

- ▶ **ILO Concept Note- Building Multi-Stakeholder Alliances in the Global South to Build Back Better: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future in the World of Work**  
*GSSD Expo, Bangkok, UN Conference Centre- 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (10:30-11:50) [Register here GSSD 2022 \(12-14 September 2022\): Registration - Indico \(un.org\)](#)*
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## 1. Introduction:

- ▶ GSSD Expo 2022 with the theme of “Advancing South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable COVID-19 Recovery: Towards a Smart and Resilient Future” will be a major opportunity for stakeholders including Member States, UN entities, academia and civil society to collaborate against the impact of COVID-19. For the ILO, SSTC is an important means to promote and implement the Decent Work Agenda in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular SDG 8 on Decent Work and SDG 17 on Partnership. BAPA+40 was the opportunity to discuss the progress made on SSTC since the adoption of BAPA and the role of SSTC in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda<sup>1</sup>.
- ▶ With the adoption of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 and the subsequent drive to realise the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), interest in Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSPs) as a means of accelerating essential transformations has increased. MSPs are formal/partially formal alliance of partners involving partners from governments and governments driven institutions, UN and multilateral organisations, civil society actors, private sector. Furthermore, the *Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for Just Transitions*, led by the ILO, will also be pivotal to promote SSTC and Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships (MSP) for the development of integrated and coherent social justice policies and mobilize sufficient resources from partners, including support for its implementation<sup>2</sup>.
- ▶ A multistakeholder approach is thus inclusive and participatory, involving actors, with relevant knowledge, skills and resources. The implementations of the SDGs as well as other internationally agreed development objectives are opportunities to develop further the ILO multi-stakeholder approach to adapt to the new world of development cooperation. The central importance of decent work as both a means and an end to achieving the SDGs makes the ILO a key player in several MSPs, and this year the ILO Solution Forum will focus on selected MSPs. Building on its experience and learning from other partnerships, ILO can significantly promote the formation and implementation of MSPs in the Global South.

## 2. ILO Solution Forum

- ▶ The session will showcase relevant MSPs for sustainable COVID recovery. Topics to choose from include just transitions, fragile-to-fragile cooperation, employment promotion, social protection and skills development. It will help highlight the holistic perspective of the Decent work agenda and its impact on the ground. The ILO Solution Forum will follow the format of a panel session. The time of the solution forum is set to be of 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- ▶ **Objective:** highlight the successful SSTC practices from the Global South in MSPs and encourage partners to contribute to the different alliances while supporting the Decent Work Agenda as well as the 2030 Agenda. MSPs, with the support of the Global South, have mitigated the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Supporting decent work, through alliance building and

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<sup>1</sup> In the international development architecture of the last decades, the use of SSTC has been increasingly appreciated and mainstreamed in the international commitments such as 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Paris Agreement, and in the UN Secretary-General report on the repositioning of the UN development system (A/72/684-E/2018/7), in which SSTC is one of the six partnership-related workstreams.

<sup>2</sup> A socio-economic recovery post COVID-19 that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient, as demanded by our tripartite constituents in the [2021 Global Call to Action for a Human-Centred Recovery](#).

peer learning, significantly increases the resilience of societies and the challenges faced by the World of Work. The purpose of this ILO Solution Forum is to compile and present valuable learnings in a format, which can support staff in making full use of the opportunities partnering offers. The themes selected for this GSSD will focus on areas where these alliances can be established: a) Just transitions for Youth; b) Disaster-preparedness in the post Covid context and c) Alliance 8.7 and SSTC, d) Promoting Social Protection in ASEAN, 3) Skills development in a multilateral perspective as a means to promote SSTC.

- ▶ **Expected outcomes:** showcase impacts of South-South cooperation in MSP alliances in the while reviewing contributions from new partners. The new allies bring additional resources, skills, capacities and help reach out to more partners, through South-South Cooperation. The speakers will share effective and innovative results including the mechanisms used for mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, leveraging tripartism, social dialogue and normative frameworks.

### *Just transitions for youth, disaster preparedness, fragility resilience, environmental sustainability supported by SSTC in the World of Work*

- ▶ ILO recognizes that further efforts are necessary to build Member States' capacities and knowledge of the labour market trends and developments brought about by the greening of economies and enterprises so as to enable a just transition. This is particularly important for youth, that will be the generation affected by all the climate change impacts in the coming decades.
- ▶ Environmental and social development must be treated as complementary pillars of sustainable development, but as closely interrelated dimensions. Such an integrated approach turns the drive towards environmental sustainability into a significant avenue for development, with more and better jobs, social inclusion and poverty reduction. The opportunities for gains may in fact be greatest in developing countries and emerging economies, that is why South-South and triangular cooperation exchanges are being promoted in this field.
- ▶ Furthermore, the objectives and practices of SSTC are in alignment with the principles of national ownership and self-assessment of F2F cooperation mechanisms as outlined in the Dili Consensus of the g7+. South-South Cooperation is based upon the acknowledgment that partner countries from the Global South have learnt sufficiently from past development efforts and have mastered techniques that they can now pass on to other countries to promote this learning process. Therefore, a precise strategy for F2F cooperation has been developed and implemented since April 2014. The ILO-g7+ MoU is an important stepping-stone in dealing with fragility<sup>3</sup>. With the current COVID 19 crisis its relevance has been renewed.

### *Youth Employment Alliance*

- ▶ The Aspire to Innovate (a2i), the flagship program of the government's Digital Bangladesh agenda supported by the UNDP, focuses on doing precisely this by improving quality, widening access and decentralizing the delivery of public services. Soon to be formally established as Bangladesh's national innovation agency, a2i builds on the Government of Bangladesh's efforts to champion the cause of 'digital equity' and fosters an adaptive, national system for collective strategizing, planning, action and learning to catalyze truly unprecedented transformations in public service delivery. It also works as an innovation intermediary through a 'whole-of-

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<sup>3</sup> For instance, it is worth mentioning that the Secretariat of the g7+ was very active during the X Summit of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) held in Dili, Timor-Leste, in July 2014, as Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé e Príncipe and Timor-Leste are members of both organisations.

government' approach and supports the government to be on the forefront of integrating new, mission-driven innovation policy and whole-of-society approaches to achieve the SDGs<sup>4</sup>.

### *Promoting Social Protection in ASEAN*

- ▶ The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for well-functioning social protection systems in the region as never before. A new UN report released today reveals that despite their rapid socioeconomic ascent, most countries in the Asia-Pacific region have weak social protection systems riddled with gaps. About half of the region's population has no social protection coverage, according to the publication *The Protection We Want in 2020: Social Outlook for Asia and the Pacific*, jointly produced by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and International Labour Organization (ILO) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. Only a handful of countries have comprehensive social protection systems with relatively broad coverage.
- ▶ Comprehensive social protection creates the foundation for healthy societies and vibrant economies. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought this imperative into sharp focus, by demonstrating the stabilizing effect well-functioning social protection systems in Asia and how their absence exacerbates inequality and poverty in ASEAN. The Social Protection work in ASEAN includes practical assistance to countries in the region with specific economic feasibility studies, legal expertise, support to national dialogue processes and advice on the governance and administrative aspects of implementing national social protection floors, reflecting the principles of ILO Recommendation R.202 (2012) on National Floors of Social Protection<sup>5</sup>.

### *Supporting the Alliance 8.7 through SSTC*

- ▶ The Durban Call to Action on the Elimination of Child Labour (May 2022) called for increased SSTC for combating child labour while promoting Alliance 8.7 and increasing partnerships from the Global South to end this scourge. [https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS\\_845804/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_845804/lang--en/index.htm).
- ▶ The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) made an urgent call for aligning financing flows, SSTC with the Sustainable Development Goals and is highly relevant to the elimination of child labour. Alignment of South-South Cooperation efforts with the support to Alliance 8.7 can guarantee the sustainability of efforts to eliminate child labour. In the framework of the post COVID 19 pandemic, there is a pressing need for all forms of cooperation to have a coherent joint approach, to tackle the socio-economic crisis post-pandemic as well as address new emerging challenges and opportunities, such as the pressing need for combatting child labour and forced labour.
- ▶ This solution will present the efforts of ILO constituents to discuss the importance of developing regional / sub-regional and national action plans on child labour and integrating child labour concerns into relevant South-South Cooperation policies and plans to make the generational investment required.

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<sup>4</sup> Through UNDP's Accelerator Labs network, and in partnership with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), a2i is also working to support the digital progress of other least developed countries (LDCs) and many developing countries including Fiji, Jordan, the Maldives, the Philippines, and Yemen with advice and technologies.

<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, this learning package aims for policy practitioners at both national and sub-national level to improve the design, effectiveness and efficiency of social protection system and empowers Asian experts to become trainers, in turn generating a South-South network of trainers, who keep learning from each other and spreading the good practices. This good practice contributed to both ILO's Outcome 8 and Flagship program on Social Protection Floors for all. It has established networks of practitioners and peer learning in Asia and the Pacific.

### South-South Cooperation Skills Development Network

- ▶ Skills development policies are an important component of any comprehensive policy framework for achieving the SDGs. Skills development policies that are directed at such disadvantaged groups of workers can contribute to the achievement of various targets under SDG 8, including targets 8.5, 8.6, 8.8, 8.a and 8.b. The COVID-19 crisis has accelerated the transformations in the world of work. It also reminded us that no one is spared from the need of re-skilling and upskilling and learning new methods to be active at work.
- ▶ Featuring SSTC, the ILO-China Partnership Project on Strengthening Skills Development in ASEAN Member Countries (2018-2025)<sup>6</sup> aims to improve the employability of workers and increase the productivity of enterprises through skills development and institutional capacity building, to build forward better. The project promotes knowledge sharing on skills development between skills centres, TVET institutions through SSTC. As a sustained and impactful program with a US\$ 4 million financial contribution from MOHRSS, it supports its development partners in ASEAN countries from formulating skills laws and regulations for mutual skills recognition in the ASEAN region. This includes initiatives ranging from reskilling and upskilling policy advice to institutional capacity building, from skills testing to skills certification, from job counselling to curriculum development, from combined training of online and offline modalities to Skill competitions in partner countries.
- ▶ Networking is the power of knowledge exchanges in the domain of skills development. The Network facilitates mutual learning and innovations through sharing of good practices on skills for employment programmes through South-South Cooperation.

### 3. SSTC Solutions to be showcased by ILO:

**Moderator-**  
**Ms Rie Vejs-Kjeldgaard**



Officer-in-charge DDG- Field Operations and Partnerships, ILO Director, Partnerships and Field Support

*Prior to her current assignment she served as the Deputy Regional Director of the ILO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. Her professional experience with the ILO includes Enterprise Development Specialist in the ILO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific in Bangkok, and Senior Specialist in Enterprise Development, ILO Headquarters in Geneva. She has also held various ILO management positions including Global Manager of a Technical Corporation Programme on "Job Quality in Micro and Small Enterprises"; Deputy Sub-Regional Director for South East Asia, New Delhi; as ILO Country Director for Viet Nam; and as Manager of the ILO Global Programme on "Decent Work Country Level Policy Analysis". She is currently OIC for the DDG/ FOP portfolio of ILO.*

The ILO engages in South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) with the aim of supporting progress in the Decent Work Agenda and contributing to UN system-wide efforts towards the achievement of the SDGs. In so doing, the ILO works with governments and workers' and employers' organizations to identify, document and disseminate good practices; facilitate exchanges and peer-to-peer learning; promote knowledge sharing between social partners and other actors through multi-stakeholder partnerships; broker agreements and memoranda of understanding.

The moderator will introduce and animate the debate of different MSPs solutions and concrete practices that contribute to tackling the new and emerging challenges in the post-COVID 19 era.

*Key questions to be responded are:*

- ✓ What is your South-South good practice and how it contributes to the MSP alliance/ network? What is the uniqueness of your South-South cooperation experience? What are the main ingredients/ steps of this South-South practice to have concrete results?
- ✓ Going ahead: how will your organisation use South-South in a future example? How did the South-South

<sup>6</sup> Under the Project, a Skills Development Network through SSC was launched on 10 November 2022. Supported by the ILO and MOHRSS China, the network currently brings together 22 TVET institutes from China, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. The Network provides a platform for coordination, research and development on that support the advancement of skills development between its members of the Network.

	<p>approach solve your particular “problem”? Give us one example of How to use this looking forward?</p>
<div data-bbox="229 416 400 618" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="419 439 655 573" data-label="Caption"> <p><b>Flagship : Jobs for Peace and Resilience- Fragile-to-Fragile -Mr. Helder da Costa-General Secretary</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="419 595 459 618" data-label="Text"> <p>g7+</p> </div> <div data-bbox="204 640 655 904" data-label="Text"> <p><i>Mr. Helder da Costa earned his PhD in Trade Policy at the University of Adelaide. He is the General Secretary of the g7+ Secretariat, a platform of over 20 fragile and post-conflict affected countries, based in Lisbon, Portugal and Dili, Timor-Leste. He served as Senior Advisor on Aid Effectiveness to the Ministry of Finance, Timor-Leste (2008-2013) and represented the g7+ in the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in 2012-2014.</i></p> </div>	<p>This presentation will highlight fragile-to-fragile cooperation. Since its establishment, the g7+ has been very active in discussing and address common issues and building one-voice vis-à-vis international agendas such as the post-2015 agenda. Among the priorities of the group and in line with the recently signed agreement with the ILO is the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States, with special focus on the Peacebuilding and State building Goals on employment and livelihoods, and on fair service delivery. The presentation will highlight the importance for the g7+ to have a continuous dialogue between Member Countries, share good practices and experiences through South-South Cooperation to promote peaceful societies and to place common issues and goals in international agendas and forums. The COVID 19 pandemic has increased the fragility of many LDCs and developing countries in the Global South, and SSTC becomes an even more important issues.</p>
<p><i>a2i Innovation Network</i></p> <div data-bbox="229 1095 384 1274" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="403 1106 655 1162" data-label="Caption"> <p><b>a2iMr Anir Chowdhury, Policy Advisor.</b></p> </div> <div data-bbox="204 1184 655 1778" data-label="Text"> <p><i>Anir Chowdhury is the Policy Advisor of the a2i Programme of the ICT Division and the Cabinet Division of the Government of Bangladesh supported by the UNDP. In this capacity, he leads the formation of a whole-of-society innovation ecosystem in Bangladesh through massive technology deployment, extensive capacity development, integrated policy formulation, whole-of-government institutional reform, and an Innovation Fund. His work on innovation in public service has developed interesting and replicable models of service delivery decentralization, public-private partnerships, and transformation of a traditional bureaucracy into a forward-looking, citizen-centric service provider. He regularly writes in reputed national and international blogs, journals and publications. He is a member of the Prime Minister’s National Digital Bangladesh Task Force, Education Minister’s National Blended Education Task Force, Cabinet Secretary’s Civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) steering committee, WWW Foundation Alliance for Affordable Internet’s Advisory Council, and WEF and UNICEF’s Knowledge and Information Network for Digital Learning and Education’s Steering Committee.</i></p> </div>	<p><a href="#">a2i</a>, Innovations for All, from the Office of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh. a2i shares the insights gained from its work since 2007 within the international community and has formed South-South Cooperation arrangements with several countries. Reputed local and international researchers are publishing impact studies as well as documentation of methodologies of how this government-wide and country-wide transformation is being orchestrated. Sharing events take place in the form of policy dialogues in Bangladesh and other countries, knowledge-sharing expositions and knowledge products in text, infographics and audio-visual format being disseminated through the internet and social media.</p> <p>A2i is a leading entity on digitalization for youth employment, and joined the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth in 2018. They also lead and contribute to the South-South Network for Public Service Innovation (<a href="#">SSN4PSI</a>). Missions: Digital Equity: digital transformation of public services/ Re-architecting Government: a new operating system for the 21st century <i>govpreneur</i>/ Digital Financial Inclusion: making DFS work for the poor/ Future of Digital Economy: making e-Commerce work for the poor/ Future of Education: accelerating a blended education ecosystem/ Future of Work: orchestrating an adaptive national system for jobs and skills /Data-driven Policy Making: data → insights → development</p> <p>South-South Cooperation: championing a global collaborative platform for public service innovation. Network of 30+ countries, 14 international agencies: facilitation of knowledge transfer</p>

	<p>(Bangladesh, Philippines, Turkey, Yemen, South Sudan, Maldives the most active). Engagement through webinars and international conferences, and using the UNOSSC platform, including the Galaxy Platform, and the South-South “Match-Maker”.</p>
<p><b>South-South Cooperation Skills Development Network in ASEAN</b></p>  <p><i>Mr. Yutong Liu</i></p> <p><i>Currently he serves as Director and Coordinator of ILO-China SSTC Project, which aims to improve employability of workers through better quality of employment services, skills development and institutional capacity building in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. He has been implementing projects through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, with BRICS, ASEAN member countries since 2000. He played an active role in the Committee of Effective ILO Development Cooperation in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals, during the 107th International Labour Conference in 2018.</i></p>	<p>Skills Development Network through SSC was launched on 10 November 2022. Supported by the ILO and MOHRSS China, the network currently brings together 22 TVET institutes from China, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and ASEAN. The Network provides a platform for coordination, research and development on that support the advancement of skills development between its members of the Network.</p> <p>The Network promotes evidence-based skills development and employment service policy recommendations that will improve employability, including quality assurance, standards development, research and development on innovations; conduct research pertaining to skills development; Improve the image of skills training and promote skills competition. The Network also functions to strengthen coordination and cooperation with businesses and industries to promote quality apprenticeship, reskilling and upskilling, with high quality and responsiveness to labour market demands. In general, the Network supports the advancement of access to skills centres, TVETs for the youth, women and men, people with disabilities.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ilo.org/asia/events/WCMS_840849/lang--en/index.htm">https://www.ilo.org/asia/events/WCMS_840849/lang--en/index.htm</a></p>
<p><b>Combating Child Labour &amp; promoting Social Protection in ASEAN : two Multi-Stakeholder Alliances at the service of a human centered recovery</b></p>  <p><i>Mr. Santosh Mehrotra is Visiting Professor, Centre for Development Studies, University of Bath. He was till recently Prof of Economics and Chairperson, Centre for Labour, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. After an MA in Econ. from New School for Social Research, New York, and Phd (Economics), Cambridge University (1985), Santosh spent 15 years with the UN (1991-2006) in research positions, heading UNICEF’s global research programme at the Innocenti Research Centre, Florence, and as chief economist of the global Human Development Report New York. He returned to India to head the Rural Development Division and Development Policy Division of Planning Commission (2006-09), and was lead author of several chapters of the 11th &amp; 12th Five Year Plans of India. He recently collaborated with the ILO’s BRICS knowledge series (2021)</i></p>	<p>The Durban Call to Action on the Elimination of Child Labour (May 2022) called for increased SSTC for combating child labour and forced labour while promoting Alliance 8.7 and increasing partnerships from the Global South to end this scourge.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_845804/lang--en/index.htm">https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_845804/lang--en/index.htm</a>. In the framework of the post COVID 19 pandemic, there is a pressing need for all forms of cooperation to have a coherent joint approach, to tackle the socio-economic crisis post-pandemic as well as address new emerging challenges and opportunities, such as the pressing need for combatting child labour and forced labour. Santosh Mehrotra will speak on the interlinkages between the multi-stakeholder partnerships on Social Protection and Child Labour.</p>



*Prof Phudit Tejavivaddhana MD, MPA (1st class Hons), DHSM (UNE), Diplomate Thai Boards of Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine.*

*Prof Tejavivaddhana is the Director and an Associate Professor (Public Health) of the ASEAN Institute for Health Development (AIHD) at Mahidol University (MU) and Executive Director of the ASEAN University Network for Health Promotion Network (AUN-HPN).*

*He is a general practitioner by background and has been in senior executive roles both in the public and private sectors in Thailand for many years. He is a founding Director of the Lower-northern Region Heart Centre at Naresuan University (NU), advisor to the Minister of Public Health in Thailand, member of the Senate Standing Committee on Public Health, member of the Subcommittee on Health Services Reform, National Reform Council, former Vice President of Navamindradhiraj University, Bangkok and former Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, NU, as well as former Acting Director and founder of the College of Health Systems Management at NU.*

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need for well-functioning social protection systems in the region as never before. A new UN report released today reveals that despite their rapid socioeconomic ascent, most countries in the Asia-Pacific region have weak social protection systems riddled with gaps.

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**SSTC ILO Focal Points during GSSD 2022:**



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