil, Russia, India and China and will continue to do so.

Other cross-regional mechanisms include the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP), which signed an agreement with the United Nations in 2016 to foster SSC and TrC.[34] In October 2018 the ACP launched an information centre in Equatorial Guinea that aims to promote South-South trade between ACP countries.[35] The Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) has presented its interregional experiences with Africa in order to share these experiences. In addition, countries such as Brazil have provided support through SSC/TrC projects in sub-Saharan Africa and have teamed up with countries in the Commonwealth, such as the United Kingdom, to promote trilateral cooperation.[36] The Commonwealth has also supported SSC/TrC initiatives such as the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.[37]

Interregional cooperation is also reflected in the growth of international finance institutions (IFIs) that support SSC. The New Development Bank (NDB), for example, was developed as a challenge to perceived unfair voting quotas at the Bretton Woods Institutions (the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund—IMF). The NDB officially opened its Africa Regional Centre (ARC) in Johannesburg in 2017. The bank gives loans to its member states, while placing a premium on sovereignty and non-interference. It is considering expanding its membership to other countries that would then also be eligible for such projects. The NDB focuses on sustainable infrastructure development initiatives and these initiatives have been championed by countries such as South Africa, which has developed and has been leading the African Presidential Infrastructure Champions Initiative (PICI), an AUDA-NEPAD initiative.[38] While infrastructure is urgently needed on the continent, it is worth noting that SSC should not be confined to infrastructure projects; it can also benefit developing countries with regard to the diverse modalities and focus areas of technical cooperation that can be shared.

The IsDB has been supporting SSC through the establishment of its Reverse Linkage mechanism, created in 2010.[39] Its members are comprised of countries from the Global South. The IsDB has identified existing knowledge, expertise, technology and resources around the world, with the aim of transferring these to other countries in need of them, in order to achieve the sustainable development outcomes. The IsDB has a presence in numerous parts of the world and can therefore play an important role in transferring knowledge across different regions, such as from Asia to Africa or across Arab States. It is also one of the technical partners supporting the development of this report, as detailed later.

27   African Union, Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, 21 March 2018
28   Ibid. Member States Experts Meet on the Guidelines for the Design, Production and Issuance of African Passport, 09 July 2018
29   https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/30876-doc-executive_council_decision_500_-_july_2009_engl.pdf
30   https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20180327/african-union-executive-council-adopts-african-common-position-negotiations
31   The BRICS grouping, for example, makes up around 40 percent of the world's population and has a combined gross domestic product of roughly US$16 billion, thereby representing a significant portion of the world. See https://www.statista.com/statistics/254281/gdp-of-the-bric-countries/
32   China now has the largest population in the world at 1.42 billion, with India in second place at 1.28 billion, and both are growing rapidly. See World Population Review, 2018, http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/china-population/
33   https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/regional-integration/brief/belt-and-road-initiative
34   http://www.acp.int/content/acp-group-and-un-join-forces-advance-south-south-cooperation
35   http://www.acp.int/content/opening-acp-information-centre-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation-malabo-equatorial-guin
36   "Trilateral cooperation" is the term used by Brazil as it implies a horizontal exchange, rather than an unequal distribution of power. See https://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/WP1492-Report.pdf
37   https://www.unsouthsouth.org/2018/04/19/india-intensifies-development-cooperation-with-commonwealth-countries-through-a-us50-million-dedicated-commonwealth-window-to-the-india-un-development-partnership-fund/
38   http://www.au-pida.org/presidential-infrastructure-champion-initiative-pici/
39   https://www.somosiberoamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/IsDB_Reverse-Linkage_2018.pdf

Other IFIs also support SSC in Africa, such as the African Development Bank (AfDB), which was established in 1964. The AfDB now comprises 54 African countries and 26 non-African countries and aims to promote sustainable economic growth in Africa. It has a South-South Cooperation Trust Fund for developing partnerships and knowledge-sharing between middle-income countries (MICs) and least developed countries (LDCs), which was signed by the Government of Brazil and the AfDB board of directors in 2011.[40]

Further, the African Export-Import Bank (the "Bank") was established in Abuja, Nigeria in October 1993 by African Governments and African private and institutional investors, as well as non-African financial institutions and private investors for the purpose of financing, promoting and expanding intra-African and extra-African trade. The Bank was established under the twin constitutive instruments of an agreement signed by member states and multilateral organizations, which confers on the Bank the status of an international multilateral organization, and a charter governing its corporate structure and operations, signed by all shareholders. The authorized share capital of the Bank is US$5 billion. Headquartered in Cairo, Egypt, the Bank commenced operations on 30 September 1994, following the signing of a Headquarters Agreement with the host Government in August 1994. It has branch offices in Harare, Abuja, Abidjan and Nairobi.

VI. SSC at the national level

As previously mentioned, Agenda 2063 encourages member states to adopt their own national strategies and targets for achieving it. Countries are undergoing the process of domesticating both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, and are developing road maps and focal points in this regard. In a similar vein, African countries have also realized the importance of targeted SSC strategies, and the need to set up specific institutions, mechanisms and frameworks that can promote this agenda. At a higher level, there have been efforts to generate support for SSC. For example, Kenya hosted the 2009 High-level United Nations Conference on SSC. Uganda is currently President of the High-level Committee on SSC and has volunteered to report on it at BAPA+40.

Strengthening national capacities was an important focus of the BAPA document, which addressed the need to develop key mechanisms, legislative arrangements and institutions that could facilitate an SSC ecosystem. Member States agreed to determine their own priorities, strengthen their own capacities, share technologies and ensure self-reliance. By doing so, they could strengthen their visibility and their ability to jointly address issues. Such efforts were intended to be complemented by enhanced communication on the activities being undertaken. By institutionalizing SSC mechanisms, Member States could finally begin to challenge the dominant world order.[41] BAPA outlined commitments for developing national programming, mechanisms, institutions and information systems as well as the adoption of policies favourable to SSC. Furthermore, it emphasized the role that

research centres and science and technology could play in driving the SSC agenda.

Since then, there has been an increase in the number of countries formalizing and institutionalizing SSC, many of which are African. Some countries have proactively incorporated SSC into their ways of doing business, while others continue to face human and financial resource constraints. These constraints mean that SSC engagements are not fully captured, or coordinated, thereby undermining their effectiveness. As a result of differing capacities, a variety of institutional models have been developed to reflect the needs and capabilities of different countries. These models have different structures, ranging from specific agencies dedicated to SSC and national SSC focal point platforms to co-location within the Ministries of Foreign Affairs or Ministries of Planning and Economics.[42] Understanding these different models allows for a more systematic approach to designing, coordinating and implementing African approaches to SSC.

In many cases, progress has been made in developing SSC regulatory frameworks, appointing specialized personnel and dedicating financial resources. Progress has also been made in establishing monitoring and evaluation systems, based on countries' interpretations of SSC. However, there is still variation—some countries approach SSC with a technical understanding, while others aim to consider wider aspects of development. The next section focuses specifically on African efforts at the country level.

VII. Promoting Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals through SSC at the country level in Africa

At a technical level, rather than reinventing the wheel, the dominant idea in Africa has been to locate units within existing structures and ensure linkages with systems for monitoring the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. BAPA makes provisions for enhancing the institutional framework of SSC, as well as the enabling environment needed to achieve this. It is now recognized that institutionalizing SSC requires the creation of an ecosystem. Cognizant of moving beyond linear thinking and recognizing the multifaceted nature of SSC, an ecosystem has a series of interlinked parts and reinforcing loops, with no hierarchical order.

It is proposed that these structures should borrow from the existing work of the AU in tracking and monitoring development results in all African countries, working with the AU Commission, UNECA, UNDP, the AfDB and the RECs. Notably, the work stream that tracks and monitors the Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda results is centred around the Ministries of Finance and Planning. These are the national-level agencies responsible for national development planning, budgeting and monitoring and evaluation, including cross-sectoral linkages and collaboration.

As several countries begin to shift from being recipients of SSC to active partners, they are sharing their knowledge and

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40   https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/south-south-cooperation-trust-fund/
41   https://www.unsouthsouth.org/bapa40/documents/buenos-aires-plan-of-action/
42   http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/73/383&Lang=E

experiences with other countries. There are a number of elements that need to be enhanced to further develop the institutional and legal frameworks for SSC/TrC.

At the national level, the key elements of the SSC institutional framework are related to developing a national strategy.[43] SSC agencies/units need to develop capacities for knowledge and data management, as this would enable countries to ensure access to information on development solutions that could be of interest to others. In partnership with UNOSSC, UNDP has been helping countries identify such good practices and capturing such information through regional and global platforms, such as the SSMart and the Africa Solutions Platforms (from UNOSSC, southsouthworld.org). This partnership has sought to support countries in creating their national database of experts through the WIDE Roster Centre platform. UNDP has also been working extensively with AUDA-NEPAD to promote a pan-African vision for SSC and to enhance regional integration.

The variety of different approaches used by African countries to institutionalize SSC is reflected in the following section.

i.   SSC as an extension of aid effectiveness

Some countries have expanded their efforts in relation to aid effectiveness to include SSC, while others maintain that SSC is fundamentally different to North-South cooperation, and therefore cannot be linked to such engagements. The OECD Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC) was created to evaluate the effectiveness of development cooperation and is primarily a tool used by Northern governments to evaluate their engagements.[44] It is based on official development assistance (ODA), which some Southern governments claim cannot be equated to SSC, since the latter is broader. ODA only refers to assistance in monetary terms; it does not include elements such as person-to-person exchanges, loans and technology transfers.[45] OECD/DAC membership is primarily made up of providers of aid, whereas African countries such as Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa see themselves as development partners—both recipients and providers of assistance.

Madagascar is one country that has located its SSC structure within its aid effectiveness structures. The Permanent Secretariat for Aid Coordination (Secretariat Technique Permanent Pour La Coordination De L'aide—STPCA) manages the national aid database, which is the only source of data on ODA. This is known as AMP-Madagascar (Aid Management Platform) and is accessible online and open to the general public.[46] SSC has been added as a separate field of data to be collected. The STPCA is the facilitator of the Joint Development Coordination Mechanism and the secretary of the Strategic Dialogue Group (Groupe de Dialogue Stratégique—GDS). This platform has two-way engagement with sectoral and thematic platforms, gives advice to the Presidency, engages with the national platform that coordinates government actions and also feeds into its

United Nations engagements.[47] Madagascar also produces annual reports. Elsewhere, Lesotho is developing its SSC unit under the Ministry of Development Planning (Department of Aid Coordination). Djibouti has also established an aid coordination mechanism (ACM) within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, in close coordination with the Ministry of Economy and Finance.

ii.   SSC agencies

Some countries have stand-alone agencies that deal specifically with SSC, rather than units located within a government ministry. These agencies are often seen in countries that have more resources to dedicate to SSC and work in collaboration with different government ministries. South Africa has contemplated setting up the South African Development Partnership Agency (SADPA), which could house all knowledge and expertise on its SSC engagements. However, SADPA has yet to be set up and currently, the country's SSC engagements are carried out by the African Renaissance Fund, which is housed in the Ministry of Finance.[48] The Treasury continues to manage donor funds received by South Africa, but sees SSC as different to these engagements, as it places a premium on technical exchanges and assistance rather than financial transactions. Due to the need to coordinate the scope of South Africa's SSC activities that take place across government departments, the aim has been to establish an agency within the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) that can promote South Africa's national interests.

It is worth noting that in North Africa, institutionalization of SSC/TrC has progressed rapidly in a number of countries with the establishment of agencies such as the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), the Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (Agence Marocaine de Coopération Internationale—AMCI) and the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (Agence Tunisienne de Coopération Technique—ATCT). These experiences could be shared with countries in sub-Saharan Africa that wish to set up dedicated agencies.

Rwanda uses a slightly different model. The Rwanda Cooperation Initiative (RCI) is a public company that coordinates various SSC exchanges. It is attached to Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but the shareholder is the Ministry of Finance.49 It also works closely with the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB), the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. Staff for the unit were appointed in September 2018.[50]

iii. SSC units

Countries such as Botswana, Djibouti and Côte d'Ivoire have decided to place their SSC units within the Ministries of Foreign Affairs. In Côte d'Ivoire, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays a leading role in SSC, although it engages with the

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43   IsDB, Presentation on Building National Ecosystems for South-South Cooperation, 24 October 2018, Addis Ababa
44   http://journals.sfu.ca/jmde/index.php/jmde_1/article/view/167
45   http://www.oecd.org/pcd/46188961.pdf
46   http://www.stpca-primature.gov.mg/#about-1
47   http://www.stpca-primature.gov.mg/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Mecanisme_coordination_aide_NOTE-CONCEPTUELLE.pdf
48   http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:3326/unu_cpr_s_africa_dev.pdf
49   UNDP E-survey, South-South Cooperation: Country Progress, October 2018
50   http://primature.gov.rw/news-detail/article/1735.html

Ministry of African Integration, the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Ministry of Economics and Finance. The Government intends to create a unit dedicated to SSC, aimed at monitoring and evaluating all SSC engagements. This unit would be attached to the Minister's Cabinet. While there is no national strategy for SSC at present, a review of SSC best practice was completed in 2016/2017 and is pending ministerial approval. The Government has also organized a study tour to Rwanda and Spain to learn about their models for SSC and a national workshop on SSC, and has met with Heads of Diplomatic Missions and Ambassadors to brief them on SSC. It is now aiming to establish an inclusive platform for consultation on SSC issues. The Ministry of Economics and Finance also has a directorate called the Committee for External Resources Mobilization (Comité de mobilisations des resources extérieures—COMOREX) that plans to enable the channelling of SSC-specific information into its computerized platform.

Other countries have located their units within their Ministries of Finance. For example, Uganda has designated the Development Cooperation and Regional Cooperation Unit within the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development. It is in the process of preparing a national report on SSC as well as developing a national SSC task force.

In Kenya, the SSC unit is under the National Treasury and Planning department, which is the state department for planning and sits under the Macroeconomic and Regional Economic Directorate. The unit coordinates all matters dealing with SSC and TrC from all ministries and departments in the country. However, Kenya is aiming to create an SSC agency by 2020.

iv. Developing an SSC strategy

Some African countries are in the process of finalizing national strategies that will provide the backbone for creating national SSC agency/units, coordination mechanisms, monitoring systems and establishing knowledge-management platforms. By developing these frameworks and mechanisms, countries can identify ways to scale up their SSC, such as carrying out training on SSC in relevant institutions, identifying specialists to facilitate activities abroad, sending technical personnel to work abroad, enhancing cooperation among different organizations and granting fellowships/apprenticeships for international students from other countries.

Many countries on the continent have been developing SSC strategies aligned with their national development plans, including Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Lesotho and Uganda. The Government of Ethiopia, for example, aims to use SSC to achieve its long-term vision of reaching middle-income status by 2025. This is based on its Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II). Kenya has mainstreamed SSC into its Medium-Term Plan (2018–2022) and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (2019/20–2021/22). It will be drawing up a draft road map for developing a policy and an institutional and legal framework to promote SSC/TrC. Djibouti has finalized strategic documents such as its

Vision 2035, the National Framework for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as a document pertaining to the establishment of the ACM. In Somalia, the international community has been working with the Federal Government of Somalia to build partnerships that support the National Development Plan, while the Government has been collaborating with UNDP to develop a South-South action plan.

v. Developing a system of focal points

Moving beyond a strategy to implementation requires the creation of a national network of SSC focal points. SSC is multisectoral and requires proper coordination at the national level, while ensuring that it is effectively mainstreamed within the diverse range of government ministries and sectors.

This is being done successfully in many parts of the African continent. Ethiopia has established a four-member ad hoc committee within the Ministry of Finance and Economic Cooperation, which conducts periodic meetings to discuss data collection. It has communicated with 27 ministerial offices and the chamber of commerce (an umbrella organization of more than 500 private sector organizations in the country) to assign data-collection tasks, but has not yet been able to engage civil society.[51] Ethiopia's engagement also reflects the multisectoral nature of SSC—something that other countries have also grappled with. For example, Sudan is in the process of establishing a national-level coordinating board, based on an action plan, comprehensive report and terms of reference that are currently being developed. Kenya has also made significant progress in developing a system of focal points. In 2007, a South-South Technical Standing Committee was formed from 15 ministries and agencies. This grew to 17 members in 2009. The standing committee developed a scoping study that attempted to identify gaps in SSC and umbrella organizations/institutions in Kenya with potential to fulfil the role of South-South focal points. By September 2018, the standing committee had been reconstituted and relaunched with a membership of 40 institutions. Officers in the planning department have been trained in SSC and there are plans to build capacity further among technical committee members as well as a local database on best practices and solutions.

Botswana's strategy, which is currently being passed through Parliament, makes provisions for the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation (MIAC) to be the primary coordinating agency for SSC/TrC. To give political weight to Botswana's SSC/TrC engagements, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation will be the primary focal point.

However, the strategy provides for a secretariat composed of members of the Interministerial Committee on Treaties, Conventions and Protocols (IMCOTCP) to advise on SSC. The IMCOTCP is made up of all government ministries and independent departments to reflect the crosscutting and wide-ranging nature of SSC. The strategy also proposes that a representative from civil society, business and academia

51   South-South Cooperation First Report: Data Collection Process in Ethiopia, Presentation on 24 October 2018, Addis Ababa

respectively be appointed to the IMCOTCP. Furthermore, it proposes that a secretary within the MIAC's Department of Public Relations, Research and Information be appointed to support administrative functions. The strategy allows for engagement with other existing structures. For example, the National Strategy Office ensures that national priorities are achieved and that development plans are coordinated. There are also sectoral government ministries that have signed memoranda of understanding with other countries and that carry out sectoral focused SSC/TrC activities. Statistics Botswana has developed indicators for national priorities and has aligned these with Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. In addition, the strategy provides for engagement with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, which also manages the National Steering Committee (NSC) for the SDGs and the Development Partners Forum (DPF). The IMCOTCP also monitors updates from the Joint Permanent Commissions for Cooperation (JPCCs), from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the AU, the United Nations, the ACP and the Commonwealth. Diagram 1 illustrates the variety of actors that will engage in SSC, as per Botswana's strategy.[52]

Figure 1: Engagement of Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation SSC/TrC officer with other governmental and regional structures
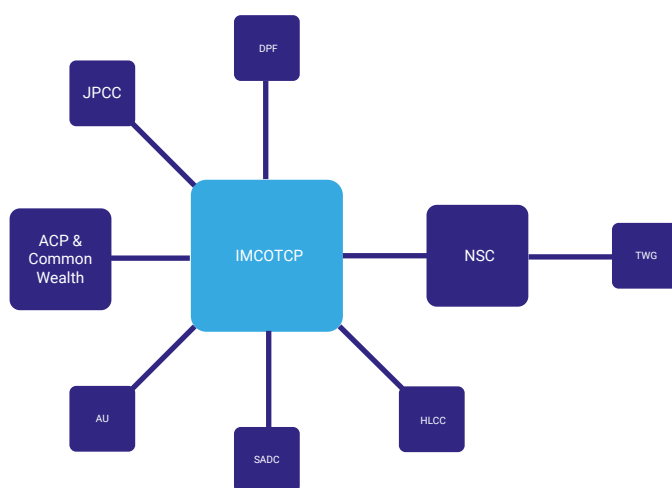
It should also be noted that UNDP is working to establish an interministerial coordination mechanism that is anchored in relevant SDGs platforms. The aim of this mechanism is to promote the alignment of SSC with national priorities and technical needs, and to mainstream SSC across these engagements.

vi. Measuring and accounting

In order to monitor the effectiveness of SSC and how this contributes to achieving national development plans, as well as the SDGs, tracking systems that are guided by SSC principles and that look at the process-related elements of SSC partnerships need to be put in place. The efforts previously described reveal significant progress by African countries

in developing their own national planning systems for SSC. However, given that fully-fledged units will require funding, which entails allocating finances from annual budgets, this is still a work in progress. In addition, performance measures are premature. As the data-collection process develops, countries will become more empowered to collect data on performance measures.

vii. Identifying research centres

As noted by BAPA, there is a need to create national research and training centres with a multinational scope in order to create an SSC ecosystem. These centres would provide opportunities to share expertise with others and would have the mandate and capacity to do so. In this regard, the IsDB is mapping resource centres in an effort to identify concrete and transferrable solutions. It has already finalized mapping exercises in Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan and Turkey. It also initiated a mapping exercise in Tunisia and Malaysia, and is aiming to expand this, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

VIII.   Conclusion

Since the outcome of BAPA, much has changed in the SSC arena, including the growth and promotion of Africa's own strategies and frameworks. The development of AUDA-NEPAD is a case in point. Globally, the United Nations has mainstreamed SSC in its agendas and it is a focus of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The rise of new groupings and IFIs, and their engagement with African countries, has also altered the SSC landscape by presenting challenges to the global order and providing alternative sources of funding for developing countries.

The primary focus of BAPA was on national self-reliance and sustainability. In this regard, Africa is well on the way to establishing its own ecosystem for SSC. From the preceding sections, it is clear that a number of countries have developed SSC strategies, identified SSC focal points and even set up their own units and agencies. Rather than establishing new mechanisms, these feed into existing mechanisms that focus on national priorities and the attainment of the SDGs. At a regional level, there have also been efforts to establish regional reporting systems that link to continental and regional agendas such as Agenda 2063. This report is one such effort.

However, enhancing SSC requires identifying the bottlenecks that hinder its progress. The next chapter showcases the data provided by African Governments on their SSC engagements and provides details on potential solutions for upscaling. By demonstrating these new and innovative means of achieving development priorities, these solutions can be transferred to countries that are undergoing similar transformations. In the process of doing so, inter- and intraregional dialogue can be enhanced, thereby allowing for meaningful reflection on where and how Africa can be the master of its own destiny.

52   Republic of Botswana, Botswana's South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy, Draft

CHAPTER 2

Overview of South-South Cooperation initiatives in Africa

I. Introduction: Establishing an African regional reporting system for SSC partnerships

As seen in chapter 1, African countries have made significant progress on institutionalizing SSC. With the development of national SSC systems and strategies, these countries have also recognized the value of establishing a regional reporting system on SSC. In November 2016, African countries, together with NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa and with the technical support of the SEGIB, agreed to undertake an SSC reporting-related initiative. The aim was to feed into the key pillars of BAPA+40, including the pillar on strengthening the institutional framework for the promotion of SSC and TrC at both the country and regional levels. The participating African countries agreed on basic common concepts as to what would constitute SSC activities, including a template for initial data collection.

Representatives gathered again in April 2018, with the support of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, AUC, UNDP Regional Service Centre in Africa, the SEGIB and the IsDB, to formalize the reporting process and launch the SSC reporting discussions. Countries agreed on an updated and simpler template for reporting, the creation of this African SSC report and its contents, and a timeline for the process. In October 2018, countries met again for a mid-term reporting discussion, where they shared experiences on the process of data collection on SSC and agreed collectively on common solutions and a way forward ahead of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40).

In the lead-up to BAPA+40, UNDP created a survey to assess countries' key challenges in gathering data on SSC. A lack of information and a lack of coordination structures were mentioned as major challenges by a number of countries, followed by a lack of understanding on the definition of "South-South Cooperation". A lack of time and engagement also hindered these efforts, while fragmented data were also seen as a challenge.

During these different gatherings in preparation for this African SSC report, African countries said that they saw many benefits to reporting on SSC at the national and regional levels.

Reporting on SSC can improve the means and modalities of technical and financial horizontal cooperation. Reporting on SSC was also seen as an opportunity to enable strategic partnerships and align such partnerships with national priorities through the national dialogue process that collecting such data entails. In terms of the core content of SSC, countries view SSC as building on mutually beneficial relationships, rather than imposing commitments on countries. In this regard, SSC fosters a variety of models, policies, political and institutional arrangements that are more appropriate to the local context, and it goes beyond simple top-down transfers to more equal situations, creating win-win situations. The countries that volunteered to report on SSC stated that SSC also creates a sense of ownership, structured around consensus, and develops a subregional and regional identity by creating common objectives. In addition, innovative initiatives could be derived from SSC. It is also worth noting that SSC often has lower costs involved as countries develop local solutions, which they are then able to share with other similar developing countries.

Prior to the last gathering, the leading partners conducted the aforementioned UNDP survey among the countries that volunteered to report on SSC to capture the knowledge and essential insights of the drivers of this reporting agenda in Africa. By October 2018, eight African countries had responded to the survey, namely Botswana, Djibouti, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, South Africa, Sudan and Uganda, followed later by Rwanda. The results of the E-survey show the continuous need for awareness-raising on SSC, and the need to strengthen multisectoral SSC networks. Despite the numerous challenges that countries have faced, a significant number of countries have submitted data to contribute to this report, which is the first of its kind. It is hoped that this initiative will continue, as countries begin to produce their own national reports and feed them into regional reports on an annual or biennial basis.

The following section analyses data on SSC, as provided in the agreed-upon template, from nine countries on the African continent: Benin, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Sudan and Uganda. The data are restricted to initiatives that were implemented during 2017 and therefore data have been cleaned to reflect these initiatives only. It should be noted that while these are not the only countries on the continent that are carrying out SSC initiatives, they are the only ones that engaged in this voluntary regional reporting initiative. It is hoped that this number will increase in the future and that this report will provide a baseline for further reporting.[53]

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53   It should also be noted that SSC reporting is not a simple endeavour, and as a result of the cross-sectoral nature of SSC, and differences in understanding the definition and in interpreting the template, some initiatives may have been missed. In particular, data on SSC initiatives carried out by civil society and the private sector could be lacking. In some cases, data are also incomplete, and data have been cleaned to reflect the information provided. The results therefore should be taken as an indication of the state of SSC on the continent from only the countries that were involved in the reporting exercise.

II. Overview of SSC data in Africa

i.   Definitional issues

As already mentioned, countries were required to submit templates on SSC initiatives. The UNOSSC definition of SSC was used: "an exchange of knowledge and resources in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental or technical domain between developing countries. It can take place on a bilateral, regional, subregional or interregional basis and can involve two or more developing countries."[54] Countries were also provided with drop-down options for the SDGs and a list of valid countries on a subsequent tab.[55] The template provided can be found in Annex 1.

ii.   Overview of findings

The data revealed that 300 initiatives were carried out by the countries surveyed in 2017. These were divided into technical and economic initiatives as follows:

Table 1: Total number of technical and economic initiatives (all countries)

	Number of initiatives
Technical	203
Economic	97
Total	300

Within the categories of economic and technical cooperation, countries were asked to specify what type of cooperation they were involved in. Figure 2 reflects the overall distribution of different types of contribution for all the countries surveyed.

Figure 2: Type of cooperation (all countries, number of initiatives)[56]
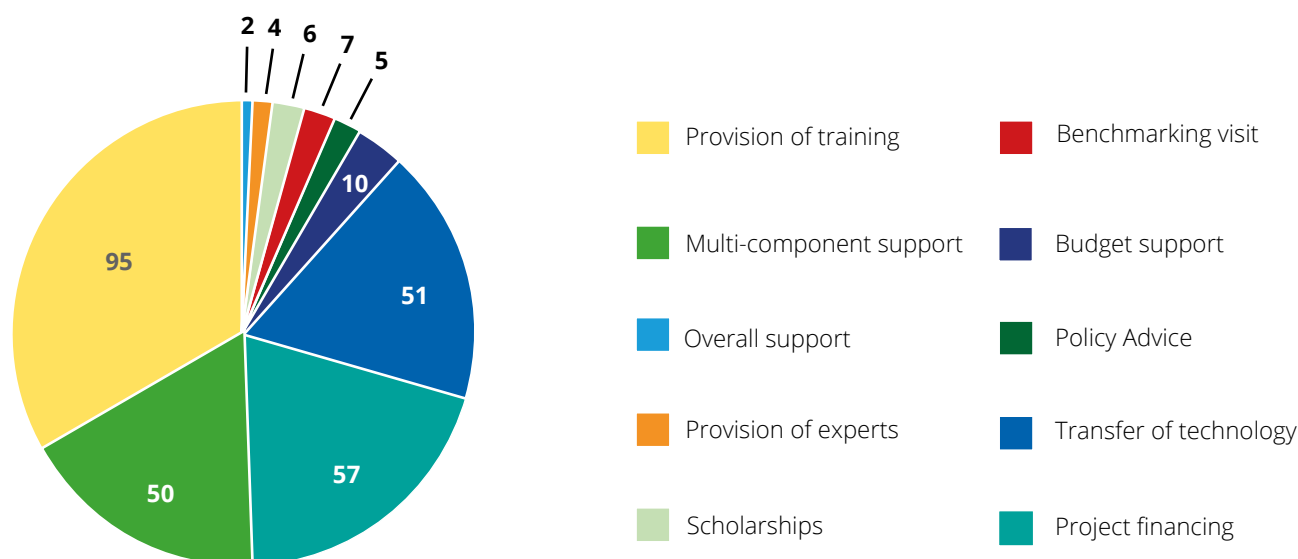
As the chart shows, the three main types of cooperation are the provision of training, transfer of technology and project financing. These are followed closely by multi-component support. The data demonstrate the importance of sharing expertise and skills in SSC, beyond providing budgetary support.

Countries were also asked to specify their partners in SSC. Table 2 shows the extent to which the countries surveyed are engaging throughout the continent and is illustrative of the fact that SSC in increasingly intra-African.

Table 2: African and non-African SSC partners

| Host country	African partners	Non-African partners
Benin	Burkina Faso, Morocco, Rwanda, Togo	Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Turkey
Botswana	Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Zimbabwe	China, India, Korea (Republic of)
Côte d'Ivoire	Morocco	China, India, Korea (Republic of)
Djibouti	-	China, Turkey
Ethiopia	Algeria, Burkina Faso, DRC, Djibouti, Ghana, Egypt, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zimbabwe	China, India, Korea (Republic of and Democratic People's Republic)), Pakistan, Qatar, Taiwan, Turkey, Vietnam, United Arab Emirates
Lesotho	Malawi, South Africa	China, United Arab Emirates
Madagascar	Comoros, Morocco	China, India, Indonesia, Thailand
Sudan	Ethiopia, Madagascar, South Africa, South Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia	Bangladesh, Brazil, India, Turkey, Pakistan
Uganda	Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia, Zimbabwe	China, India, Korea (Republic of and Democratic People's Republic, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Venezuela

Figure 3 reflects the cumulative number of initiatives per African partner (i.e. the number of times each country was mentioned in an initiative by the countries that submitted the data).

Figure 3: Cumulative number of initiatives per partner country mentioned
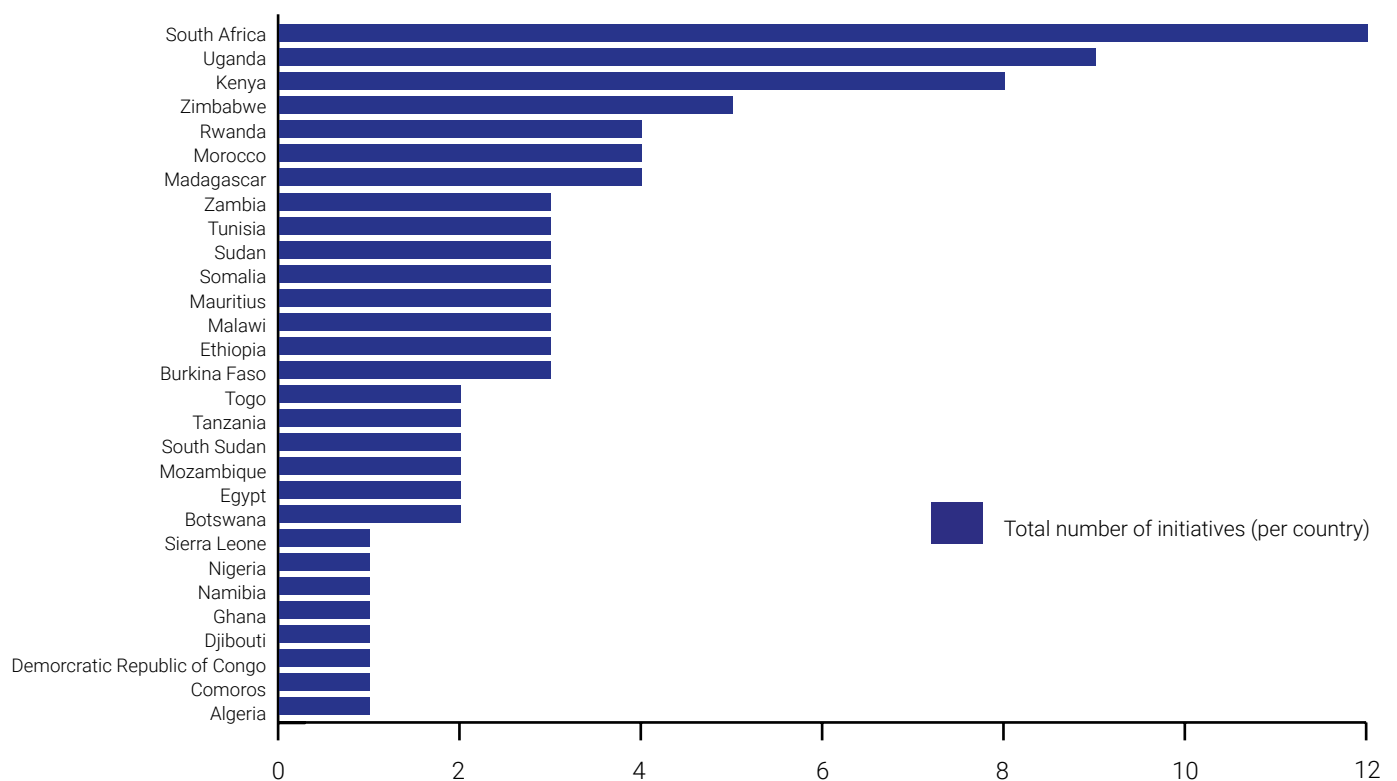
Africa's SSC initiatives are also making significant progress towards achieving the SDGs. Figure 4 shows the number of initiatives that contribute to each SDG.

Figure 4: Contribution of SSC initiatives to the SDGs[57]
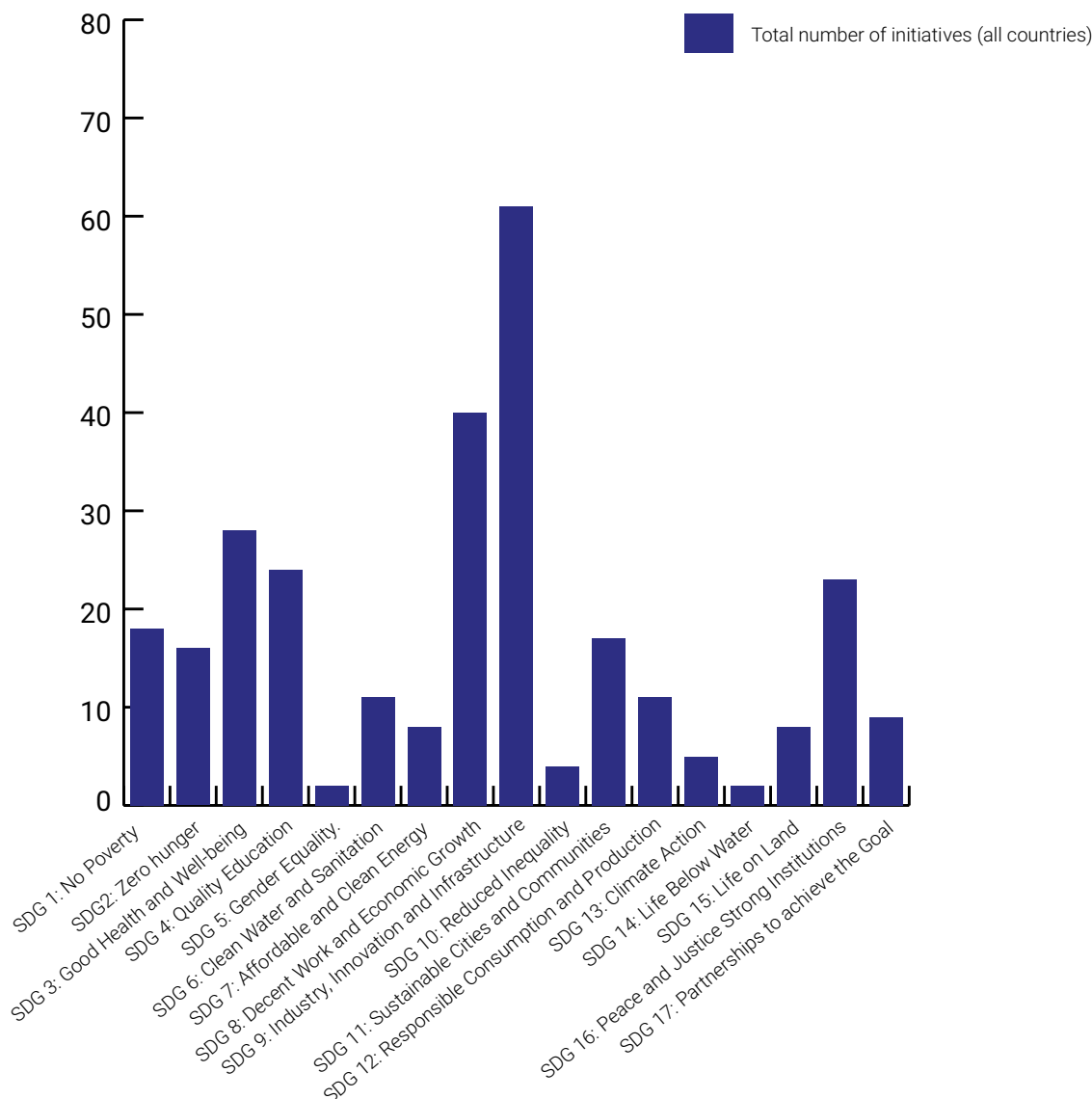
As Figure 4 shows, SSC initiatives predominantly contribute to SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure (61 initiatives), SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth (40 initiatives) and SDG 3: Good health and well-being (28 initiatives).

SSC initiatives make the smallest contribution to SDG 14: Life below water (2 initiatives), SDG 5: Gender equality (2 initiatives) and SDG 10: Reduced inequality (4 initiatives).

The next section examines some of the individual data submitted in greater detail.

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57   It should be noted that one country did not fill out the data in the template, making the total number of initiatives that contribute to the SDGs lower than the total number of initiatives from all the countries surveyed. Furthermore, some countries had selected multiple SDGs, while others had selected only one. The data were therefore cleaned to select the SDG that was most appropriate to the initiative, while recognizing that projects can contribute to more than one SDG.

III. SSC initiatives in individual African countries

This section looks at the achievements of the African countries surveyed in this report. Figure 5 shows the number of SSC initiatives undertaken per country.

Figure 5: Number of technical and economic initiatives per country

Number of technical initiatives   Number of economic initiatives   Total number of initiatives
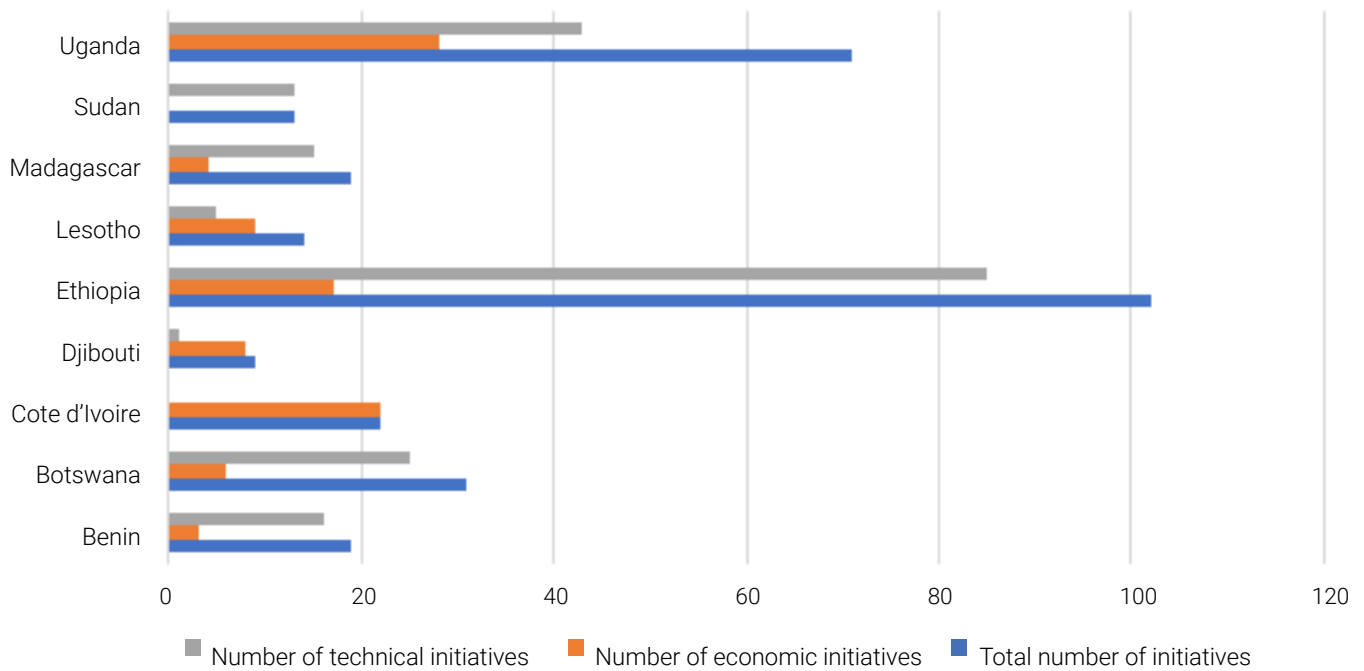
Of the countries surveyed, the top three countries in terms of carrying out SSC initiatives in 2017 were Ethiopia (102 initiatives), Uganda (71 initiatives) and Botswana (31 initiatives). These countries also carried out the largest number of technical cooperation initiatives.

The contribution of each country to each of the SDGs is also detailed in Figure 6.

UNDP Group photo - Malawi 2016

Figure 6: SSC contribution to the SDGs per country[58]

Benin   Botswana   Cote d'Ivorie   Djibouti   Ethiopia

Lesotho   Madagascar   Rwanda   Uganda   Kenya
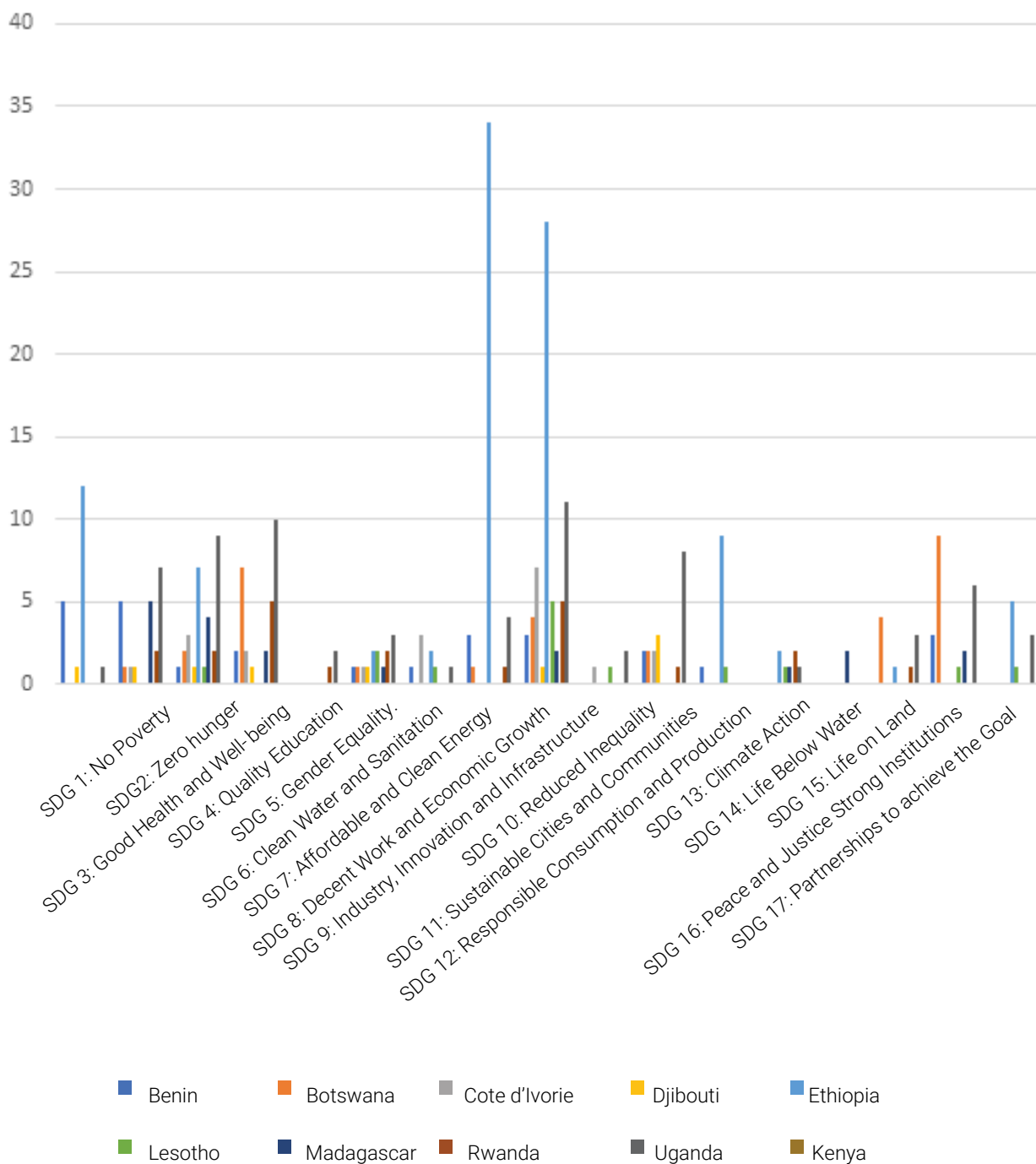
i.   Ethiopia's SSC: Main findings

According to the data, Ethiopia was the top African SSC actor in 2017 and is both a provider and recipient of SSC. The majority of its engagements are with China (47 initiatives), India (13 initiatives) and Uganda (7 initiatives). Given Ethiopia's rapid growth and industrialization, it is unsurprising that 34 of its initiatives relate to SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, while 28 relate to SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure and 12 relate to SDG 1: No poverty.

Its African partners are illustrated in Figure 7.

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58   Sudan did not provide data on SSC contributions to the SDGs.

Figure 7: Map of Ethiopia's African partners
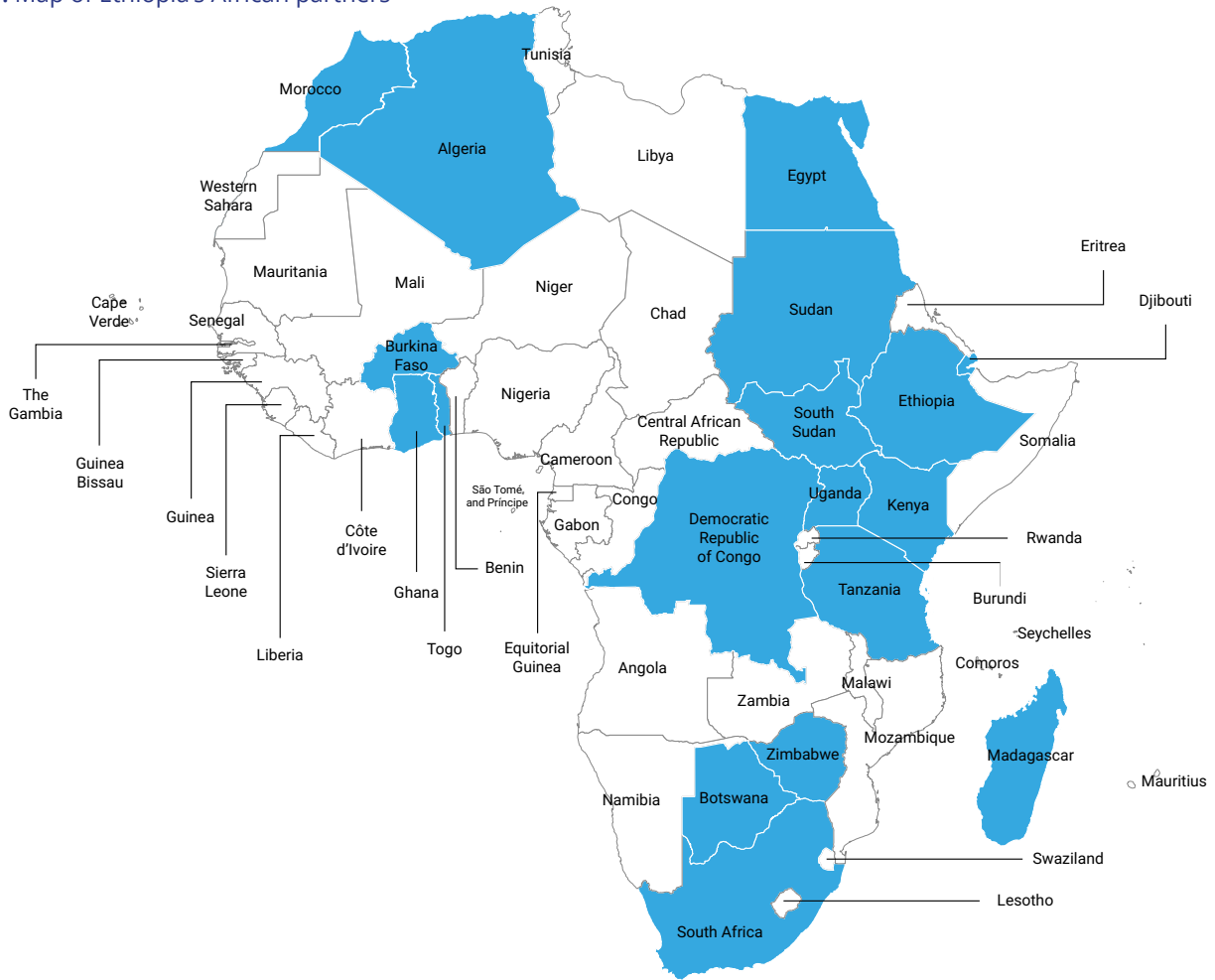
Figure 8 demonstrates how Ethiopia engages in SSC. Its dominant type of cooperation relates to the provision of training.

Figure 8: Ethiopia's main types of cooperation (number of initiatives)

Provision of experts

Benchmarking visit

Multi-component support

Project financing

Transfer of technology

Provision of training
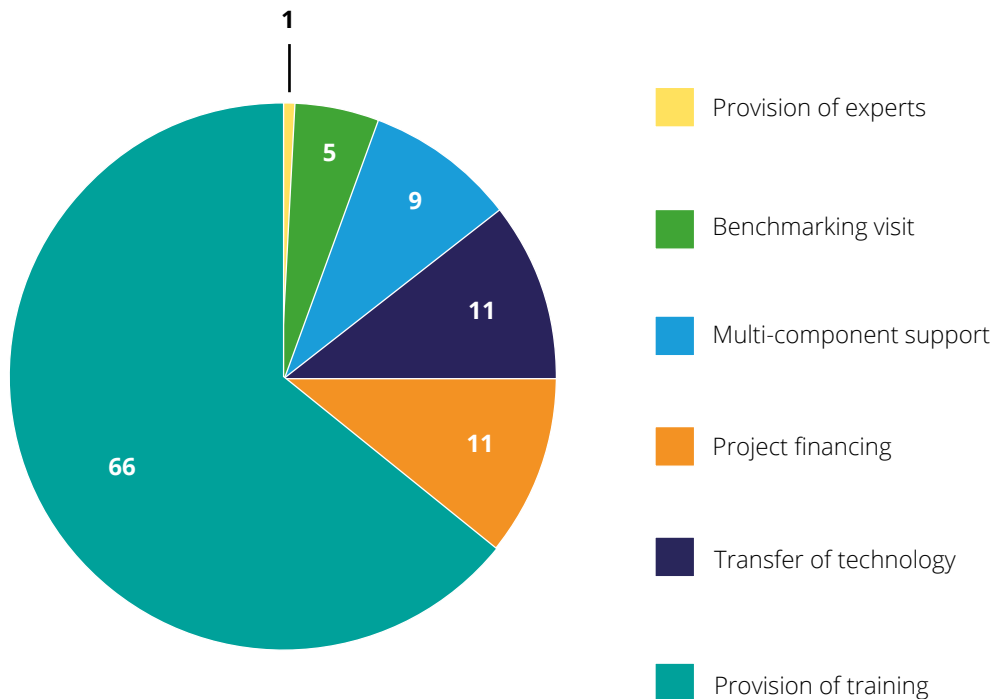
ii. Uganda's SSC: Main findings

According to the data, Uganda is the second most active African country in terms of its engagement in SSC. It is largely a receiving country for initiatives, but has also been a providing country. For example, it has engaged in the areas of peace and security under the auspices of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as well in terms of emergency health responses in the region. Uganda has engaged with a number of countries in sub-Saharan Africa, and particularly with its neighbours Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. Uganda has also engaged with Kenya to improve health care services for adolescents. According to the data, Uganda's main partners are the Republic of Korea (20 initiatives), China (13 initiatives), India (3 initiatives) and Sri Lanka (3 initiatives).

Uganda's African partners can be seen in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Map of Uganda's African partners

Figure 10: Uganda's main types of cooperation (number of initiatives)
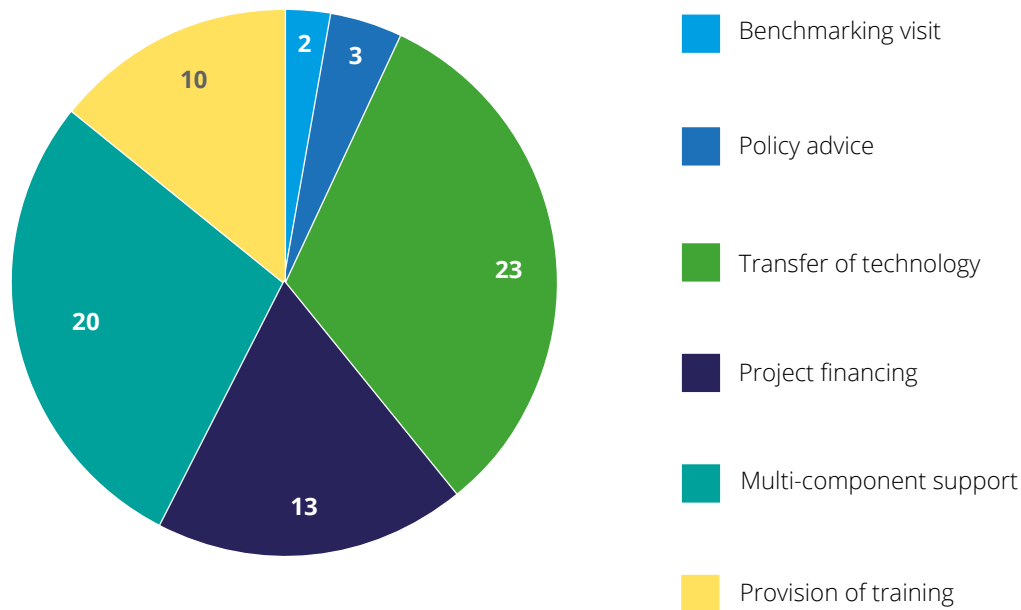
iii. Botswana's SSC: Main findings

According to the data received, Botswana is the third most active country on the African continent in terms of its engagement in SSC. Its top partners are China (9 initiatives), India (8 initiatives) and South Africa (3 initiatives). It is interesting to note that the majority of Botswana's engagements have focused on SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions, closely followed by SDG 4: Quality education, SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure and SDG 15: Life on land. All three of its engagements with South Africa have focused on the military, but it has also carried out initiatives such as benchmarking exercises between Gaborone and Maputo's city councils. As Botswana prides itself on its good governance, accountability and transparency, it is not surprising that its SSC activities frequently focus on peace and development. The findings also suggest the importance of geographical proximity in SSC.

Botswana's main types of cooperation are shown in Figure 11.

Figure 11: Botswana's main types of cooperation (number of initiatives)
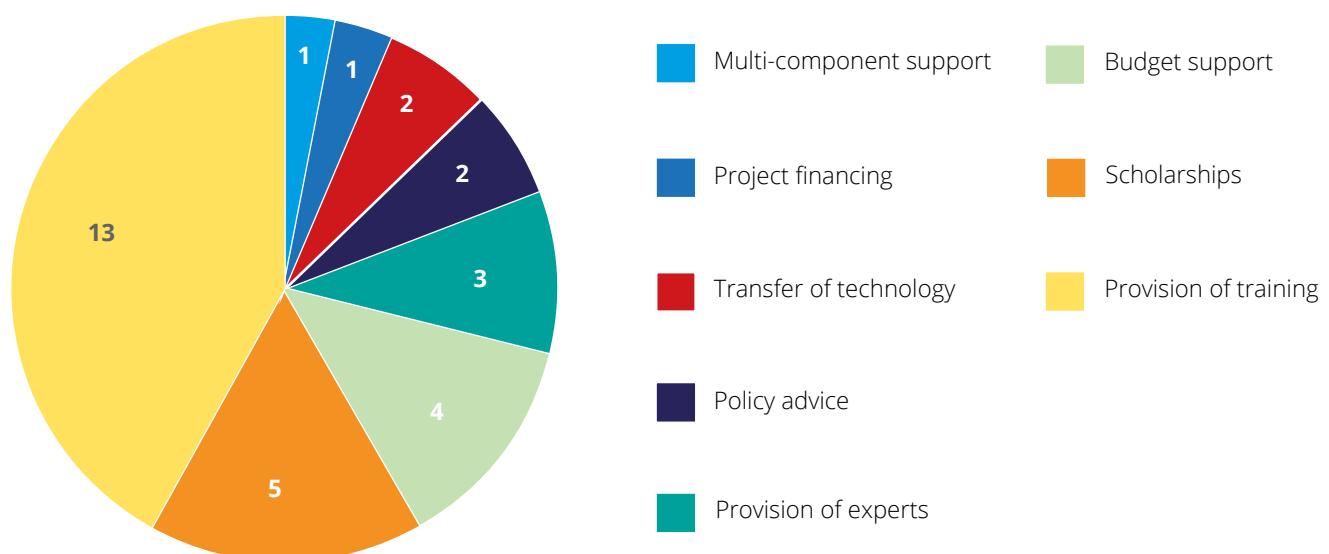
IV. Countries involved in small to medium SSC initiatives

According to the data provided, Djibouti, Sudan and Lesotho engaged in the fewest initiatives, with 9, 11 and 13 initiatives respectively. These countries were followed by Benin and Madagascar, with 19 initiatives each, and Côte d'Ivoire with 22. The data showed that each of these countries had engaged with larger emerging economies, such as China and India (often in terms of economic financing but also in some technical areas) and with other emerging economies. Turkey, for example, was mentioned in eight initiatives, ranging from supporting railway construction in Ethiopia, to building social housing in Benin, sharing agricultural experiences with Sudan, and engaging with Djibouti on a variety of matters including health, education and security.

It is also worth noting that countries have been engaged throughout the African continent. Following its re-admission into the AU in 2017, Morocco has interacted with countries such as Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia and its efforts have reached many sectors. For example, Benin has initiated a project with Morocco, whereby Morocco is sharing experiences on public administration. This includes professional training, sharing best practices, capacity-building for administrative reform and modernizing public administration. Meanwhile, Morocco has assisted Benin with public administration reform, has been providing resources for Côte d'Ivoire to build a boat disembarkation point in Grand-Lahou and has initiated collaboration with Ethiopia on water and energy resources.

In many cases, neighbouring or nearby countries have collaborated. For example, Sudan has worked with Ethiopia to share experiences on agriculture, food and water security. Lesotho and South Africa have joined forces on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project and have also shared experiences on pro-poor tourism. Meanwhile, Benin has nine agreements with Burkina Faso, namely in the fields of mediation, military exchanges, health, transport, driving licenses, international assistance, tourism, information and security.

Mombasa Port by edge.ug

Text box 1: Good practices from Rwanda's Green Villages[59]

Rwanda has partnered with UNDP and UN Environment to operationalize and scale up its concept of Green Villages through the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI). This is an effort to tackle the country's growing natural resource challenges, while also providing social and infrastructure support to some of Rwanda's poorest communities. It demonstrates how addressing poverty-related environmental priorities can also achieve national development priorities.

Key components of a Green Village include: 1) Water reservoirs that control run-off and ensure that water is available throughout the year; 2) Improved sanitation; 3) New agricultural practices such as terraces and soil-erosion-control techniques including agro-forestry; 4) One cow per family to improve health and food security and to generate income; 5) Biogas digesters; 6) Iron-roofed houses; 7) Rainwater harvesting; 8) Schools constructed close to the villages.

By 2018, donors had started supporting this model and invested in around 44 Green Villages in the country. Rwanda has also been holding regional meetings to showcase these Green Villages and to inspire others, as such villages can play a big part in climate action. This is particularly important since according to the data provided for this report, only seven initiatives primarily contributed to SDG 13: Climate action and six to SDG 15: Life on land.

Text box 2: Kenya's good practices in SSC[60]

In 2017, Cuba provided 100 Cuban medical specialists to Kenyan health facilities and built the capacities of 50 Kenyan doctors. These Cuban specialists have helped operationalize equipment in the 98 hospitals under the Medical Equipment Scheme, especially where local expertise has not been available. The Cuban training system has been adapted to meet the needs of the health system, focusing on interrelations between academic training, clinical practice and community activity. It has ultimately ensured a more equitable distribution of services to the population, where universal access rests on the key principles of health as a human right, equity and solidarity.

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59   https://reliefweb.int/report/rwanda/green-villages-rwanda
60   Kenya is known to be a significant provider of SSC, and many countries referred to it as a partner. Unfortunately, Kenya was unable to submit data on the full extent of its SSC initiatives for this report, but it did provide examples of good practices.

V. Conclusion

This chapter has provided an initial reflection on the extent to which SSC is occurring on the African continent. It has shown that SSC is steadily taking root across the 10 different countries that submitted the template for analysis and that SSC exchanges have occurred at an intra-African level, but also further afield across regions and continents. It is worth noting that, while many countries have engaged in SSC initiatives with larger economies such as China and India, there is also substantial exchange between a number of African countries, regardless of their size, and with middle-sized providers such as Turkey. In this regard, the comparative advantages of SSC include establishing a sense of ownership, structuring engagements around consensus and developing a subregional and regional identity by creating common objectives. It is clear that geographical proximity and language play a role in the shared solidarity that countries feel in their SSC engagements.

It is also interesting to note that in general, countries' contributions to the SDGs focus on SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth and SDG 3: Good health and well-being. These SDGs are in line with Agenda 2063 and its focus on innovation. However, the data suggest that there is not enough focus on initiatives that reduce inequality, promote gender equality or capitalize on the blue economy. Interestingly, 23 initiatives related to peace and development, which is a relatively new area to be considered in SSC.

It should be noted that the data, while providing an initial picture of SSC exchanges on the continent, do not reflect the full extent to which SSC is occurring, since there are ongoing differences in the understanding of the definition of SSC, incomplete data and a lack of awareness of what SSC is. The cross-sectoral nature of SSC also means that some SSC initiatives may have been missed due to a lack of coordination. However, the data illustrate what can be achieved by SSC and it is hoped that, as SSC is increasingly institutionalized in Africa, countries will begin or continue to develop national reports on SSC that provide their SSC data in full, and that good practices will increasingly be recorded and scaled up across the continent. Recording such data will increasingly allow for estimates to be made on the cost and extent of SSC and could eventually pave the way for monitoring the effectiveness of SSC.

This report aspires to be the first of many in showcasing the many gains that Africa has achieved in the field of SSC. In coming years, it is also hoped that triangular initiatives will be captured in order to scale them up across the continent. In further reporting exercises, it may be important to engage and consult SSC/TrC providers beyond those submitting the data in order to validate some of these findings and to develop strategies to enhance SSC/TrC in the future. The next chapter will examine how SSC/TrC can be strengthened through innovative means and mechanisms.

Lina Loos on unsplash.com

CHAPTER 3

Promoting pan-African partnerships: Enhancing South-South Cooperation through engagement with regional and global partners

I. Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a practical way to promote a global plan for development that aims to eradicate poverty in all of its forms as well as ensure environmental sustainability. An important element of this relates to the potential found in SSC. BAPA+40 was held in March 2019 and provided an opportunity to reflect on the gains made in SSC over the last 40 years. A key focus of BAPA will be on sharing experiences and scaling up SSC in support of the SDGs.

Despite significant progress made, there are still some knowledge gaps and administrative and financial hurdles that limit the development impact of SSC. For example, it is difficult to estimate the budget resources for SSC in the absence of clear SSC strategies and programme-budget exercises.[61] As a result, United Nations, continental and regional organizations are supporting their member states in strengthening their human and institutional capacities to develop national development policies and strategies. The United Nations has also begun to adopt a jointly planned approach to SSC and to create a system-wide strategy on SSC.[62] There are several avenues for enhancing SSC, including the promotion of policy dialogue and development, enhancing knowledge-sharing for capacity development, partnership-building and innovative financing, the promotion of regional and interregional South-South initiatives and measurement and reporting.

At a broader level, SSC is a means of challenging systemic global inequalities in the South and organizations such as the AU and RECs have recognized the importance of regional and global SSC policy dialogue to challenge the status quo. In this regard, SSC has urged governments to address these inequalities, which are linked to unfair tax regimes, tax evasion, trafficking, illegal dealings and corruption that fuel illicit financial flows in the South.

This report—the first of its kind on the continent—reflects an important development in Africa to showcase the progress achieved thus far on the continent. As chapter 1 has demonstrated, African countries have identified their SSC priorities, which will allow for more targeted and streamlined engagements. This not only relates to the way that countries formulate their own policies, but also to how they can be integrated into subregional, regional, interregional and continental agendas. Chapter 1 also reflects the growth in the institutionalization of SSC through national frameworks, strategies, mechanisms and through

the development of SSC units/agencies and SSC focal points across the Government. As countries move ahead with their efforts, there are opportunities to share these experiences and determine the most appropriate models for each context. Chapter 2 reflects the precise data of SSC initiatives undertaken by African countries participating in this report in 2017. By outlining these engagements, Africa can now begin to deepen its partnerships across the continent and beyond. Strengthening the capacity of national coordination mechanisms can improve South-South policy coordination, improve the dissemination of information and allow for a greater sharing of lessons learned and best practices.

Looking forward, there are a number of ways to enhance SSC. This report contributes to the establishment of a regional reporting system, supported by AUDA-NEPAD, UNDP and SEGIB, based on national priorities and data to establish a culture of reporting, monitoring and evaluating as stressed by the United Nations Secretary-General in his 2018 report on SSC.[63] Beyond this, the report also emphasizes the importance of South-South policy dialogues. The AU has already made substantial progress in promoting regional policy discussions on issues such as the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA), which could transform trade on the continent. There have also been efforts to develop Common African Positions (CAPs) on a number of thematic areas. It is hoped that this report will generate more regional policy discussions on SSC-related matters, specifically those related to administrative and legal arrangements on the entry, employment, obligations and privileges of SSC experts, as well as regional governance mechanisms that would drive uniformed technical standards on procurement, trade rules and fiscal and currency regimes to promote SSC and the further development of CAPs.

This chapter therefore looks at new efforts to enhance SSC, with a focus on strengthening partnerships.[64] From the outset, it should be stressed that AUDA-NEPAD has a strategic vision for SSC and therefore intends to play a scaling up SSC at the regional level. For AUDA-NEPAD, SSC represents a partnership of peers, without the hierarchies implicit in traditional technical assistance. It entails building stronger learning networks across Africa by sharing ideas and knowledge on development with each other as well as with developing countries around the world. AUDA-NEPAD underscores the growing value of South-South partnerships for Africa and emerging countries in contrast to Africa's relationship with traditional donors.

61　　　　https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_rep_2018_2_english_0.pdf
62　　　　http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/73/383&Lang=E
63　　　　http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/73/383&Lang=E
64　　　　It should be noted that the sub-sections are based on contributions from NEPAD, the IsDB, Martin Rivero and Cristina Xalma from SEGIB and UNDP.

The AUDA-NEPAD approach comes from the premise that historically, African economies were closely integrated with the former colonial powers in Europe and with North America. In recent decades however, SSC has assumed an important dimension in the relationship between Africa and the countries of the South. SSC is a multi-layered form of development cooperation with a long history, promoted through various multilateral platforms among developing countries. In practice, two distinct but equally important, mutually reinforcing cooperation flows are emerging in the form of intracontinental and intercontinental SSC. Africa recognizes SSC as an additional booster for development that complements conventional North-South development cooperation. Adequate institutionalization of SSC is vital to properly shape sound development cooperation architecture among countries of the Global South. It is imperative that Africa formalizes and fast tracks SSC to influence public policy design, which will ultimately help implement the continent's development priorities.

Recognizing the importance of enhancing Africa's vision for SSC, this chapter first looks at the successes of the Ibero-American report on SSC (that has partially inspired this report) and its data management platform, the Integrated Ibero-American Database System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SIDICSS). By outlining these achievements and recognizing Africa's advancements in the SSC arena, it suggests that there is the potential for more aligned and synergized intraregional engagements in the future.

The chapter then looks at the IsDB, which has also been enhancing SSC in innovative ways, such as through its Reverse Linkage mechanism. The IsDB is notable for its wide global reach that can enhance experience-sharing across different regions and continents. It has been working tirelessly to strengthen SSC/TrC, which is one of its key priorities. It is worth noting that the 2018 UNSG report on SSC refers to the importance of innovative approaches that highlight SSC initiatives and specifies the centres of excellence and trust funds that several countries have jointly established with various United Nations agencies to facilitate South-South exchanges in different areas.[65] To this effect, IsDB is essentially a South-South organization. This chapter will look at the IsDB Reverse Linkage mechanism in detail and then its complementing programme of resource centre mapping.

Finally, the chapter looks at TrC, which is continuing to attract attention from various global partners as a means of achieving the 2030 Agenda.[66] It is now acknowledged that TrC is closely linked to, and supportive of, SSC. It is believed to facilitate the building of trust through inclusive and horizontal partnerships that also can allow for new innovative solutions with a wide variety of stakeholders. TrC can also enable additional knowledge and expertise to be mobilized.

This growing interest has also led to efforts to better define TrC.[67] Indeed, UNDP has made significant progress in this regard. The section thus defines TrC, details its growth, provides available statistics on its prevalence and looks at general trends in Africa.

AUDA-NEPAD has a vision that can promote intra-African cooperation and change the face of regional integration. The next subsection looks at how SSC can be strengthened intraregionally, between Africa and Latin America.

II. The Report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America: Inspiring the African experience

In 2017, the SEGIB published the 10th edition of its report on South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America. One year later, in 2018, the SEGIB published a special and commemorative book, entitled "A decade of South-South Cooperation in Ibero-America".

For more than a decade, SEGIB has been accumulating experience and evidence-informed knowledge, which created the basis for a unique narrative about SSC in the Ibero-American region. In fact, SEGIB characterized, systematized and analysed SSC during this period, making it possible to identify the key tendencies of SSC in the region over the last decade.

The figures show that between 2006 and 2015, Ibero-American countries took part in around 7,375 SSC programmes, projects and actions. In terms of the modalities recognized in the reporting process, eight of every 10 such initiatives (a total of 6,071) took place under bilateral SSC, while around a thousand (969) were articulated as TrC, and the rest (333) were regional SSC. In the future, it is hoped that Africa's reporting will also begin to make such distinctions.

The analytical and explanatory capacity of the annual report cannot be separated from another major achievement over the years: the design, construction and launching of an online platform for regional SSC data with unique characteristics: the SIDICSS. This has also had a significant impact on the efforts for improving the quantity and quality of the information and gathering of SSC data.

In order to produce the report itself, the design and productive use of the SIDICSS have required the commitment and strong involvement of all Ibero-American countries, monumental role in including the civil servants in charge of statistical units and their Heads of Cooperation, as well as the SEGIB team and the Ibero-American Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation (PIFCSS). Like any other data platform, the SIDICSS makes it possible to register, store, analyse and report data. However, its added value concerns its capacity to cross-check data among countries, a process which enables the final information contained in the SIDICSS to have the greatest technical consistency and political legitimacy.

Since it became operative in September 2015, the region's countries have used this platform to register every SSC programme, project or activity in which they have participated in the corresponding year. These SSC activities have been included in the subsequent editions of the report published since 2016. Moreover, all of the data on

65   http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/73/383&Lang=E, p. 2
66   https://www.unsouthsouth.org/2017/09/11/2017-report-of-the-secretary-general-on-the-state-of-south-south-cooperation/
67   Progress Report on the Recommendations Contained in the Review of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the United Nations System (JIU/REP/2011/3) JIU/REP/2018/2
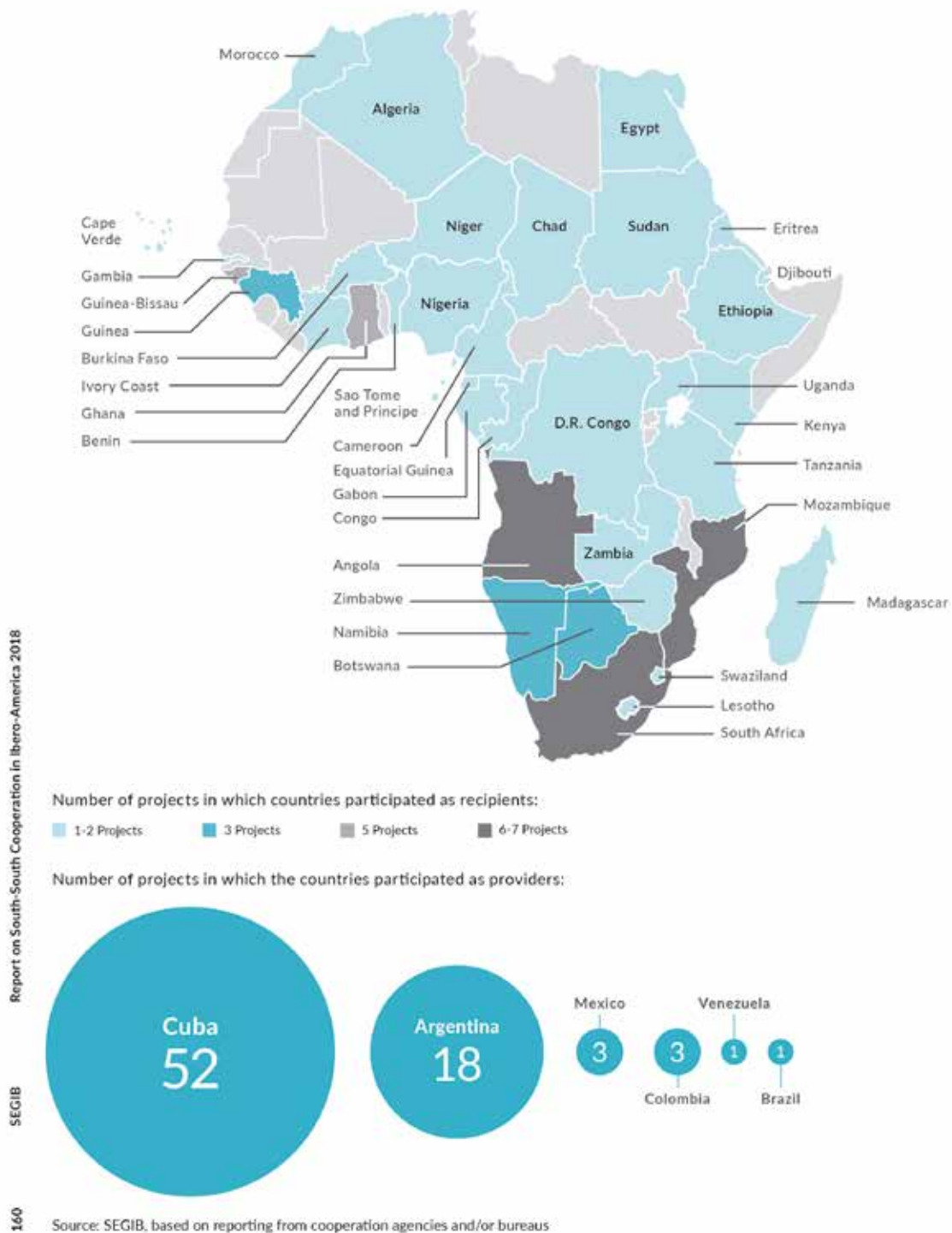
SSC initiatives included in the previous eight editions of the report have been also incorporated case by case into the system by the SEGIB expert team. As a result, SEGIB, PIFCSS and the Ibero-American countries currently have the most complete and up-to-date information system about SSC for a developing region in the world.

Using both instruments, the reports and the SIDICSS, it is possible to establish, with significant precision, the degree of SSC that has been deployed from Ibero-American countries to other regions. Over the 10-year period of reporting, Ibero-American countries took part in around 1,100 SSC actions, projects and programmes with 109 countries, located in such distant regions as the Caribbean, sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa, Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and Pacific Asia, and Oceania. In this sense, and although the most important partner was the non-Ibero-American Caribbean, data also reveal Ibero-America's active collaboration with African countries: around 125 SSC initiatives, distributed throughout Africa, especially Mozambique (37 actions, projects and programmes), Angola (25), Cape Verde, and Sao Tome and Principe (20 and 17, respectively), as well as Ghana, Kenya (around 10 each) and Algeria.

Africa in the Ibero-American's SSC. In fact, in 2016, Africa was the focus of 30 percent of Ibero-America SSC engagements with other developing regions—a significant portion of total engagements. Most of these exchanges (88 out of 91) were implemented under bilateral SSC, and in almost all of them, Africa participated as the recipient. Furthermore, and as the map shows, six Ibero-American countries shared their experience with African partners in 2016: mainly, Cuba and Argentina (68 percent and 23 percent of the bilateral SSC with this region), followed by Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela. These 77 bilateral SSC projects were widely distributed between 37 African recipient countries. In 2016, the top five recipients (accounting for 40 percent of the 77 projects implemented) were Angola and Mozambique, followed by South Africa, Ghana and Guinea-Bissau. The remaining 60 percent was distributed among 26 African countries.

Pop Zebra on unsplash.com

Figure 12: Bilateral SSC projects between Ibero-America (provider) and Africa (recipient), 2016[68]

Number of projects in which countries participated as recipients:

■ 1-2 Projects   ■ 3 Projects   ■ 5 Projects   ■ 6-7 Projects

Number of projects in which the countries participated as providers:

Cuba **52**

Argentina **18**

Mexico **3**

Venezuela **3**

Colombia **1**

Brazil **1**

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Source: SEGIB, based on reporting from cooperation agencies and/or bureaus

68   https://www.segib.org/en/ibero-american-cooperation/south-south-cooperation/ p.160

Finally, as the recent history and data evidence shows, the ties of Ibero-America and Africa regarding SSC are even stronger and richer than expected. In addition to the specific solutions for development challenges that the Ibero-American countries are willing to share with their African counterparts, regional multilateral organizations such as SEGIB have also demonstrated their openness and capacity to share their political articulations and effective technical instruments with African-based organizations to improve reporting and strengthen SSC. The current context of BAPA+40 international debate offers an ideal environment to boost common synergies among both regions and Africa is now rising to accept the challenge.

The following subsection looks at how the IsDB is also strengthening interregional partnerships using its newly defined systems.

III. Scaling up SSC/TrC: Islamic Development Bank interventions

i.   Islamic Development Bank mandate for SSC/TrC

Since its creation in 1975, the purpose of the IsDB has been to foster the human and economic development of its member countries through numerous approaches, mechanisms and modalities, including financing economic development projects and promoting cooperation among its member countries.

In this regard, the IsDB 10-year Strategic Framework, adopted in 2015, has recognized the need to enhance its role as a partner of choice in its member countries' development and in facilitating cooperation between member countries and Muslim communities in non-member countries.

In 2016, the IsDB initiated the President's Five-Year Program (P5P) which advocates for strengthening the IsDB's role as a connector. The P5P aims to transform the IsDB into a bank of developers and knowledge, by giving more prominence to channelling comprehensive and innovative development solutions from one member country to another.
As an institution that derives its operating principles from the rich traditions and heritage of its member countries—including 27 African countries—the IsDB considers SSC as the natural approach to helping its member countries advance economically. It is for this reason that the IsDB—from its very inception over four decades ago—has made promoting SSC one of its primary goals.

It has been almost 40 years since the Buenos Aires Plan of Action was adapted, which put SSC in the spotlight of socio-economic development. The IsDB sees SSC as a complementary approach to providing much-needed expertise and resources to countries in need; it is a new path to economic development that prioritizes solutions to economic challenges over funding. By identifying cooperation among countries as a way to solve barriers to development, SSC has shown that non-conditional and solidarity-based approaches can also make a significant contribution to economic development.

The IsDB, along with all other development institutions, is entering a new era underpinned by the SDGs. Developed after much consultation, the SDGs will require joint efforts in order to fulfil the persistent challenges of member countries on the ground—challenges related to poverty, access to health and education, food security, climate resilience, security and a host of other issues.

Forming effective partnerships will play a substantial role in achieving the SDGs. Therefore, in addition to traditional North-South development approaches, SSC will become increasingly important, as many of the countries of the Global South are becoming better positioned to share their experiences, expertise and resources with other Southern countries. As such, the IsDB has developed ways to enhance SSC, including its Reverse Linkage mechanism which is detailed next, and the mapping of resource centres as detailed later.

ii.   Rationale for the Islamic Development Bank Reverse Linkage mechanism

As a multilateral development institution that consists only of member countries from the South, the IsDB continues to dedicate resources to promoting SSC, especially as it embarks on a new journey to become a "Bank of Developers". This would allow IsDB to play the role of an enabler in the exchange of innovative sustainable development solutions among members countries. Since 1983, the IsDB has been implementing the Technical Cooperation Program, linking member countries together through short-term technical cooperation activities, with the overall aim of transferring capacity from one country to another.

Among the many lessons learned from its long experience implementing technical cooperation operations, the most notable can be outlined as follows:

1.   Member countries—inside and outside Africa—possess a wealth of knowledge and expertise that can be tapped to strengthen economic development; and
2.   Long-term engagements among member countries can produce more sustainable results and enduring partnerships.

The internal search within IsDB for a more enhanced SSC mechanism coincided with the development of Turkey's Member Country Partnership Strategy (MCPS) in 2010, which showed the Government's enthusiasm to share the country's knowledge, expertise, technology and resources with other developing countries. In addition, the IsDB has been well aware of the economic development successes of many of its other member countries. These successes culminated in the accumulation of significant capacity in many areas that, if properly tapped, could be transferred to help other member countries that are lagging behind.

These circumstances eventually led to the creation of the Reverse Linkage mechanism—defined as "a technical cooperation mechanism enabled by IsDB whereby member countries and Muslim communities in non-member countries exchange their knowledge, expertise, technology resources to develop their capacities and devise solutions

for their autonomous development."[69] As an enhanced approach for technical cooperation, the Reverse Linkage mechanism has been piloted since 2012, when many stand-alone projects responding to the member countries' capacity development needs were formulated, which are either completed or currently being implemented. From the lessons learned from the pilot phase, the IsDB formulated its Reverse Linkage policy that strengthens connectivity among member countries. It is currently moving into mainstreaming Reverse Linkage into its ordinary projects as a contemporary tool of development that promotes SSC.

Through Reverse Linkage, many partnerships have been built with member country institutions. These include resource centres (institutions with expertise in specific fields that are positioned to share their expertise and technology in structured development interventions) and various bilateral cooperation agencies of Azerbaijan (Azerbaijan International Development Agency—AIDA), Egypt (Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development—EAPD), Morocco (Morocco International Cooperation Agency—AMCI), Indonesia (Ministry of National Development Planning—BAPPENAS), Tunisia (Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation—ATCT) and Turkey (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency—TIKA), among others. Partnerships with the private sector as well as the third sector have also been forged. The IsDB mapping of resource centres is detailed later in this report.

In the last five years, the IsDB and its partners have supported 20 Reverse Linkage projects amounting to US$123 million, with the aim of achieving sustainable development results. A total of 21 provider and recipient member countries have participated in these projects so far and the list is continuously expanding as demand increases. Reverse Linkage projects covered a wide range of focus areas including, but not limited to, health, education, agriculture and food security, renewable energy, disaster risk management.

Some examples include the following Reverse Linkage projects between:

- Niger and Turkey on tackling avoidable blindness
- Chad and Tunisia on bilingual education
- The Gambia and Turkey on strengthening the capacity of the University of Gambia's School of Medicine and Allied Health Sciences
- Mali and Morocco on developing capacity in solar energy for rural electrification (see text box 3) and
- Côte d'Ivoire and Morocco on soil fertility mapping.

Furthermore, a US$30 million rural electrification project in Niger will see the national electricity and water company (ONEE) of Morocco help increase electricity access in the remote rural areas of Niger by 20 percent by 2021. This will involve connecting 17,500 households with a targeted population of 122,500 and providing 1,500 connections to public facilities (schools and hospital) as well as small businesses.

Text box 3: Developing capacity in solar energy for rural electrification in Mali

In 2016, the IsDB strengthened its partnership with Morocco to promote renewable energy and, in particular, rural electrification. The IsDB signed a memorandum of understanding with Morocco to promote the transfer of Moroccan expertise in the energy sector to sub-Saharan African member countries, as well as other sectors. In this context, IsDB is piloting a rural electrification project in Mali, where the IsDB facilitated the collaboration between the ONEE (the main public electricity operator in Morocco) and the Malian Rural Electrification Agency (AMADER) to jointly assess and design an innovative solar energy project in the rural areas of Mali.

The cost of this project in Mali stands at US$17 million, with the IsDB providing a US$15 million loan, while the ONEE contribution is US$460,000. A similar project is being piloted in Chad through the development of a rural electrification project at a cost of US$22.9 million. This project will capitalize on ONEE's expertise to build the capacity of the local operator SNE (the National Electricity Company of Chad) through Reverse Linkage. These pilot projects will gradually be replicated in other sub-Saharan African member countries in the same sector (renewable energy in rural areas).

Energy project implemented by Mali and Morocco

IV. Methodology: Features of Reverse Linkage

It is worth briefly discussing the main elements that constitute a Reverse Linkage project, and how the mechanism differs from other types of technical cooperation modalities and from ordinary projects.

One of the most important features of Reverse Linkage is that, as an enhanced technical cooperation mechanism, its primary purpose is to bring together at least two countries to help one another solve their development challenges through a long-term engagement. This engagement targets specific development results, rather than remaining at the activity level.

The second prominent feature of Reverse Linkage is that the development solution at the core of a project is designed through a peer-to-peer approach. This means that both the recipient and provider countries are fully engaged in the project's needs assessment and its design and implementation phases. In this way, the approach enables a best-fit solution to be created, rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all solution from the top down. During the peer-to-peer approach, the IsDB plays the role of an enabler, catalysing the process for exchanging know-how, expertise, technology and resources between member countries. The peer-to-peer approach used in project development leads to a level of ownership on the part of the provider as well as the recipient countries. The bottom-up approach involving all stakeholders ensures that all stakeholders have a say in how the solution is crafted, ensuring long-term sustainability.

The ownership element is further strengthened when all partners, including the recipient and the provider, not only share their know-how and expertise but also contribute financially to the project, as the IsDB provides only a portion of the funding needed.

These core features create an environment that benefits all parties: the recipient acquires new knowledge and expertise that it can incorporate into its socio-economic development process; the provider enhances it position through international exposure, expands its network of developers and partners, and opens up new markets of opportunity; and the IsDB and its development partners are able to achieve their overall goal of supporting the development of member countries through an innovative and less-costly partnership model.

The Reverse Linkage mechanism has allowed the IsDB to build a wide variety of partnerships, including with resource centres.

i. Mapping of Islamic Development Bank member countries' resource centres: Rationale

Collecting, validating and sharing information about providers of development solutions (which IsDB refers to as resource centres) from within the member countries is of paramount importance. Resource centres are institutions that have accumulated knowledge and expertise and developed reliable, adaptable solutions and technologies that can be shared with other countries. These centres belong to the public, private or non-governmental spheres. They work in one or more IsDB priority sectors such as, but not limited to, health, agriculture, energy, education, transportation and Information & Communication Technologies. If their profiles are widely shared, these resource centres can play a vital role in promoting Reverse Linkage mechanisms.

Through its network and partnerships, the IsDB has cooperated with many resource centres in its member countries and benefited from the wealth of valuable knowledge and deep expertise they have in their respective sectors. The features of these centres vary from one country to another in terms of their size, number of years' experience, range of activities, international collaboration, exposure, etc.

While this diversity can be advantageous, it poses some challenges in terms of classification. Until the IsDB introduced a mapping methodology, there was not a standardized and sustained process for identifying these resource centres. A comprehensive repository of their profiles did not exist. Therefore, the knowledge and expertise of the majority of resource centres were not recorded and accessible, making them underutilized, particularly outside their home countries. In addition, the geo-mapping initiatives (online mapping platforms) of the development organizations usually focused on sharing project-related data, and did not necessarily contain in-depth data on development institutions such as resource centres.

ii. Methodology for mapping resource centres

Within the framework of its Reverse Linkage mechanism, the IsDB recognized the value of identifying resource centres in order to match seekers and providers of knowledge across member countries through a robust process backed-up by reliable data. Therefore, the IsDB launched an integrated programme to map resource centres, along with a methodology to select them consistently.

The IsDB and Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) jointly developed the mapping methodology as follows:

- Choosing the areas of the country's comparative advantage (the areas where the county competes strongly at the international level)
- Identifying a long list of candidate resource centres through desk research and contacting relevant authorities in the country
- Collecting specific data from the candidate resource centres through a comprehensive questionnaire covering data such as specialties, activities, human resources, organization structure, facilities, achievements and their indicators, awards and international cooperation
- Conducting an independent assessment that uses a specific scoring scheme to assess the data collected and shortlist the top performers
- Preparing concise profiles of short-listed resource centres and
- Publishing the resource centres' profiles. Each profile includes information on the resource centres areas of intervention/sector, its human resources, its principal activities, its areas of expertise, achievements and international cooperation, along with its contact details.

Each member country is closely involved in the mapping methodology, in order to ensure ownership and utilize the country's local knowledge. The IsDB only oversees the process that is carried out by a national institution identified in collaboration with the relevant government authority. Furthermore, in order to undertake a robust final selection of resource centres, the assessment and scoring are carried out by an independent institution.

All information collected on the resource centres is published in a country-based report and made available on a geo-mapping platform. This platform draws on the efficiency and flexibility that geographical information systems provide in terms of combining and presenting spatial and textual information. The system's key features are displaying the locations of the resource centres, filtering the resource centres by region, country or sector, displaying the basic information or complete profile of a resource centre, adding feedback on a resource centre and proposing the addition of new resource centres.

So far, the IsDB has mapped more than 129 resource centres in Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, Turkey and other member countries (see text box 4). It has also initiated resource centre mapping in Malaysia and Tunisia and aims to expand this programme, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Having analysed the profiles of the mapped resource centres, it is crucial to underline that they operate in very different circumstances. However, some of the Common success factors of resource centres are their commitment and dedication to their fields of work and their aspiration to make a meaningful contribution to their respective communities and to nurture talent.

Information acquired about the resource centres' products and services helps integrate them into new projects. More importantly, engaging a relevant resource centre in project implementation ensures that the beneficiary country will acquire advanced knowledge and latest technologies. It is worth noting that the mapping programme has already yielded early results, as some of the resource centres identified are now involved in the design or implementation of technical cooperation projects outside their home countries.

In order to maintain the quality of services that resource centres provide, the IsDB will keep the data on resource centres up-to-date and make sure deserving institutions continue to be mapped. This will involve a three-step approach:

1. Continuously updating the information on mapped resource centres through appropriate means
2. Revising thematic areas, every five years, for each mapped country in light of economic indicators and assessments as to whether the previously selected ones still represent the strongest areas of comparative advantages
3. Re-assessing the previously mapped resource centres in order to validate whether they continue to qualify for inclusion in the IsDB database of mapped resource centres.

iii. Looking to the future: Islamic Development Bank goals to enhance SSC

As the IsDB believes that, irrespective of their level of development, all 57 member countries have expertise in certain areas that can be tapped into by other member countries, its goal is to complete these mappings in all member countries. The mapping of resource centres will therefore be expanded in the future—horizontally within each country, vertically by sectors, thematically across regions, etc.—to become a full information repository on SSC.

The member countries can use the IsDB methodology to map their resource centres and share this information on the IsDB geo-mapping platform. This platform can capture other information, such as requests for assistance from a specific resource centre, joint projects, SSC actors, SSC mechanisms, etc. The mapping of those data objects, in both textual and geospatial format, will result in global information databases than can boost SSC and contribute to SDG 17.

Text box 4: Mapping resource centres in Indonesia, Pakistan and Turkey

The first resource centre mapping exercise was launched in Turkey in partnership with the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and UNOSSC. It covered the sectors of agriculture, livestock and food security; health and nutrition; technical and vocational education and training; transport and communications; and disaster and emergency management. In total, 27 Turkish resource centres were mapped.

In Indonesia, the IsDB and the Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) produced the report on "Mapping Indonesia's resource centres". The report presented the profiles of 22 resource centres in the sectors of agriculture; marine and fisheries; health and population; pharmaceutical; technical and vocational education and training; planning and budgeting; microfinance; transportation; industry; trade; and disaster risk reduction and mitigation.

In Pakistan, the IsDB and Higher Education Commission (HEC) collaborated in preparing the report on "Mapping Pakistan's resource centres". This report presented the profiles of 16 institutions in the sectors of agriculture; agro-based industries; pharmaceuticals industry; and Information and Communication Technologies.

In addition to expanding the mapping of resource centres, and the Reverse Linkage mechanism more generally, the IsDB will also look for new partnerships, especially with the private sector and the non-governmental sector, which have not been tapped into as extensively as the public sector. This will introduce new challenges, such as ensuring a

balance between development goals and private sector goals, maintaining high quality-at-entry, uncovering new forms of funding through currently untapped donors and, last but not least, ensuring that all projects consider the SDGs. As the IsDB repositions itself within the community of development institutions by adapting to changing circumstances both internally and externally, taking advantage of its vast network of member countries (along with all the institutions within them) will be critically important. This is already well articulated in the 10-Year Strategy of the IsDB and the President's 5-Year Program (P5P), which envisions the IsDB becoming a "Bank for Developers". Reverse Linkage is a new mechanism that allows the IsDB to play the role of an enabler by using its knowledge of the member countries to identify needs as well as potential providers of development solutions, and by establishing and sustaining links so that transformative and sustainable change in economic development can be achieved.

The connections that the IsDB builds among member countries will certainly assist in achieving not only SDG 17, but also in making a positive contribution to achieving all the other SDGs.

The following section now looks at ways of scaling up SSC through other partnerships, namely through TrC.

V. Scaling up SSC through triangular cooperation: Broadening partnerships

i. What is triangular cooperation? Definition and framework

Triangular cooperation (TrC) is not always defined as such, with the literature often using expressions such as "trilateral cooperation", "trilateral assistance", "tripartite cooperation" or "tripartite agreement" to express the same concept. For the purpose of this work and to enable further uniform reporting on the subject, this section will use the definition of the outcome of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation that took place in Nairobi in 2009. The Nairobi outcome document defines TrC as: "support provided by developed countries, international organizations and civil society to developing countries, upon their request, in improving their expertise and national capacities through triangular cooperation mechanisms, including direct support or cost-sharing arrangements, joint research and development projects, third-country training programmes and support for South-South centres, as well as by providing the necessary knowledge, experience and resources, so as to assist other developing countries, in accordance with their national development priorities and strategies."[70] It is essential to highlight that TrC, as defined here, implies partnerships that have development purposes. Several

high-level meetings on development cooperation, including the aforementioned High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation of 2009 and the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness of 2011 in Busan, Korea, have recognized the importance of TrC as an important mechanism to support sustainable development in its three dimensions—economic, social and environmental. Through the implementation of its principles,[71] TrC can support the achievement of the SDGs,[72] especially when targeting SDG 17 (Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing a global partnership for sustainable development). More specifically, the 2030 Agenda mentions TrC as a way to "enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism" (17.6). It recognizes TrC as a way to "enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals" (17.9).

Furthermore, TrC is consider an important mechanism for financing development. For example, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development highlights the importance of committing "to strengthening triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation".[73] Meanwhile, the work of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) has identified TrC as an essential means of enhancing development effectiveness. This led to GPEDC launching a Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation at its High-level Meeting of 2016.[74] This multi-stakeholder initiative is integrated by different partners including Canada, Japan, Mexico, UNOSSC, the IsDB and the OECD.

Moreover, TrC is an important policy and operational driver towards regional objectives. Regarding Africa, TrC has a growing role in supporting the continent to achieve its vision for development as defined in Agenda 2063, which relies on cooperation between the countries of the Global South to advance the work of the AU and its ability to engage in different multilateral approaches.[75]

It is important to realize that Africa, while traditionally engaging primarily in North-South cooperation, is increasingly engaging in SSC (bilaterally and with a variety of partners) and TrC as countries move from being recipients towards being providers of assistance. Africa's engagement with emerging economies calls for inclusive and sustainable development, especially in view of achieving global and continental development agendas.

Overall, TrC activities have been growing in recent years, which has led to a range of approaches, perspectives and complex institutional arrangements. Together with SSC, TrC can support regional economic cooperation and integration,

70   Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/64/222)
71   Principles of SSC and TrC according to the Nairobi definition: sharing experiences and common knowledge, respect for national sovereignty and national priorities, multi-stakeholder approach with mutual accountability, transparency and freedom from conditionality.
72   http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E
73   https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2051AAAA_Outcome.pdf
74   http://www.expo.unsouthsouth.org/2017-antalya/programme/side events/29-nov-d/
75   http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/agenda2063.pdf

and generate active participation of African economies in the global economy. However, while their mandates may coincide, the activities of SSC and TrC differ and must be reported separately.

More than ever, in order to respond to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda, it is necessary to mainstream TrC between all stakeholders and to strengthen data-gathering, information-sharing, reporting and monitoring and evaluation on this type of cooperation. The differences between SSC and TrC are detailed in the following section, so as to demonstrate TrC's comparative advantages.

ii. The comparatives advantages of triangular cooperation

The aforementioned Nairobi outcome document gives a broad definition of TrC that can encompass a wide range of actors and mechanisms. To have a more accurate definition, this section analyses the different roles and the main forms that this evolving modality of development cooperation can take.

TrC differs from pure SSC in that, as well as having at least two partners from the Global South,[77] there is a third partner (either from Government, a government agency, an international organization or civil society) from a developed country. This three-way partnership can help regional partnerships, especially when United Nations organizations and Southern multilateral institutions such as the AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB and the RECs are involved in triangulating relations between Africa and the rest of the world. The literature employs different labels for each of the three main roles of the TrC partnership structure, but for the purpose of this report and for future work, these roles are named as follows: the facilitator, the sharing partner and the host partner. These different roles are compared in Table 3.

Table 3: Comparison of TrC partnership roles

	Facilitator	Sharing partner	Host partner
Type of activity	Financial contributions, convening power, technical support	Technical assistance, capacity-building or training	Benefits from the training
Comparative advantage for the partner	• More outcome-oriented • Preserves SSC principles • Enables countries to join South-South initiatives • Shares costs and responsibilities • Allows countries to engage with sharing partners that have social, linguistic and cultural similarities to the host country • Learning different types of technical expertise from developing countries • Decreasing future flows of ODA by building capacity for countries from the South	• Leverages resources and expertise to have more SSC activities by sharing the costs[76] • Scales up the size and duration of cooperation initiatives • Shares experiences with countries from the North that have expertise, technology and know-how in a specific area • Has an influence on how countries from the North manage development cooperation • Strengthens overall relations with the traditional aid donors • Gains external support to foster regional integration	• Possibility of receiving international support in a more horizontal way than through North-South cooperation • Enables host partners to develop their capacities in managing their own future development projects • Offers a mix of funding that would not otherwise be available, making it possible for host partners to engage in a project with different categories of funds (public, private, loans and grants) • Enables recently graduated middle-income countries to continue receiving development cooperation from developed partners if they aren't allowed to receive ODA from DAC countries

Nevertheless, it is important to highlight that TrC is a multi-stakeholder, horizontal and evolving modality that involves innovation and co-creation, meaning that each counterpart does not necessarily have a fixed role, and this partnership can change over time. Furthermore, TrC goes beyond one-off events (meetings or workshops): it implies activities with medium- or long-term duration that are structured around a project cycle.

iii. Global trends in triangular cooperation

TrC is a modality of development cooperation that, due to its very nature, is constantly changing. Several actors are involved in producing knowledge to analyse its evolving framework. The OECD does this mainly through surveys and literature reviews, especially with the DAC (Development Assistance Committee) countries to provide evidence on how those traditional ODA providers engage in TrC.[78]

76   http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/73/383&Lang=E
77   For the purpose of this report, the Global South is defined as the group of member countries of the Group of 77 plus China. http://www.g77.org/doc/members.html
78   http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-global-relations/triangular-cooperation.htm

Regarding the United Nations, UNOSSC leads the activities on the subject, coordinating its work with UNDP, the other agencies and with Member States, mobilizing efforts and undertaking research.[79] For example, the "South-South in Action" publication series offers a platform for sharing best practices from SSC and TrC initiatives with UNOSSC partners.

The development agencies of the main practitioners of TrC are also engaged in knowledge production. For example, JICA collaborated with the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to produce a report[80] that analyses the different mechanisms that Japanese, German and the United Kingdom cooperation agencies use when implementing TrC projects. According to the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa (RSCA) Survey, Germany, through its GIZ experts, is also involved in promoting political dialogue on TrC and Portugal is engaged in encouraging international debate on the subject.[81] Since 2013, the Instituto Camões,[82] the institute responsible for Portugal's international cooperation, has organized four international meetings on the subject with the OECD. The country is also engaged in the Ibero-American Conference and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), where it plays a leading role in Europe–Africa–Latin America relations. Furthermore, multi-stakeholder partnerships and working groups focused on TrC are engaged in important work.

For example, the aforementioned Global Partnership Initiative on Effective Triangular Cooperation was created to analyse and systematize best practices and to set principles focused on making TrC implementation and programming effective. Nevertheless, despite all the work that is under way in terms of conceptual definitions and analyses of comparative advantages, there is still a lack of comprehensive understanding about the overall landscape of TrC activities.
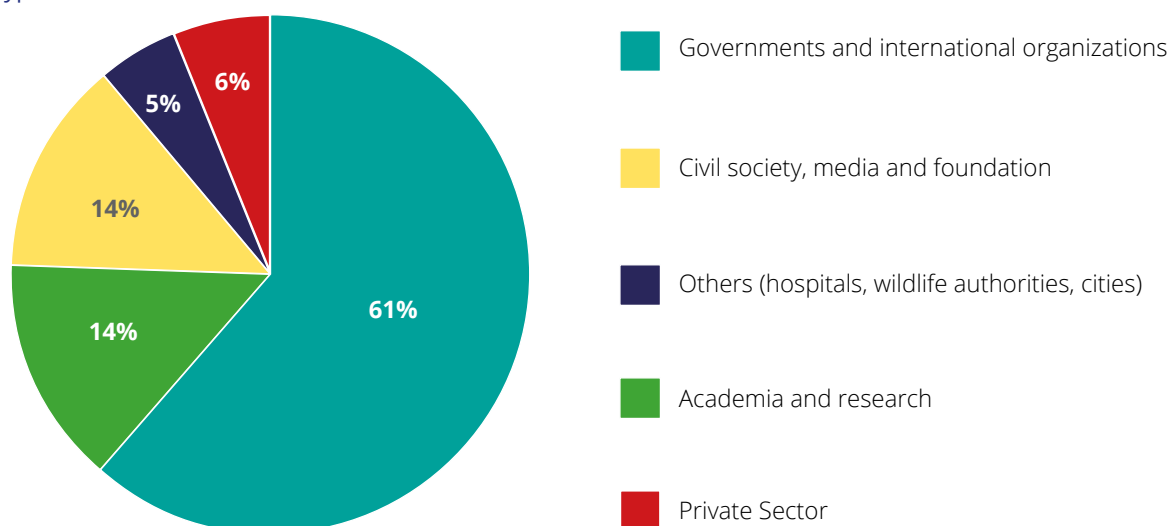
For instance, precise figures such as geographical distribution, actors involved and budget allocated are underreported. As a result, this section will rely on the few datasets that are available and will attempt to provide an overview of global TrC trends.

Firstly, it is worth noting that developing countries responded to a United Nations Development Cooperation Forum Survey in 2018, which gives an approximate idea of the scope of TrC activities in development cooperation.[84] In the survey, 64 percent of countries had provisions for SSC and TrC. Regarding the architecture for TrC, according to an OECD literature review,[85] most of the partnerships involved the sharing partner and the host partner coming from the same region.

This geographic proximity is still the case today, essentially because of the cultural and linguistic similarities countries have with their neighbours and the reduced costs this implies. However, in recent years the landscape has been evolving rapidly, with an increase in TrC projects involving developing partners from different continents, especially when we consider the activity of emerging countries. The BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa) are currently establishing partnerships with developing countries all over the world and China and Brazil are notable sharing partners in TrC projects in Africa and Latin America.

An OECD survey in 2015 revealed the types of actors involved in TrC, as shown in Figure 13.[86]

Figure 13: Types of actors involved in TrC[83]

- Governments and international organizations
- Civil society, media and foundation
- Others (hospitals, wildlife authorities, cities)
- Academia and research
- Private Sector

79   For more information, see UNOSSC report "Good practices in South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development" Part 1 and 2. https://www. unsouthsouth.org/library/publications/
80   https://www.jica.go.jp/jica-ri/publication/booksandreports/jrft3q00000029ts-att/Triangular_Cooperation_Mechanisms_1_for_web.pdf
81   UNDP RSCA's Survey on TrC, 2018
82   https://www.instituto-camoes.pt/
83   http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-global-relations/OECD_Triangular_co-operation_survey_report_2016.pdf
84   http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2018/55&Lang=E
85   Triangular Co-Operation: what's the literature telling us? The OECD Development Co-operation Directorate, 2013.
86   This survey covered 62 countries' organizations and identified over 450 TrC projects. For more information, see http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-global-relations/ Interim%20Report%20Triangular%20Co-operation%202015%20Survey%20-%20May%202016.pdf

Regarding geographical location, 55 percent of projects were implemented in Latin American and Caribbean countries, while 22 percent were in Africa and 20 percent were in the Asia Pacific. The countries most involved in TrC were Japan, which had more than 100 TrC projects, followed by Brazil and Chile, with more than 50 projects each. Norway, Spain, Guatemala, Germany, South Africa and Mexico had a portfolio of more than 20 projects. However, it is important to point out that the majority of facilitators and sharing partners do not have a regional or country-specific strategy for TrC. For some countries, including Japan, Norway, South Africa, Portugal and Tunisia, TrC activities are part of their broad development cooperation strategy.[87]

Globally, the budget allocated to TrC has been increasing, as has project duration. The results of the same OECD survey show that a large majority of the projects last between one and four years, with 38 percent of the projects lasting between one and two years and 33 percent between three and four years.[88] It was also reported that 14 percent of TrC activities had several project phases and lasted more than four years, which indicates that this modality of cooperation is becoming less sporadic and a way of building long-lasting relationships between countries. The average total budget of the reported projects was US$1.7 million, but 71 percent had less than US$1 million, and costs were shared between partners in 48 percent of the cases.[89] Lastly, the main implementation sector was Government and civil society (30 percent of the projects), followed by health and agriculture (both with 13 percent) and environmental protection (7 percent). According to the RSCA Survey, for some countries, including Germany and South Africa, the TrC activity sectors reflect the demands of the host countries and are not specifically bound to a precise policy of the sharing countries or the facilitator.[90]

There have been efforts to create an institutional framework at the national, regional and global levels to promote the 2030 Agenda. States have made systematic efforts to create institutional structures for SDG-related coordination, implementation and monitoring and are working to link these systems to SSC and TrC activities. Furthermore, a growing number of countries have either created SSC agencies or have enhanced SSC and TrC capacities within institutions that address international cooperation. Regarding international organizations and development banks, they have been working to integrate TrC into the policies and strategic frameworks of their funds.[91] UNDP and other specialized agencies are also making key efforts to build their capacity to support Member States; UNDP is working to strengthen the current policies, institutional framework and data management of TrC activities to create an enabling ecosystem at the national, regional and global levels.

At the continental level, regional and subregional organizations in Africa are beginning to take the leading role in promoting TrC on the continent through initiatives such as this report, which aims to provide data on TrC. Countries including Japan have highlighted the need for stronger regional organizations to coordinate regional initiatives and to create a supportive environment to attract new partners to invest in TrC on the African continent.[92] On the other hand, Africa wishes to promote self-sustainability through a greater focus on foreign direct investment, increased financial and technical assistance, trade liberalization, increased credit guarantee financing, and support for small and medium-scale enterprises, among other things.

Nonetheless, the work of Latin American's regional organizations is an example for other regions to follow. At the data management level, the SEGIB Ibero-American Programme has been supporting the strengthening of data management methodologies for SSC and TrC initiatives in the region.[93] At the more political level, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which serves as a forum for political dialogue and agreement among 33 countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean, is now developing a regional cooperation policy that outlines development project priorities for SSC and TrC.[94]

iv. The current state of triangular cooperation in Africa

Like South America, Africa is a fertile field for TrC. Since the BAPA, SSC and TrC have gained acceptance and have been implemented more in the region. The AU, for example, has developed a "number of continental technical institutions in line with the recommendations in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action on the pooling of resources for collective self-reliance."[95]

One of the key developments that is happening on the continent, as mentioned previously, is the transformation of NEPAD into AUDA-NEPAD. This agency intends to build on NEPAD's previous mandate to address the current challenges facing the African continent, including poverty eradication through sustainable growth and development and reducing inequality. The AUDA-NEPAD vision places an emphasis on policy reforms and increased investment in key sectors including industrialization, agriculture, human capital development, capable institutions with a focus on science, technology and innovation, infrastructure and a resilient environment. It aims to ensure that Africa is an effective participant in the global economy by focusing on diversifying its production and exports (especially in agro-industry, manufacturing, mining, mineral processing and tourism), accelerating trade among African countries and improving access for its exports to markets in more developed countries. As the developmental arm of the AU, AUDA-NEPAD will act as a continental structure for scaling

87   UNDP RSCA's Survey on TrC, 2018
88   http://www.oecd.org/dac/dac-global-relations/Interim%20Report%20Triangular%20Co-operation%202015%20Survey%20-%20May%202016.pdf
89   Of the projects for which budget information was provided by survey respondents (345 cases).
90   UNDP RSCA's Survey on TrC, 2018
91   http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/72/425/Add.2&referer=/english/&Lang=E
92   UNDP RSCA's Survey on TrC, 2018
93   https://www.segib.org/en/ibero-american-cooperation/south-south-cooperation/
94   Role of South-South cooperation and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Challenges and opportunities - Report of the Secretary-General
95   Ibid.

up SSC and TrC and enhancing regional dialogues and subsequent common positions on key focus areas.

However, monitoring and reporting of TrC projects on the continent is still underdeveloped, making it hard to gain a comprehensive overview of this type of cooperation in Africa. Despite this lack of information, to give an idea of current TrC engagements on the continent, this section will highlight some trends that are taking place in African countries.

Language proximity is one of the keys elements that foster TrC projects in Africa. As already mentioned, Brazil is an important TrC sharing country, mainly because of its engagement with Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. One example of simple TrC activity is the project Quality Education for All, between a Brazilian University (PUC-Rio) and Sao Tome and Principe with the support the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and funding from the Commonwealth. This four-year project was based on exchanging technical expertise and training on strengthening quality access to preschool education, in order to develop and roll out a national early childhood development curriculum for children aged 4 and 5 years in Sao Tome and Principe. France also has a long history of providing development aid to its ex-colonies, and this language bond between the countries leads to different partnership possibilities. This includes French-speaking countries acting not only as host partners, but also being involved as facilitators and pivotal partners. The new tripartite cooperation initiative co-organized by Morocco and the International Organization of La Francophonie and launched in 2018 is a good illustration.

TrC is also evolving in a way that fosters integration between African countries and solving common problems that affect the continent, such as security issues. A remarkable example related to assistance for sustaining peace is the Regional Initiative for Capacity Enhancement in South Sudan. This was a two-phase project, from 2010 to 2013 and then from 2013 to 2018. The sharing partners involved were the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which was responsible for establishing the project with the Government of South Sudan (host partner), and three neighbouring countries (Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda) that seconded 200 civil servants. The facilitators were Norway (responsible for funding the project) and UNDP, which provided technical, administrative and management support. This model of coaching and mentoring to build civil service capacity is a growing type of TrC activity. It shows that involving neighbouring countries in capacity development has advantages such as cultural and linguistic affinity, knowledge of local and regional conditions and a more cost-effective price for secondment.[96] Norway's Development Agency (NOREC) is an important TrC actor in Africa, as this kind of cooperation has been embedded in its broad development strategy and practice for the last 18 years, mainly through exchange of personnel within the framework of institutional cooperation.[97]

According to the findings of the UNDP RSCA Survey, the number of new partners involved in TrC in Africa is growing, including several countries that did not have a historical relationship with the continent. One such example is Chile, which has initiated TrC projects with countries such as Mozambique and Angola, via memoranda of understanding with Portugal and Brazil. These activities will tend to grow, as the current strategy of the Chile Development Agency (AGCID) highlights that a common reference agenda for Africa is been built.[98] Furthermore, small developing countries are also becoming active TrC sharing partners in Africa. An interesting example is Palestine, which still has several development challenges to overcome itself. Nevertheless, it created the Palestinian Cooperation Agency (PICA) in 2016, which has a focus on Africa in the following areas: anti-poverty programmes, membership in the alliance to fight avoidable blindness programme 2018-2022, and opportunities with the private sector. Working with international organizations such as UNDP, the IsDB and the Arab Bank in Africa, it has implemented TrC projects in several sub-Saharan countries (Mauritania, Senegal, Rwanda, Sudan and Botswana).[99] The Palestine example demonstrates that every country has comparative strengths to share and can have the dual role of being a sharing country and a host country in different TrC activities.

Lastly, African countries are taking part in bigger interregional TrC projects that have a higher budget and a longer duration. For example, the Innovative ventures and technologies for development (INVENT) project aims to support technological and business innovations to benefit the poor in low-income states of India and in other countries. Involved in the partnership are the Governments of India, the United Kingdom, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nepal and Uganda, with several national organizations supporting its implementation (Millennium Alliance; Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Sankalp; Intellectual Capital Advisory Services Pvt Ltd; Innovations Knowledge Exchange Facility, IMC Worldwide). The INVENT project is an example of TrC joint solutions for countries developing in the field of business innovation with a high budget (more than US$10 million) and long duration (2013–2023). This kind of interregional project has several positive externalities that surpass purely TrC activities: it can foster long-term cooperation between the countries from different regions for future cooperation in other fields than TrC.

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96   For more information, see: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/southsudan/library/Reports/southsudanotherdocuments/IGAD-Mid-Term-Review-FINAL-13.pdf
97   UNDP RSCA's Survey on TrC, 2018
98   https://www.agci.cl/images/centro_documentacion/RESUMEN_EJEC_POLITICA_Y_ESTRATEGIA_COOP_26nov15.pdf
99   Palestinian International Development Cooperation Strategy 2018-2022

v. The way forward for triangular cooperation

As this report has shown, TrC is a modality of development cooperation with several advantages for developing countries in Africa that is rapidly growing on the continent. The intensification and transformation of TrC have led to calls for better coordination of, coherence between and reporting on TrC activities. The regional reporting process for this First African Report on SSC was an opportunity to reflect on what African countries have already done in terms of TrC and to promote the continental priorities in global policy discussions. To improve and broaden landscape development cooperation in Africa, it will be important to include TrC activities next to SSC in future editions of this report. Nevertheless, to make this data collection possible and to encourage actors to report, the concept of TrC must be clarified. Countries then need to start mainstreaming this concept to all actors, including to non-state ones such as universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector.

Aiming to address the knowledge gap in the subject, the UNDP RSCA is producing a new report about TrC. Based on available documentation and the RSCA Survey involving developed and developing countries, facilitators and sharing partners, this report will aim to provide key information for African policymakers on opportunities for TrC, including potential sectors, geographical areas, partners and the different modalities of this innovative kind of international cooperation. In addition, AUDA-NEPAD has also identified a key focus area for Africa that can be scaled up through SSC/TrC: the linking of science, technology and innovation to poverty reduction, job creation, sustainable livelihoods and improving citizens' well-being.

Lesotho Mountains by viechfisch on pixabay.com

VI. Conclusion

This chapter has examined avenues for enhancing SSC by developing regional and global partnerships. Promoting SSC requires not only the promotion of policy dialogue and development, but also ways to enhance knowledge-sharing, partnership-building and innovative financing.

Of paramount important, this chapter has noted that through AUDA-NEPAD, Africa is committed to the development and strengthening of South-South partnerships, and intra-African partnerships in particular.

SEGIB has demonstrated the importance of reporting, not only in Ibero-America, but also for Africa. Although data collection in Africa is in its infancy, it is hoped that with time, data management systems can also be established that will enable data to be cross-checked. In addition, the measuring and reporting of such data will allow priorities and strategies to be established more easily.

Looking beyond Ibero-America, the IsDB has been working hard to enhance SSC/TrC through its Reverse Linkage mechanism, which has allowed it to build many partnerships with member country institutions. The mechanism is noteworthy for targeting specific development results, rather than being focused on programming, and for its peer-to-peer approach that has also resulted in a sense of ownership that enables a best-fit solution to be co-created. The IsDB has also developed an excellent methodology for the mapping of resource centres that are well-positioned to share their expertise and technology in structured ways. The IsDB will continue to expand this network of resource centres and will also look for new partnerships, such as with the private sector and NGOs. IsDB strategies and programmes therefore position it to be an enabler that can contribute to achieving South-South development goals.

TrC is also an important means of scaling up SSC by developing three-way partnerships that allow developed countries to engage in a more horizontal way and developing countries to access further skills and resources. International organizations have also facilitated these developments. Presently, little is known about the extent to which TrC is taking place in Africa, but the next African SSC report will aim to provide further information on TrC from the countries involved. This will, in turn, allow future priorities and partnerships to be identified in greater detail.

SSC/TrC is growing on the African continent and globally. While Africa looks towards enhancing its own regional engagements, the BAPA+40 conference also provided an opportunity for Southern countries to refine their development priorities in a global setting and to provide concrete means of achieving the SDGs. The SDGs have vowed to leave no one behind: a promise that must be put into action.

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