



GSSD EXPO 2022

UN DPPA–UNDP Joint Virtual Side Event

SOUTH–SOUTH & TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINING PEACE

Tuesday, 13 September 2022

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM (New York)

8:00 PM – 9:30 PM (Bangkok)

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM (London)

This event will showcase concrete South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) initiatives in the realm of peace and development implemented by the Global South, with the support of UN DPPA and UNDP. The event also aims to explore measures to galvanize strategic, coordinated and coherent policy and programmatic support on SSTC to increase impact of all UN activities at national, regional and global levels.

JOIN THE EVENT:

<https://undp.zoom.us/j/88928108582>



Global South-South Development Expo 2022
UNDPPA-UNDP Joint Side Event
South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace
13 September 2022, 9:00-10:30AM New York time / 8:00-9:30pm Bangkok time

(Zoom link: <https://undp.zoom.us/j/88928108582>)

Concept Note

Context

The compounded and adverse socio-economic and political impact of the COVID-19 pandemic reinforced the significance of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) for achieving national, regional and global priorities.¹ Southern countries, including LDCs and SIDS, have been some of the most affected, simultaneously at the front-lines of conflict, poverty, economic downturns and unsustainable debt, climate extremes and natural disasters.² Out of the 84 million people forcibly displaced in 2021 due to conflict, violence and human rights violations,³ 86% lived in developing countries.⁴ At a recent meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), the UN Secretary-General warned that we are facing the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945, directly affecting one quarter of the humanity living today in conflict-affected areas and causing skyrocketing food, fuel and fertilizer prices, among other things, that spell disaster for developing countries.⁵

Confronted with existing and emerging multidimensional risks, the Global South has called for enhanced UN system-wide support to SSTC, regional cooperation and other solidarity-based partnership models that promote global equity, technology development and transfer, knowledge exchange and capacity development to collectively build peace and address root causes of conflict. Indeed, the Second High-Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40, 2019) underlined the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for achieving sustainable development and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, while recognizing the potential of SSTC for cross-regional cooperation, and highlighting that SSTC has facilitated regional, subregional and interregional integration, provided innovative approaches for collective actions. The [United Nations system-wide strategy on SSTC for Sustainable Development 2020-2024](#)⁶ is an important step towards addressing this demand.

Southern actors have continued to implement numerous SSTC initiatives for building and sustaining peace, preventing conflict and mitigating risks, and addressing the peace and development nexus by tackling the root causes of conflict, effectively demonstrating opportunities and potential for collective action through robust SSTC. This has included, for example, the creation of the g7+ fragile-to-fragile (F2F)

¹ See the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) advice to the Security Council in document [211217 and joint statement.ecosoc-pbc.approved.pdf \(un.org\)](#).

² United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), [Report: Alert 2021! Report on conflicts, human rights and peacebuilding](#) (8 July 2021).

³ UN Secretary-General António Guterres' [remarks](#) at the PBC meeting on his report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, 30 March 2022.

⁴ UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, para. 5.

⁵ UN Secretary-General António Guterres' [remarks](#) at the PBC meeting on his report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, 30 March 2022.

⁶ Extended to 2025.

cooperation platform⁷ and engaging with the PBC for enhanced cooperation and coordination, sharing lessons learned, good practices and expertise, as well as promoting successful innovative solutions for peace and development with the potential for replicability and adaptation in similar fragile contexts.⁸ Regional, sub-regional and cross-border entities that have actively designed and engaged in initiatives to collectively manage shared risks, like the countries in the Sahel, and the G5 Sahel countries in particular,⁹ have frequently approached the PBC for purposes of peer learning and mobilizing coordinated, cross-pillar and conflict-sensitive UN support for their joint efforts.

As one of its key work priorities, the PBC has [committed](#) to promoting SSTC in addressing common challenges faced by conflict-affected countries and created space for national governments, regional entities and others to seek opportunities for SSTC that contribute to building peace and development. In 2021, an increasing number of PBC outcome documents¹⁰ explicitly referenced SSTC as a modality for improving impact and outcomes and strengthening local, national, and regional capacities to better withstand, adapt, and quickly recover from stresses and shocks.¹¹ Drawing on the deliberations of the PBC, its unique composition of key actors from the North and the South, as well as its bridging, convening and advisory roles, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other UN entities have been able to advance UN system's support to SSTC, with a shared approach to multidimensional risks and fostering greater coherence and complementarity among humanitarian, development, human rights and peace and security partners.¹²

DPPA-UNDP Support for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

In recognition of multidimensional, protracted, and compounded threats to peace and development, requiring sustained and integrated approaches that link development, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action and sustaining peace,¹³ DPPA and UNDP have increased their collaboration within the UN system. The DPPA-UNDP Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention, including the Peace and Development Advisors deployed across 70 countries, is a good example of this shared approach to multidimensional risks, fostering greater coherence and complementarity among humanitarian, development, human rights, and peace and security partners, strengthening the capacity of a wide range of stakeholders including local peacebuilding organizations, and promoting robust SSTC. At global level, the Joint Programme encourages and facilitates information-sharing and collaboration among its partners and promotes peer-to-peer learning and exchanges.¹⁴ Additionally, in 2020-2022,

⁷ [g7 policy note on Fragile-fragile-cooperation.pdf \(g7plus.org\)](#).

⁸ For example, at PBC Liberia Configuration meeting on 17 June 2021, the Government encouraged the PBC to continue rallying international support for Liberia's peacebuilding priorities, including by fostering South-South cooperation as well as regional approaches through the Mano River Union. The upcoming PBC meeting on 12th September 2022, at the request of Timor-Leste, is intended to serve as a platform for sharing the country's lessons learned in addressing its multidimensional challenges and informing the country's efforts to work through its remaining challenges.

⁹ [chairs summary of sahel meeting 22 march 2022.pdf \(un.org\)](#).

¹⁰ See [Report](#) of the Peacebuilding Commission on its fifteenth session.

¹¹ See, for example, [2105199_pbc_press_statement_on_institution_building.pdf \(un.org\)](#).

¹² [pbc_chairs_remarks_to_ga_high-level_committee_on_south-south_cooperation.pdf \(un.org\)](#).

¹³ UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, para. 5.

¹⁴ Some highlights of global and regional learning and exchanges, cross-border frameworks and programmes, demonstrating the importance of SSC for conflict prevention and sustaining peace, include: (i) the exchange of experiences on election-related issues among countries in Western and Central Africa; (ii) the contributions to the regional conflict prevention framework for West Africa in the Mali+5 project and Chad; (iii) the development of an integrated cross-border conflict prevention programme between Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia, just to name a few. A risk monitoring platform established in N/NE Kenya is also being carried forward by the DPPA-UNDP Joint Programme and replicated elsewhere (Mozambique and Niger, among others). For details, see the [Programme's 2020 annual report \(launched in October 2021\)](#).

DPPA and UNDP led development of [UNSDG Good Practice Note on Conflict Sensitivity, Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace](#) (2022).

Purpose and Objective

While UN support to SSTC for peace and development is being provided, there is increased demand to scale up the support across all programming to accelerate progress towards achievement of the SDGs, including SDG16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies. As the international community is facing a series of overlapping threats and exacerbating risks, particularly in the most fragile settings, global solidarity and SSTC have taken on bigger relevance. The 11th Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) provides a unique opportunity to showcase concrete SSTC initiatives in the realm of peace and development implemented by the Global South, with the support of DPPA and UNDP. This event also aims to explore additional measures that can be taken to galvanize strategic, coordinated and coherent policy and programmatic support on SSTC to increase impact of all UN activities at national, regional and global levels, including by leveraging the [United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation and its Action Plan](#).

The objectives of this side event are to:

- Demonstrate the added value of SSTC for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and development.
- Disseminate SSTC good practices facilitated by DPPA and UNDP that have contributed to peace and development.
- Take stock of the important contributions of the Global South and the UN in recent years, and share lessons learnt in the realm of SSTC for peace and development.
- Promote cross-fertilization of experiences and ideas for peace in the Global South through SSTC, in a way to strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation.
- Identify measures to galvanize strategic, coordinated and coherent policy and programmatic support on SSTC to increase impact of UN activities at national, regional and global levels, including by leveraging the [United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation and its Action Plan](#).

Meeting Format and Participants

This meeting will be co-convened by UNDP-DPPA. The participation is open to SSTC practitioners and policymakers, as well as peace-humanitarian-development practitioners and policymakers, governments, regional or international institutions, UN entities, academia, think tanks, private sector and entrepreneurs, civil society and non-governmental organizations, and others.

Expected Outcomes

The outcome of the side event will be a joint summary, with recommendations for further action.

Tentative Agenda

TIME (EST)	AGENDA ITEM	SPEAKER(S)
9:00-9:05	INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	Moderator (Dr. Cedric de Coning)
9:05-9:15	OPENING REMARKS	UN DPPA (Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support)
9:15-9:20	PRESENTATION OF THE PANELISTS	Moderator

9:20-9:50	SSTC INITIATIVES FOR PEACE & DEVELOPMENT	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H.E. Mrs. Ruchira Kamboj, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations 2. H.E. Mr. Alhaji Fanday Turay, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations 3. Ms. Juanita Millan Hernandez, UN Senior Mediation Adviser from Colombia
9:50-10:15	Q&A and OPEN DISCUSSION	All participants
10:15-10:25	WRAP UP and CLOSING REMARKS	UNDP (Mr. Haoliang Xu, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS))