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Concepts, Principles, and Definitions of SSTC



South-South and Triangular Cooperation can promote decent work for all as well as become a strategic mechanism to promote learning and cooperation to mutually benefit the 2030 Agenda.

This module explores the main concepts, principles, and definitions related to South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

≡ Concepts, Principles, and Definitions

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The ILO is committed to promoting **South-South and Triangular Cooperation**, recognizing it as a key way to promote decent work for all as well as a strategic mechanism to promote learning and cooperation mutually beneficial to the 2030 Agenda. The basic **modalities** are:

South-South Cooperation (SSC): Peer-to-peer collaboration motivated by the principles of solidarity and non-conditionality. This is done between stakeholders from two or more countries in the South, in which all those involved benefit from the process.

Triangular Cooperation (TC): South-South Cooperation supported by one or two partners from "the North." It must include at least two countries from the South as the protagonists and the principles of solidarity and non-conditionality must be maintained.

Both South–South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation
have the following **submodalities**:

Regional Cooperation

Between stakeholders and
officials from countries in the
same region.

Subregional Cooperation

Between stakeholders and
officials from countries in the
same subregion.

Interregional Cooperation

Between stakeholders and officials from countries in different world regions.

City-to-City Cooperation

Between stakeholders and officials from cities in different countries in the South.

Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation

Between stakeholders and officials from countries in fragile or post-conflict situations, as a group of countries with specific needs for peace promotion and resource mobilization.

Cooperation between Small Island Developing States

This is a particular group of developing countries that face specific social, economic, and environmental weaknesses.



South-South and Triangular Cooperation can take the shape of **study visits**, **technical training**, **knowledge-sharing platform development**, **network creations**, among others.

The **principles** of South-South and Triangular Cooperation are:

- ☐ **Solidarity, horizontality, and equal conditions**
- ☐ **National ownership, independence, and voluntary nature**
- ☐ **Driven by demand from stakeholders in the South**
- ☐ **Participatory nature, including tripartism**
- ☐ **Non-conditionality**
- ☐ **Mutual benefit and learning**
- ☐ **Complementarity**
- ☐ **Respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs**

South-South and Triangular Cooperation is based on solidarity among equals and the positive effects of the **similarity of contexts** between stakeholders involved, whether geographical, cultural, economic, political, or social. **Similar challenges and experiences make the good practices of one country highly adaptable to another country in the South.**



Similar contexts tend to present similar problems and proven solutions tend to be adaptable and replicable across countries in the South.

Dig deeper – The concepts, principles, and definitions presented in this lesson are derived from the ILO and UN constituent guidance and are formal elements often present across the board in the organizations' activities. The main frameworks for South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the ILO and the UN are as follows:



Buenos Aires Outcome Document of the Second High-Level UN Conference on SSC.pdf

247.5 KB



Nairobi Outcome Document of the High-Level UN Conference on

.1.



SSC.pdf
48.6 KB



SSTC The way forward - ILO, 2012 (GB.313POL7).pdf
246.7 KB



ILO SSTC and Decent Work - Recent developments and future steps - ILO, 2018 (GB.332POL4).pdf
474.6 KB



Buenos Aires Plan of Action (1978).pdf
6.8 MB



Check your knowledge – Drag to sort the examples of cooperation by submodality:



Cooperation between
Costa Rica and Malaysia

Interregional Cooperation



Cooperation between
Peru and Mexico

Regional Cooperation



Cooperation between
Brazil, Argentina, and
Uruguay

Subregional Cooperation



Cooperation between
Sierra Leone and Somalia

Fragile-to-Fragile Cooperation



Cooperation between
Maputo, Durban, and
Porto Alegre

City-to-City Cooperation



Cooperation between
Haiti, Samoa, and Timor
Oriental

Cooperation between Small
Island Developing States

SUBMIT

Congrats! This module is complete. Explore the other SSTC mini-lessons.