

QUANTIFYING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION TO MOBILIZE FUNDS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

PROJECT DOCUMENT 15TH TRANCHE OF THE DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

Objective: *To strengthen the capacity of developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to measure and report South-South cooperation to manage and mobilize resources for the 2030 Agenda and enable a more inclusive, resilient and green recovery from the pandemic*

Target countries: *8 selected developing countries from ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA regions*

Lead entity: UNCTAD

Other UN DA implementing entities: *Department of Economic and Social Affairs/United Nations Statistics Division, ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA*

Other collaborating entities: *Resident Coordinator Offices, the OECD, the Islamic Development Bank*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (A/RES/73/291) encourages all actors to support initiatives for information and data collection, coordination, dissemination and evaluation of South-South cooperation (SSC), upon the request of developing countries. In April 2020, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators established a Working Group on Measurement of Development Support. **The Working Group developed a proposal for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicator 17.3.1**, defining key measurement principles and main components of development support, including SSC. This work thus resulted in an agreed, **voluntary Conceptual Framework (CF) for the measurement of SSC, developed by countries of the global South**, adopted by the UN Statistical Commission and the General Assembly in 2022. It was also “requested that further work on this, including on global reporting and capacity-building, be enabled by the co-custodianship of UNCTAD and be led by countries from the global South, building on country-led mechanisms”.

In this project, UNCTAD, UN Statistics Division and four UN Regional Commissions, jointly with partners in the UN system and beyond, will **support eight developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to measure the financial and non-financial modalities of SSC to inform and target policy action with the aim to manage and mobilize resources for efforts to achieve the SDGs**.

The expectation is that all pilot countries will collate data on SSC onto the Framework, prepare initial estimates of SSC and test the methodology for SDG indicator 17.3.1. Results will be compared to existing data on SSC or ODA where available. This will give a clearer picture of the type and size of SSC in each country. The project will strengthen national coordination among international development and statistical authorities, and internationally with the Regional Commission and UNCTAD Statistics, the external sector, and international development agencies. **The pilots will provide feedback on the feasibility and challenges of measuring SSC applying the Framework.** In the longer term, the sharing of resources and tools developed in the project will enable global reporting on SDG indicator 17.3.1.

PROJECT STRATEGY

The **first phase** (create) will consist of preparing the ground for action by raising awareness in regional events and developing a refined framework, tools and resources for data collection, compilation and reporting in early pilots and expert meetings with pioneering countries. The **second phase** (master) will apply these resources to beneficiary countries starting with peer learning in an inter-regional workshop, e-learning, study tours to pioneering or other countries as useful, and national workshops to build the capacity of national stakeholders to measure and report SSC. The **third phase** (expand) will share the tools, findings and resources with national and global stakeholders.

Objective

To strengthen the capacity of developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America to measure and report the contribution of South - South Cooperation to progress in the 2030 Agenda and towards more inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Outcome 1

Enhanced understanding, resources and tools for measuring and reporting South-South cooperation in the context of indicator 17.3.1, in coordination with the OECD as a co-custodian agency (create).

- **Outputs: 4 regional events** to disseminate the CF; **CF refined and validated** in an expert meeting; data collection, compilation and reporting **tools developed**.

Outcome 2

Strengthened capacity of statisticians, development experts and policy makers in beneficiary countries to measure and report South-South cooperation under target 17.3 (master)

- **Outputs: inter-regional capacity building workshop** for the 8 beneficiary countries; **e-learning course** developed and held; **Study tours** arranged (1 per region); **national workshops** in the 8 beneficiary countries.

Outcome 3

Established community of practice among national statistical authorities, international cooperation agencies and other public institutions from developing countries to quantify South-South cooperation (expand)

- **Outputs: framework, tools and resources shared** in national and international events; **report summarizing the methodology, findings, early estimates** discussed by the official focal points of beneficiary countries; **e-learning course made available** to any interested countries.

SUSTAINABILITY

As the project will build on existing networks and mechanisms of the UN Regional Commissions for collaboration in the regions, when applicable it is expected that the beneficiary developing countries will share their advancements through engaging in South-South cooperation within their region and with other interested countries, including in future discussions at regular expert meetings. The main achievements will also be shared in an international context beyond project countries.

As the project looks at using existing data in new ways and at developing tools and frameworks aligned with current statistical work and national data environments, it will be easier for statistical offices to sustain the outcomes in their regular work.