

## ► Global Solidarity Through South-South Partnerships: Social Justice and ILO's South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC)

### 1. What is South-South & Triangular Cooperation?

- **South-South Cooperation:** Collaboration among peers, guided by the principles of solidarity and non-conditionality. This is done among actors from two or more countries in the South and all stakeholders can benefit from the process. "South-South cooperation is a manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South—rooted in equality, mutual benefit, and shared development solutions for the 2030 Agenda." —UN System-Wide Strategy on SSTC.
- **Triangular Cooperation:** South-South Cooperation supported by one or more "Northern" partners. It must have actors from at least two countries of the South as protagonists, and the principles of solidarity and non-conditionality must be maintained.
- The ILO has decided to promote South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation jointly: **SSTC**.
- Promoting the **United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation- 12 September** is a means for promoting this approach to development cooperation.

### 2. Why Partner with the ILO on South-South and triangular cooperation?

**ILO** is the only tripartite UN agency—uniting governments, employers, and workers—to co-create nationally owned, inclusive, and context-specific solutions through:

- **SSTC is a Flexible, demand-driven approach to development:** Co-created and internationally, regionally owned initiatives, peer-to-peer exchanges of Southern knowledge, and pooled resources aligned with the principles of equality, solidarity, and collective self-reliance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40).
- **Southern leadership:** Solutions shaped by and with the Global South, respecting sovereignty, inclusivity, and horizontality.
- **Shared visibility:** Recognition through Southern-led knowledge platforms, solidarity forums, and ILO flagship reports co-created with partners.

### 3. Priority Pathways for SSTC Action in 2024/2025

Some of the SSTC priorities of the current biennium coincide with the action programmes of the ILO, as well as the main outcomes of the programme and budget. Some may be highlighted:

- **Just transitions through Southern innovations:** Localized responses for green and digital economies driven by South-South technology transfer, indigenous innovations, and mutual learning.
- **Collective resilience:** Strengthening youth, women, and vulnerable groups through solidarity-based horizontal exchanges of practices, experiences, and locally grounded knowledge.
- **Global supply chains:** Enhancing decent work in fragile contexts through South-South dialogue, solidarity coalitions, and tripartite cooperation.
- **Gender Equality:** Accelerating women's economic empowerment through South-South sharing of policies, programs, and tools that promote equal opportunity, address unpaid care work, and prevent discrimination.

### 4. Approaches to Sharing Resources and Knowledge in SSTC Partnerships

The ILO tailors collaborations to maximize mutual benefit, solidarity, and the scaling of Southern-born solutions:

SSTC modalities	Scope	Mechanisms
Partnerships with Emerging Partners	Fund scalable solutions (e.g., green jobs, skills, crisis recovery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants (unrestricted/thematic)</li> <li>• Islamic finance tools such as</li> </ul>

		Zakat/Waqf/Sukuk • Co-investment with multilateral development banks
<b>In-Kind South-South Partnerships</b>	Share Southern expertise, tech, or services (e.g., training platforms)	• Digital tools for rights/skills • Corporate volunteering & secondments
<b>Regional, Sub regional, Intra-regional Cooperation, &amp; City-to-City Cooperation in the World of Work</b>	Advance labour standards, migration, green jobs	• Joint campaigns with social partners • Peer-learning at ILO events
<b>Triangular Cooperation</b>	Cooperation between countries of the global south on a variety of themes related to the decent work agenda with the support of a multilateral institution and/ or a country of the “north” with Southern-led approaches	• Rapid grants for livelihoods • In-kind aid (equipment, training) • South-South technical exchanges

## 5. Southern-led Solidarity Partnerships in Action

Global South partners are advancing South-South cooperation in line with the BAPA+40 guidance from the 2019 Buenos Aires Conference, with their impact demonstrated through diverse examples from our portfolio.

**Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC):** Reduced child labour by 50% in Mali and Paraguay; strengthened occupational safety and health in Peru and Mozambique.

**Kuwait Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour:** Supported Palestine by creating thousands of jobs, distributing millions in wages, and rehabilitating agricultural land for food security.

**China (MOHRSS):** Strengthened skills development across ASEAN, improving employability for over 148,000 workers.

**India-UN Partnership Fund:** Contributed \$1 million to the ILO through the UN Office for South-South Cooperation.

**BRICS countries:** Provided \$75+ million to the ILO over the past decade, focusing on employment, social protection, and rights at work.

**Overall impact:** Southern-led solutions, backed by funding and knowledge exchange, are building resilient communities and advancing decent work worldwide.

## 6. Why Collaborate Through South-South Cooperation?

**Proven Solidarity Impact:** Solutions adapted across 50+ countries through peer-to-peer learning and horizontal exchange.

**Shared Gains:**

- **Amplified Southern Voice:** Co-shape global policies through South-South and tripartite coalitions.
- **Accelerated SDGs implementation:** Advancing nationally led priorities through mutual solidarity, as guided by SDG implementation.
- **Collective Accountability:** Progress monitored through Southern-owned monitoring and evaluation systems.

## Join us in Solidarity

Let us co-create mutually reinforcing, nationally led pathways for social justice and sustainable development, advancing collective self-reliance, horizontal learning, and solidarity across the Global South.

***Together, we turn shared challenges into dignified, sustainable opportunities.***

**Visit:** [South-South Meeting Point](#)

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