



▶ Starting Now! New South-South initiative focus on ILO's Action Programmes 2024-2025

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▶ Overview

South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) are complementary development cooperation modalities to deliver on the ILO's programme of work. The ILO invests RBTC (Regular Budget Technical Cooperation) into SSC. This is a unique and strategic source of funding that must deliver special value-adding results and impact by using the SSC modality to promote and implement the ILO's results.

The ILO, alongside its partnership department, initiated 28 South-South and Triangular Cooperation projects across five regions and the ITC-Turin office for 2022–2023. These projects spanned 80+ countries and global activities, emphasising adaptable, sustainable, and results-driven practices. Funded mainly by the Regular Budget's development cooperation support, they focused on capacity development for ILO constituents. Gender Equality, diversity, and inclusion in the frame of peer learning have been a cornerstone in our courses, fostering cross-country professional exchanges and creating valuable networks. The documented Good Practices reflect South-South and Triangular Cooperation endeavours by ILO constituents and practitioners.

Activities included peer-learning initiatives, virtual exchanges, joint research, and support for Southern countries. Covering diverse themes like employment services, women's empowerment, Green Economy, and more, these initiatives aligned with the ILO's 2022-2023 strategic framework. South-South Cooperation in the ILO has also delved into the impulse of the ILO constituents and key government groups such as the BRICS, IBSA, G20, G77, and G7+ (group of fragile countries).

The global allocation of RBTC SSTC resources goes beyond regional initiatives, with a focus on formalizing the informal economy and advancing gender equality through Outcomes A and 8. Initiatives include launching a BRICS Platform on Inclusive Productivity Ecosystems, conducting research studies in BRICS countries, emphasising a gender-sensitive approach in multilateral systems, and addressing the formalisation of the informal economy and supply chains. At ITC Turin, efforts are geared towards Just Transitions, establishing a Future of Work network, and fostering South-South collaboration on climate change and human mobility. Regional efforts across Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Arab States, Europe, and the Americas involve diverse initiatives ranging from facilitating transitions to the formal economy, promoting decent work in horticulture, improving labour market statistics, and addressing just transitions and gender equality, reflecting a comprehensive approach to sustainable development goals.

▶ More details of the 2024/2025 Biennium

For the upcoming Biennium, initiatives approaching different areas will be implemented to leverage South-South Cooperation (SSC) and triangular cooperation within the scope of the ILO. With the RBTC allocation, both Global, ITC Turin and Region will be benefited.

Regarding the global projects, the Biennium allocation will support results under Outcomes A and 8. More specifically, initiatives will add efforts to the formalisation of the informal economy, in addition to gender equality and support to the multilateral system. In terms of the ITC Turin initiatives, the RBTC allocation will support Outcome A, by leveraging Just Transitions. Moreover, in relation to Region, the allocation will be focused on areas such as the transition and formalisation of the informal economy, together with the promotion of Decent Work (in Africa), South-South experience sharing, and response to climate impact on the labour market (in Asia Pacific).

In addition, in the Arab States, the initiatives will bring attention to cooperation for just transition and approach gender equality in the case of care workers. Just transitions will also be leveraged in Europe, with initiatives related to knowledge sharing and peer learning. Finally, for the Americas, the RBTC allocation will be utilised to reinforce the development of skills and lifelong learning and bring attention to child labour in the region.

▶ Initiatives 2024/2025 Biennium

Global

Turin and the regions have already received a significant portion of the RBTC SSC allocation. Therefore, in addition to that, an allocation will be available for global initiatives to cover the formalisation of the informal economy and gender equality/formalisation and will support results under Outcomes A and 8.

Initiatives under this allocation will include the launching of a BRICS Platform on Inclusive Productivity Ecosystems for Decent Work and research studies in 5 BRICS countries on Productivity Ecosystems and a comparative analysis leading to proposals on joint work with a view to the Brazilian Presidency; GSSD and SSC work and good practices in the multilateral system with emphasis on a gender-sensitive approach; and the formalisation of the Informal Economy and Supply Chains.



ITC Turin

The ITC Turin initiatives will be linked to Just Transitions. The initiatives will be focused on the Future Leaders in the World of Work. The first initiative will establish the "Future of Work" South-South and Triangular University network. Representatives of tertiary education institutions from BRICS+ countries participate as knowledge partners in an ITCILO capacity development initiative. Therefore, it will bring the voices of future leaders from the BRICS to the attention of relevant stakeholders at ILO HQ and during the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

The second initiative will be the South-South collaboration on Climate Change, Human Mobility, and Just Transitions, bringing to discussion the work of climate migrants from a South-South perspective, which is directly related to SIDS-SIDS labour migration.

Through peer-learning tripartite, constituents of the ILO from Pacific Islands and Latin America and the Caribbean will have increased their knowledge on how to formulate initiatives and programmes for human and labour mobility based on the principles of a just transitions in a South-South peer-to-peer setting, a part of developing a new community of practice on priority areas in the governance of climate-induced mobility.

Region

▶ Africa

There are two initiatives planned in the current biennium, including South-South cooperation between Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, and Cabo Verde, to facilitate the transition from the informal to the formal economy through extension of social protection to informal economy workers and the action programme on formalisation of the informal economy. A second initiative will cover South-South and Triangular cooperation between Madagascar, Kenya, and France, in order to promote decent work and export in the horticulture value chain through peer-to-peer exchange and capacity development through triangular cooperation. The second proposal is linked the action on supply chains.

▶ Asia and the Pacific

There are two initiatives planned in the current biennium, including interregional Technical Forum for Arab States and Asia Pacific for South-South experience sharing and learning and improving labour market statistics to reflect climate impact on labour market outcomes in the Asia Pacific region through SSTC. The initiatives address Action Programmes for Formalisation of the informal Economy / Crisis and Supply chains.

▶ Arab States

For the current biennium, two initiatives are proposed for the Arab states: one focuses on just transition cooperation and implementation in the Arab States considering global climate change negotiations, adopting a South-South Cooperation approach. The second addresses decent work for paid care workers in the Arab States region through South-South and Triangular Cooperation. The main themes reflected are namely, just transitions and gender equality.

▶ Europe

The region will focus on two initiatives, namely “Promoting a gender-responsive just transition through knowledge-sharing and peer-learning including cooperation between Azerbaijan and Brazil” as well as peer-to-peer mechanisms to elevate the employment dimensions of Just Transition discussions in CEE (non-EU member States) through triangular cooperation. Both initiatives will cover peer learning and just transitions.

▶ Americas

For the current biennium, two initiatives will be targeted in the region. The first will focus on strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the Development of Skills and Lifelong Learning in Latin America and the Caribbean in key sectors of labour markets and in the care economy. The second is a South-South Cooperation Program (SSC) to strengthen the Latin America and Caribbean Free of Child Labour Regional Initiative. The initiatives respectively correspond to the theme of gender equality and AP supply chains.



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