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Title of South-South and triangular cooperation (SSTC) good practice: Just Transition and Climate Policy Development through NDCs: A South-South Learning Approach

Countries involved (please add more than one country): Arab States Region – including Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Jordan, Iraq, UAE, Yemen, and others

South-South Objective (s)	To empower Arab States to integrate just transition principles into climate policy through enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The initiative aimed to address the dual challenge of climate vulnerability and fossil fuel dependency by fostering inclusive climate action that incorporates employment and social dimensions, aligned with SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 8 (Decent Work). This initiative aims to deepen knowledge and networking among ILO constituents in the Arab States to strengthen the role of world of work actors in the NDC revision as well as the uptake of just transition policies in the next round of NDCs. This intervention supported the first regional assessment of Arab States' NDCs and INDCs, identifying best practices and key gaps. The assessment led to a regional capacity-building course to enhance national NDC development and regional collaboration on just transition.
South-South Cooperation between institutions and countries to achieve the objectives	The initiative was led by the ILO Regional Office for Arab States, ITCILO, and ILO Doha, in collaboration with national Ministries of Labour and Environment, and workers' and employers' organizations across Arab countries. These institutions engaged in peer learning, joint planning, and regional initiative development, fostering a cooperative environment for knowledge exchange and policy innovation. This intervention targets the World of Work actors, namely Ministries of Labour, Workers' and Employers' Organisation. As the NDC development is the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, this intervention also included the capacity building of Ministries of Environment, to build their understanding of social dialogue and just transition topics. For the online training, 16 countries participated, but with particular attention to the Arab States region and the countries of: Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Yemen. The in-person workshop was for representatives from the Arab States region only.
Effectiveness of the South-South / peer learning methodological approach	The methodology combined online modules, live SSTC dialogues, and an in-person masterclass in Doha. It emphasized participatory learning through stakeholder mapping, case studies, and regional initiative design. Peer-to-peer engagement enabled countries to share experiences, co-develop solutions, and build regional frameworks, enhancing ownership and practical application of just transition principles. The project used a phased methodology starting with a regional desk review of Arab States' NDCs and INDCs to identify gaps, best practices, and inform capacity-building needs. This was followed by online training through interactive webinars and self-guided modules, enabling broad access to key concepts on just transition and NDC integration. Finally, an in-person regional workshop focused on case studies, group work, and peer learning, fostering practical skills and stronger networks among ILO constituents. Together, these steps strengthened the capacity of world of work actors to shape ambitious, inclusive NDC revisions and advance just transition policies. South-South cooperation was central. Participants exchanged national

	experiences, identified common challenges, and developed collaborative regional initiatives, including a proposed GCC framework on just transition and a Non-GCC research and training network.
Innovation	The initiative innovatively linked climate and employment policies through a South-South peer learning model. It introduced a dual focus on environmental and social dimensions in NDCs, a gap often overlooked. The use of regional collaboration to co-create frameworks and networks was a novel approach that strengthened policy coherence and regional integration. The in-person workshop used case studies, interactive group work, and role-play scenarios to deepen participants' understanding and build their confidence in applying new terminology and concepts. This hands-on, participatory approach allowed participants to translate theoretical knowledge into practical skills, strengthen problem-solving abilities, and foster peer learning in a supportive environment, ultimately enhancing their capacity to integrate just transition principles into national climate policies.
South-South Sustainability	The initiative's sustainability is ensured through the creation of regional networks, follow-up commitments, and institutional partnerships. Countries initiated steps such as joint MoUs, peer reviews of NDCs, and collaborative workshops. These mechanisms foster ongoing cooperation and policy alignment, making the practice resilient and adaptable over time. The self-guided modules are adapted to the Arab States context and fully available in Arabic and English, making them easy to roll out to new participants and lowering future capacity-building costs. This flexible, self-paced format also makes the online training fully scalable, allowing more stakeholders to benefit without significant additional resources. The regional assessment report also doubles as a base-line report, which can help measure the uptake of just transition concepts in NDCs over time, as they get revised.
South-South Adaptability	The model is highly adaptable to other regions undergoing climate transitions. Key conditions for replication include political will, coordination between labor and environment ministries, and basic infrastructure for peer learning. The participatory and modular design allows for customization to different national contexts and development stages. The practice can be widely extended to other regions through its adaptable, modular design and strong focus on peer learning. To ensure successful adaptation, it requires localizing training content to regional policy contexts, translating materials into relevant languages, and engaging national institutions early to secure ownership. Active collaboration among ministries of labour, environment, and social partners is also essential to strengthen social dialogue and build trust. By maintaining these conditions, the approach can effectively support other countries in integrating just transition into their climate commitments and foster lasting networks for South-South cooperation.
South-South Results	• 56 officials trained across 16 Arab countries • Two regional initiatives launched (GCC framework and Non-GCC network) • Strengthened national capacities for just transition integration • Enhanced regional collaboration and peer learning networks

	- Initiated policy actions including MoUs and joint planning efforts - The initiative trained 56 officials from 16 countries of which 22 people received a certificate of completion. 36 officials from the Arab States region participated in the in-person masterclass, which led to the launch of two regional initiatives, and strengthened national and regional capacities on just transition. Lastly, the regional assessment report also serves as a baseline to track the integration of just transition concepts in future NDC revisions, ensuring sustained regional commitment to inclusive climate and development policies.
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Materials and Web-links	ILO's Regional Masterclass brings just transition to the core of climate change policies International Labour Organization 

