



United Nations  
Office for South-South Cooperation

# Economic Corridors and South-South & Triangular Cooperation

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# Overview

- About South-South Cooperation and UNOSSC
- UN Entities and Global South Think Tanks on Economic Corridors
- Rethinking Economic Corridors against the backdrop of COVID-19
- Opportunities to advance Economic Corridors Exchanges through South-South Cooperation

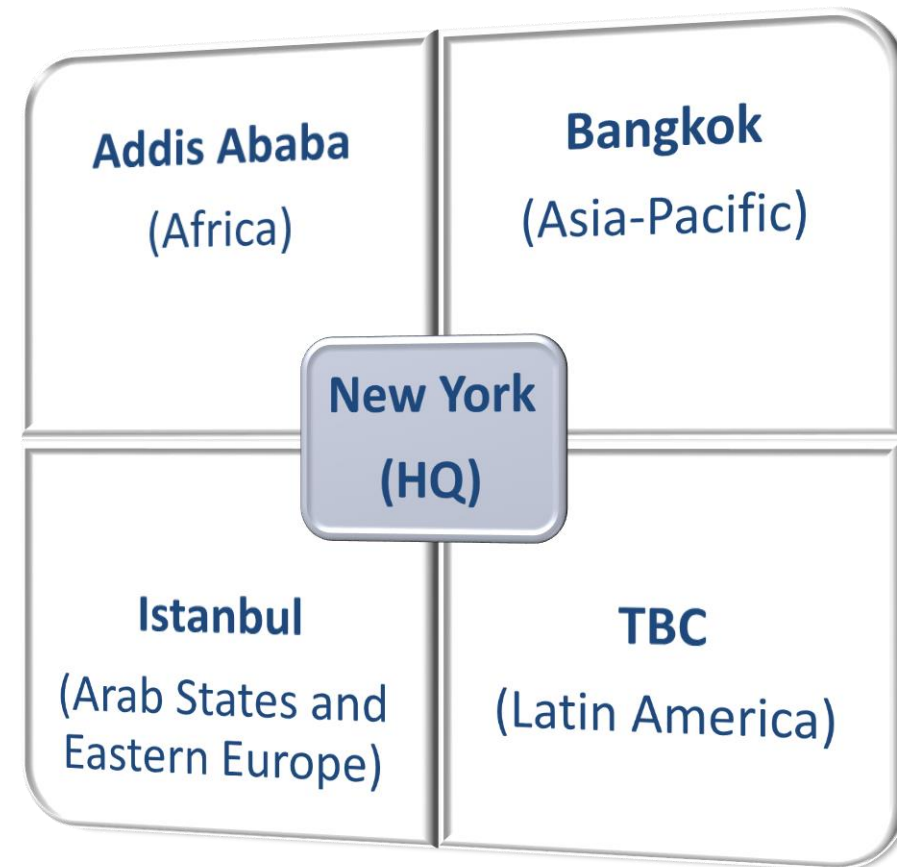
# About South-South Cooperation and UNOSSC

# About UNOSSC

## Mission

To be a robust **knowledge hub** providing **advisory consulting services** to Member States, United Nations entities, IGOs, NGOs and other stakeholders on South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation.

# UNOSSSC Regional Offices



# UNOSSC Regional Office for Asia-Pacific

- Knowledge exchange facilitation
  - *South-South in Action* publication series
  - South-South Galaxy
- Strategic partnerships
  - South-South focal points (governments, UN agencies)
  - Intergovernmental organisations
  - CSOs / NGOs
  - Private sectors
- Mapping Southern development solutions
  - Ex. COVID-19 response
- Outreach & advocacy
  - Convening regional consultations
  - Networking activities



# What is South-South Cooperation?

**South-South cooperation (SSC)** is about developing countries working together to find solutions to common development challenges. Involving two or more developing countries, it can take place on a bilateral, regional, intraregional or interregional basis.

## Technological Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC)

- Sharing knowledge
- Exchanging technologies
- Forming common agenda and collective actions

## Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC)

- Strengthening and improving economic ties
- Forming trade agreements
- Making joint investments



# South-South Evolution



*Bandung Conference  
1955*



*UN Conference on TCD  
1978*

Outcome = Buenos Aires Plan of Action  
(BAPA)



*BAPA+40 Conference  
2019*



# Modalities of SSC



Knowledge Exchanges/Development Solutions (How to)



Technical Exchanges (Experts deployment)



Training



Joint Research



Collaborative Strategies/Public Goods



Preferential (Concessional Trade/Investment Agreements)



Grants



Technology Exchanges



Infrastructure Development/Industrialization

# **Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (ECDC) --UN Entities and Global South Think Tanks on ECDC**

# United Nations Conference on Trade and Development



**UNCTAD**

- ❖ put forward a "positive agenda" for developing countries in international trade negotiations, designed to assist developing countries in better understanding the complexity of the multilateral trade negotiations and in formulating their positions.
- ❖ expanded and diversified its technical assistance, include promoting sustainable transit and transport corridors.
  - Building institutional capacity through corridor management arrangements and regulatory framework, to strengthen the operational performance and management of corridors; promote coordination and collaboration among corridors stakeholders, public regulators, private operators,
  - Promoting sustainability principles along corridors. Relevant principles include economic efficiency (i.e. seamless transport and trade movements, cost-effective, competitive, reliable, run smoothly and effectively, energy efficient, safe, etc.), environmental sustainability (i.e. environmentally-friendly, low-carbon, clean energy use, climate resilient, etc.), and social inclusiveness (i.e. affordable, accessible, supports rural areas and key sectoral development, etc.).

# The South Centre



- ❖ Established by an Intergovernmental Agreement which came into force on 31 July 1995. Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ An independent intergovernmental think-tank of developing countries that undertakes research and analysis oriented on various international policy areas that are relevant to the protection and promotion of the development interests of developing countries.

The South Centre helps the countries of the South to develop common points of view and to work together on major international development-related policy issues.

Within the limits of its capacity and mandate, the South Centre also responds to requests for policy advice and for technical and other support from collective entities of the South such as the Group of 77 (G-77) and China and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

# South-South Global Thinkers



“South-South Global Thinkers: The Global Coalition of Think Tank Networks for South-South Cooperation” -- UNOSSC and UNDP collaboration

It aims to draw on the high-quality expertise of existing think tank networks and research institutes and develop a knowledge platform for South-South Cooperation research and policy dialogues.

<https://www.ssc-globalthinkers.org/homepage>

# **Rethinking Economic Corridors against the backdrop of COVID-19**

# New opportunities rise despite the challenges

- ❖ Disruption has also ushered opportunities for Digitalisation:
- ❖ South-South and triangular cooperation are about knowledge sharing and people to people connections.
  - Digital connection enabled by ICT and telecommunication innovations expanded during COVID-19
- ❖ Greening economic corridors/building back better in Economic Corridors.
  - As some transport infrastructure projects are put on hold due to the pandemic, opportunities also rise in redesigning these projects to cut carbon emissions and increase climate resilience.



# **Advance economic corridors development through South-South Cooperation**

# South-South cooperation as an accelerator for Economic Corridors development

1. Facilitate knowledge-sharing and technology transfer through economic corridors, particularly for LDCs and LLDCs.
2. Enhance people-to-people connectivity along the corridors.
3. Support development of unified or compatible standards among developing countries.

# Example of SS and triangular cooperation linking up countries.

1. Economic collaboration between countries based on typology as a potential.
2. Example: triangular cooperation between Benin, Bhutan and Costa Rica. US\$13.2 million from Netherlands
3. Areas: Sustainable tourism; sustainable production and consumption chains; Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; access to energy and efficient energy use; gender equity and women empowerment as cross cutting issue.
4. Another example: Linking Pacific and Caribbean SIDS (Japan and UNOSSC)

