



**SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR
COOPERATION AND DECENT WORK:
NORMATIVE APPROACHES & LDC
graduation countries (Bangladesh,
Nepal & Vietnam)**

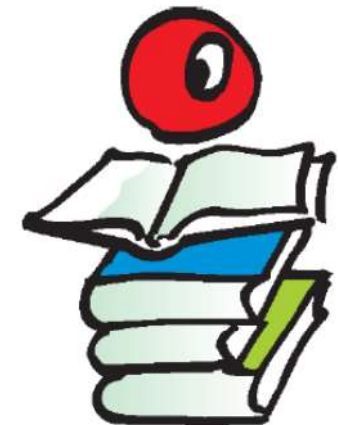
1. SSTC in ILO

- In February 2011 the ILO developed a [Strategic Framework](#) which served as a basis for the Governing Body document ([GB.313/POL/7](#)) “South–South and triangular cooperation: The way forward”.
- In November 2015 the GB adopted the “ILO Development Cooperation Strategy 2015 – 2017” ([GB.325/POL/6](#)) , which emphasized the importance of SSC, including for resource mobilization.
- **In March 2018 new guidance of SSTC was adapted- “Future Steps”/ 2021 DC Plan of Action 1.4**



2. South-South and triangular cooperation: some landmarks

- ✓ Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
- ✓ Framework of operational guidelines on United Nations support to South-South and triangular cooperation
- ✓ South–South and triangular cooperation: The way forward
- ✓ BAPA + 40





**The Nairobi outcome document (2009) and BAPA +40
(2019) identify the following principles of South-
South
and triangular cooperation:**

- Respect for national sovereignty and ownership
- Partnership among equals
- Solidarity
- Non-conditionality
- Mutual benefit

3. Process

- The promotion and sharing of good practices between constituents is part of the commitment of the ILO.
- South-South and triangular cooperation should also be regarded as one of the means that the ILO and its constituents can use to deliver Decent Work Country Programmes

- Cooperation
Between Employers
Organisations or
Workers Organisations



3.1 Actors involved

- Under the ILO's tripartite structure, governments, workers' and employers' organisations are formally part of the implementation process (Chamber to Chamber cooperation / EBMO type of work/ Union to Union)
- Regional and International Organizations
- Bilateral agencies
- Academic Institutions
- National institutions and networks



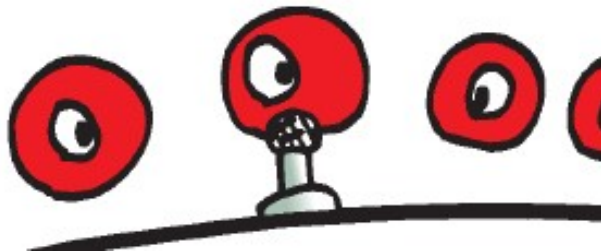
3.2 Modalities

✓ **South-South Cooperation**


*Sub modalities: City-to-City, Fragile-to-Fragile;
Country to Country*

✓ **Triangular Cooperation**

North-South-South



Modalities and Mechanisms (BAPA +40)

MODALIDADES	MECANISMOS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• South-South Cooperation• Triangular• (North- South) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint Research• Peer learning• Direct Support by another South Country• Exchange of Personnel• Mutual Support to Centres of Excellence

3.3 South-South and triangular cooperation step-by-step



Needs-matching

- Articulate the development needs
- Match-making mechanisms of the ILO include bilateral and regional/su meetings aimed at facilitating information exchanges; the ILO has also collections of good practices that can help partners learn from initiati southern solutions that have proven effective in promoting decent wor

a. Stakeholder Consultations

- Workers and employers must be included
- Refer to the ILO's Decent Work Country Programmes to set the basis of define specific objectives that the knowledge exchange will support
- A partnership/cooperation agreement or a Memorandum of Understand be signed, especially if the activities will be held along several months

b. Project Design

- Partners will map the process to be followed to achieve the objectives knowledge transfer/exchange. They will: select the participants; estab outputs and expected outcomes; select the instruments and activities; roles and responsibilities
- Linking the project design to the Decent Work Country Programme's ou utmost importance

c. Implementation

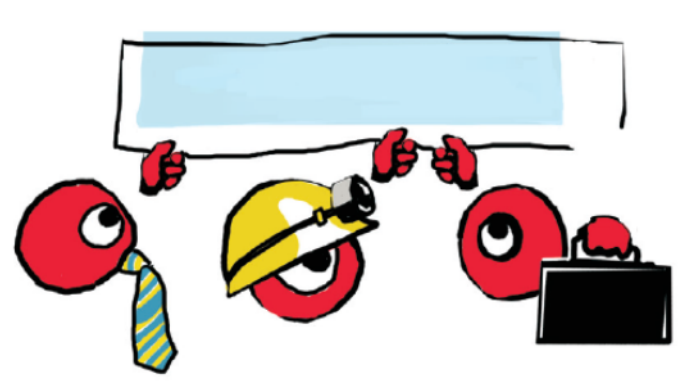
- Partners will be mostly acting as facilitators of the learning process
- When an unexpected situation arises such as the possibility of exchange on an area which had not been previously identified, all partners need understanding of the needs in order to adapt the activities
- Implementation is related to the flow of the activities contained in the must be documented in detail

M&E

- All stakeholders must be consulted at all stages of the evaluation and informed throughout the process
- To be useful, an evaluation must respond to the needs and interests of and provide information that facilitates their decision making through



4. The role of the ILO



- ✓ The ILO brings tripartite constituents together and acts as a facilitator to set cooperation strategies
- ✓ The ILO documents and disseminates a wide range of knowledge (compilation of good practices, knowledge exchange platforms and forums)
- ✓ The ILO forges inclusive partnerships and sets strategic alliances with the purpose of transferring expertise
- ✓ The ILO follows-up and reports on major inter-governmental decisions regarding South-South and triangular cooperation

Do's and Dont's



a. Stakeholder consultations

- The inclusion of tripartite partners is of utmost importance.
- All partners should be involved since the benefit of the process.
- Consultations should be aligned with development partners' priorities and needs (demand driven) South and triangular cooperation and its activities should be driven by the needs of the countries of the region.

b. Project design

- All partners have a voice.
- If it is a Triangular Cooperation, partners from North and South need to be simultaneously included.
- Foresee the sustainability of the project

Do's

c. Implementation

- Involve all partners (national, regional partners at the tripartite)
- Strengthen national capacities in a given t Decent Work Agenda.
- Implementation should be a horizontal lea where all the partners learn.

d. Monitoring & Evaluation

- Participatory monitoring and evaluation pr to assimilate the lessons learned.

Knowledge Management and information sharing

- Countries need to identify the challenges of opportunity.
- Wide surveys need to be conducted in orc information from partners (governments,

Do's and Dont's

Dont's



a. Stakeholder consultations

- Transform a traditional North-South project into a South-South project.
- Avoid calling development partners as “donors”: For South and triangular cooperation, stakeholders are equal partners, neither “donors” nor “recipients”.

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- Avoid designing projects without consultations with

Don't's



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- c. Implementat** • Do not confuse triangular cooperation with cooperation between 3 parties: triangular cooperation is South-South cooperation, with developing countries in the driver

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- d. Monitoring & Evaluation** • Avoid evaluation processes which include consultants not have knowledge of South-South processes, or view through traditional North-South lens to project development

Knowledge

How to identify good practices of South-South and triangular cooperation

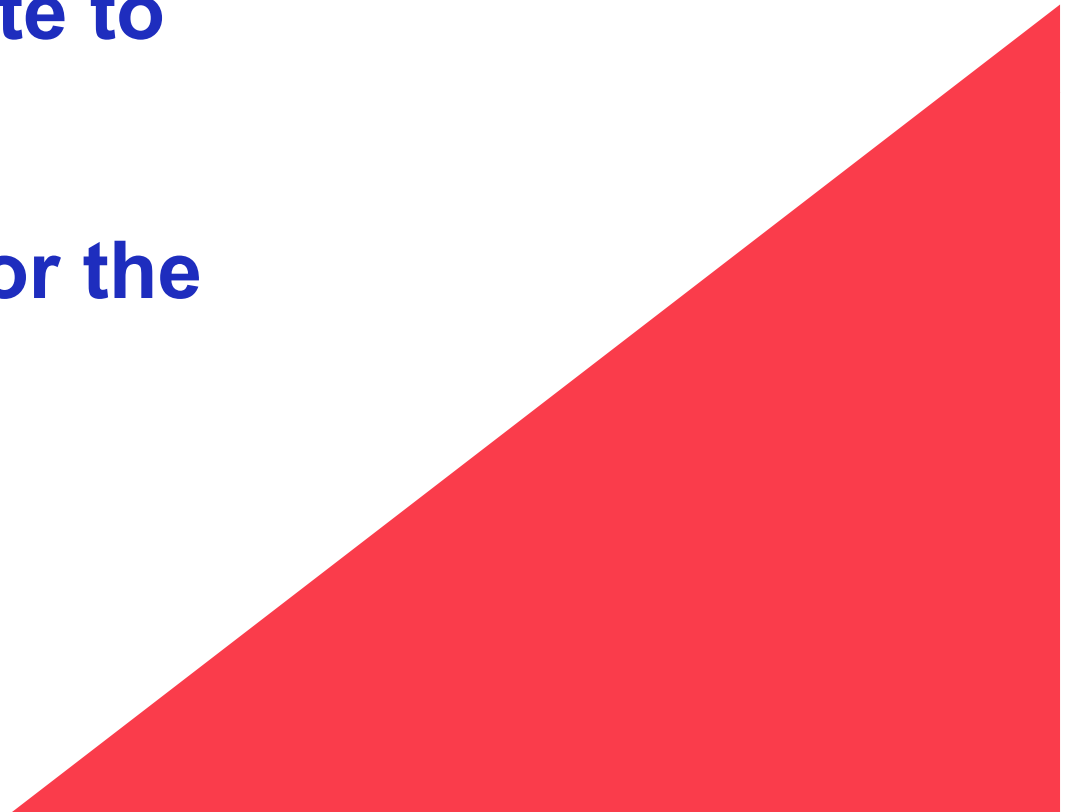


- “Horizontal” dimension of cooperation
- “Triangular” dimension of cooperation
- Innovative
- Adaptability/Replicability
- Sustainability

**How do INTERNATIONAL
LABOUR STANDARDS and
▶ HUMAN RIGHTS relate to
each other?**

**Why is it important for the
Global South?**

Let's find out!





HUMAN RIGHTS are underpinning the work of the entire UN system

- ▶ The entire UN system is required to take a **human rights based approach (HRBA)** in its work.
- ▶ BAPA +40: (2019) “Good governance, rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, equal access to fair justice systems (...) will ~~be integral to our efforts~~”. HR is this critical for SSTC & Global South
- ▶ *[H]uman rights are essential to addressing the broad causes and impacts of all complex crises, and to building sustainable, safe, and peaceful societies*

▶ UNSG Call to Action on Human Rights

Advancing social justice, promoting decent work





ILO means of action for promoting social justice

NORMATIVE ACTION

Setting ILS and supervising
their application

DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Implementing programmes and activities
to ensure/promote the application of ILS,
in law and in practice

SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Contribution of ILO to standard setting

It is important that the ILO addressed so many of these issues first.

- ▶ ILO adopts standards in a **narrower field** than the UN human rights conventions.
- ▶ The ILO method of adopting standards is much more technical and involves the people concerned, i.e. workers and employers, much more closely than UN standard setting methods. So **more realistic**, less theoretical.
- ▶ **ILO provides support to development cooperation, including South-South cooperation** for the promotion of standards and Conventions (like the work on C182 and the SSTC Regional Initiative in the Americas)





ILO standards are sometimes built into UN Conventions

In one particular case, the two HUMAN RIGHTS Covenants even state that:

Nothing in this article shall authorize States Parties to the International Labour Organisation Convention of 1948 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize to take legislative measures which would prejudice, or apply the law in such a manner as would prejudice, the guarantees provided for in that Convention.

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What rights has ILO designated as fundamental?

The 1998 Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work selected four subjects (amended in 2022 to add a fifth subject) as so basic that they cannot be neglected even when the country concerned has not ratified the relevant Conventions:

- ▶ (a) freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- ▶ (b) the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour;
- ▶ (c) the effective abolition of child labour;
- ▶ (d) the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; and
- ▶ (e) a safe and healthy work environment (added in 2022).
- ▶ **New South-South Programmes include FPRW as the main**

focus

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▶ ilo.org

▶ ilo.org



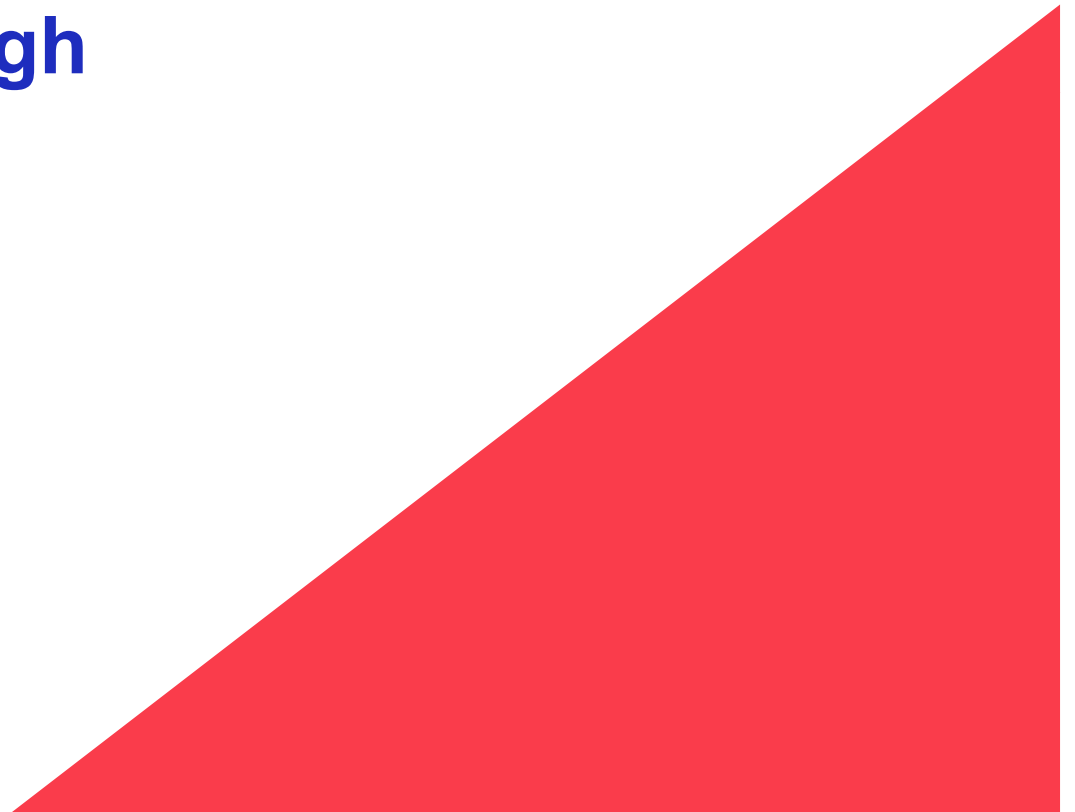
What is the basic message to the ILO?

It is the duty of the ILO to incorporate HUMAN RIGHTS into all its activities.

- ▶ Understanding the ILO's place in the HUMAN RIGHTS universe is important, as the ILO is an **essential part** of the international HUMAN RIGHTS system.



▶ **Promoting ILS through
Partnerships**



▶ Promoting ILS through Partnerships

While NORMES helps to develop and update fundamental Conventions and new rules and laws, PARTNERSHIPS help governments and countries, with special focus on Global South, to integrate them in their systems using the wide range of tools and instruments, including peer learning, seminars, sharing of best practices and others.

In this framework, a unique role is played by South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC).

▶ Why is SSTC important?

- ▶ Positive effects of proximity between the countries involved, be them cultural, economic, political or social
- ▶ Similar development levels, challenges and experiences make good practices of one country highly adaptable to another country in the Global South
- ▶ Sharing and adapting evidence-based good practices is a profitable approach do development challenges
- ▶ Common issues often call for joint actions

▶ **Modalities**

South-South Cooperation (SSC): Cooperation between two or more countries from the Global South

Triangular Cooperation: SSC with the support of a partner from the Global North.

- ▶ Support from the Northern partner can be in the form of a financial contribution or technical expertise
- ▶ It must be demand-driven, led by developing countries and aligned with their national priorities
- ▶ Must respect the SSTC principles of horizontality



How to integrate ILS in UN work?

- ▶ The UN Common Country Analyses (CCA) and the UN Sustainable Development Country Frameworks (UNSDCF) are both supposed to be based on the application of two overarching concepts:

Human rights-based approach

Leave no-one behind (LNOB)

Give visibility to the Global South, and SSTC

▶ ilo.org



▶ **THANK YOU!**