

# South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Financing Decent Work

PARTNERSHIPS  
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# What is South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)?

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) is a partnership between equals based on principles of horizontality. It promotes mutual exchanges between countries in the Global South to find development solutions and involves a multi-stakeholder approach

Principles (BAPA+40 / Nairobi 2009):

- Solidarity:
- Domestic ownership
- Mutual benefit
- Non-conditionality
- Complementarity
- Respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs
- Demand-driven

# Modalities

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



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



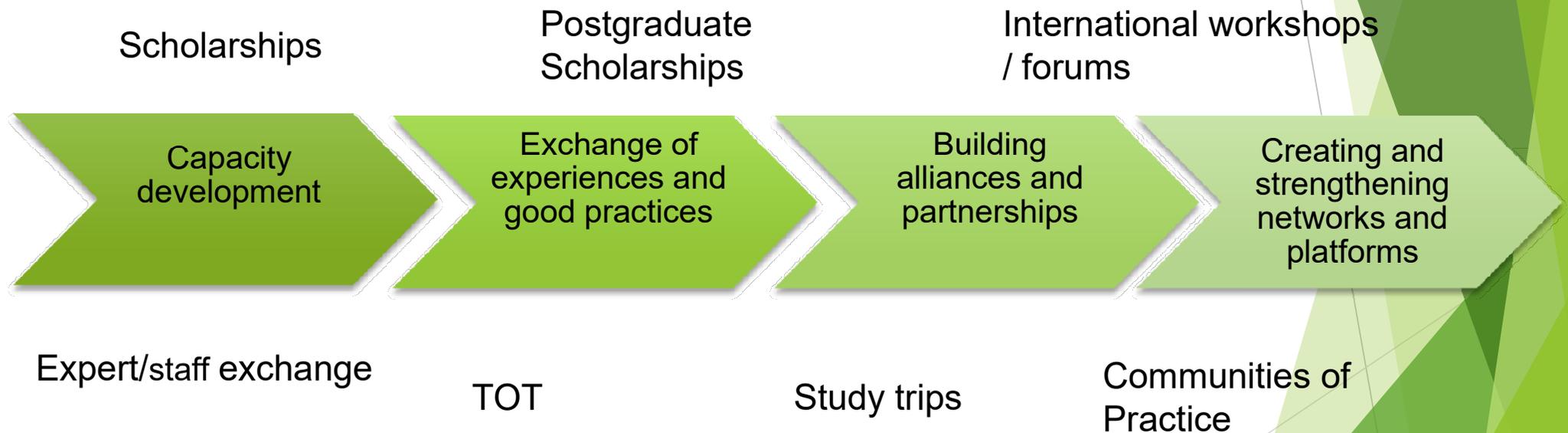
Support from the Northern partner can be in the form of financial contribution or technical expertise.  
It must be demand-driven, led by developing countries and aligned with their national priorities.  
It must respect the principles of horizontality of the SSTC.

# Sub-modalities



- ▶ Country to Country: between two countries in the Global South
- ▶ Regional/subregional cooperation: South-South exchanges and partnerships at the regional or subregional level
- ▶ City-to-city (C2C) cooperation: SSC between different cities in the Global South
- ▶ Fragile to Fragile (F2F) cooperation: SSC between countries in the face of fragility.

# SSTC in action: mechanisms



# SSTC and development finance



- The BAPA+40 outcome document mentions an increasing number of relevant actors providing financial support to SSTC initiatives, including multilateral institutions, banks and international and regional funds.
- It also calls on Member States to mobilize additional resources from all sources necessary to meet the SDGs. It refers to new financing facilities and trust funds that were established to promote SSTC to address development challenges.

- ▶ Shifts in the geopolitical and economic balance of power have highlighted the importance of the Global South in the development process and allowed new actors to shape the development agenda.
- ▶ Innovative responses to global challenges are now emerging from the emerging powers of the South, which in turn, are becoming strategic partners of other developing countries. This includes financing decent work.



## Cooperation and financing for development in the Global South



## SSTC and ILS

- The unique comparative advantages of the ILO in the context of the repositioned UN development system are the normative, tripartite and social dialogue approaches. While this permeates all policy outcomes, the two first outcomes in the 2022-2023 budget are of a particular strategic value linked to the ILO's specificities :strong tripartite constituents and influential and inclusive social dialogue as well as international labour standards and authoritative and effective supervision. This allows for peer exchanges among countries in the global south.
  - 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).
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## SSTC & Normative Approaches

- ▶ Countries in the global south have an obvious need to build strategies supporting their development prospects in an open world economy once they have graduated from LDC status as this process entails loss of preferential treatment in relation to trade, finance and investment. Hence the need to strengthen their capacity to use ILS as a basis upon which to build trade partnerships, investment incentives and other partnerships for development for the realisation of the 2030 Agenda
- ▶ This is in line with the 2022-23 P&B which includes in its priorities ILS mainstreaming in trade relations as well as stronger partnerships with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and other multilateral institutions. It is also in line with the 2024-2025 P&B which focuses on strong, modernized normative action taking full advantage of preferential trade arrangements. This could call for collective trade negotiations between countries of the South.

# SSTC & ILS

## A step-by-step approach

- ▶ **1) As a preliminary step, individual country meetings will be aimed at understanding the specific areas of normative interest for each country in a context of LDC graduation (“scene setting”). An important tool for setting the scene will be a series of studies entitled Normative Stock Taking Reports which present potential normative action (ratification and improved application) which can serve to boost the realisation of SDGs in the three participating countries, i.e., Bangladesh, Nepal and Vietnam.**
- ▶ **2) Some introductory sessions on South-South Cooperation, and International Labour Standards including the gender aspects will take place, in order to ensure that all participants have a common level of understanding necessary for informed discussions.**
- ▶ **3) Country and Sub-regional tripartite consultations will follow to share knowledge and practices in South-South cooperation and ILS.**

# ILS and SSTC

- ▶ Triangular partners, including developed countries and international organizations, provide technical assistance and support to countries in the global South to strengthen their labor institutions, capacity, and infrastructure for enforcing labor standards.
- ▶ Through SSTC, countries in the global South can enhance their capacity to monitor and enforce labor standards, improve working conditions, and protect workers' rights. This may include training programs for labor inspectors and government officials.
- ▶ SSTC efforts often focus on aligning national labor policies and legislation with international labor standards set by the ILO. This ensures that countries uphold their commitments to decent work and labor rights.
- ▶ ILS with SSTC components in ILO contributes to the global effort to promote decent work, reduce inequalities, and improve labor conditions by facilitating cooperation and knowledge exchange among countries, regardless of their level of development. It emphasizes the importance of international solidarity in achieving fair and just labor practices worldwide.

## Why is it important for SSTC?

- ▶ When planning the national SDG financing framework, ILS can help include possible SSTC for the Global South, as well as identify potential partners at the planning stage.
- ▶ Strengthening coordination among stakeholders (including from other countries and regions) to overcome fragmented decision-making is a key milestone in South-South cooperation. The timely and comprehensive approach in this planning allows to achieve sustainable and replicable results.



## Bangladesh, Nepal & Vietnam

- ▶ Certain countries of the South such as Bangladesh and Vietnam and Nepal have already explored the potential impact that ILS ratification and improved application can have for development, notably as a springboard for strong partnerships on trade, investment and responsible business practices. Thus, the three countries have taken steps to integrate ILS ratification, labour law reform and social dialogue into national strategies that lead to sustainable socio-economic development.



## Bangladesh, Nepal & Vietnam

- ▶ A set of knowledge exchanges are foreseen by the tripartite constituents of two countries which are about to graduate from LDC status, Bangladesh and Nepal. The purpose is to enable them to benefit from the experience of Vietnam and, to a large extent, Bangladesh prior to LDC graduation, in addressing the challenges and opportunities linked to ILS. The aim is to encourage future strategies linking normative with national development priorities in each of these countries.
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# Thanks!

## Questions for thoughts

- ▶ What kind of SSTC networks and collaborations can be established between the countries to boost the development of more aligned policies and strategies?
- ▶ What kind of financing opportunities are available at the country level/regional level to support normative strategies in the region?