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PHILIPPINES



South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the Philippines

Policy Note and Country-Level Action Plan
to implement the Philippines 2024-2028
United Nations Sustainable Development
Cooperation Framework in the Context of
the UN System-Wide Strategy on South-
South and Triangular Cooperation for
Sustainable Development



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As the world recovers from the devastating social, economic and human impacts of the COVID-19 crisis, along with existing threats of climate change, South-South and triangular cooperation is the need of the hour.

– Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

Foreword

South-South and triangular cooperation is central to achieving sustainable development in the Philippines and for sharing the country's best practices and successes globally.

Traditional resource partners have focused available and scarce public resources on domestic priorities and economic recovery, resulting in a squeeze in countries' fiscal space and reduced access to concessional finance. The search for effective responses to this complex global context has gained momentum for innovative partnership modalities, including South-South and triangular cooperation.

The Philippines can benefit from the different and evolving forms of South-South and triangular cooperation, including technical cooperation, the sharing of knowledge and experience, training, capacity building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms as catalysts, underpinning development cooperation programmes and stimulating new ideas, to accelerate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and foster a green, sustainable and inclusive recovery. South-South and triangular cooperation can also bring greater visibility to the Philippines as a global champion in areas addressing common transnational development challenges.

I have the pleasure to present the policy note and action plan for South-South and triangular

cooperation which will serve as a distinct element of the United Nations' work in the country. This policy note comprises strategic entry points and approaches as well as operational considerations to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation as we implement the United Nations cooperation framework agreed with the Philippines.

This Policy Note is part of a series initiated by the United Nations in the Philippines to guide the implementation of the 2024-2028 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF). Topics include South-South and triangular cooperation, the Secretary General's Prevention Agenda, and Leaving No One Behind, among others.



Gustavo González
*United Nations Resident and
Humanitarian Coordinator*

Overview

South-South and triangular cooperation offers a perfect model for global cooperation towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Such global solidarity is also required to reduce poverty and inequality, achieve SDGs, and avert a climate catastrophe by building more inclusive and resilient societies, empowering women and youth, leveraging digital and green initiatives and expanding sustainable financing. South-South and triangular cooperation offers a perfect model for such global cooperation.

This Policy Note presents key recommendations for leveraging the UN system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development and through that, further strengthen the United Nations contribution to sustainable development in the Philippines. It intends to contribute to the UN system's collective learning and to global efforts to confront sustainable development challenges through South-South and triangular cooperation.



It intends to contribute to the UN system's collective learning and to global efforts to confront sustainable development challenges within the context of the South-South and triangular cooperation.

This Note was originally prepared during COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of the UN Socioeconomic and Peacebuilding Framework for COVID-19 Recovery in the Philippines 2020-2023 (SEPF). At that time, the search for effective responses to challenges and opportunities accelerated the development of new and innovative cooperation modalities, including through the reinvigorated UN development system that was tasked to “mainstream and enhance support to South-South and triangular cooperation at the request, ownership, and leadership of developing countries.” It is also guided by the mandate given by Member States in General Assembly resolutions on South-South cooperation (A/RES/76/221 and A/RES/77/185) which “call upon the United Nations development system to continue mainstreaming South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation into the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, at the country level, as appropriate...”.

It was further updated in 2023, when UN in the Philippines was finalizing its new strategic document, the next generation 2024-2028 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (CF) that guides sustainable development work of all UN entities in the country.

Background and context

I. Global context

With the global socioeconomic climate entangled with Cold War politics in the 1960s and 1970s, developing countries began seeking alternatives to the existing economic and political order by exploring ways to chart the course of their own development. Technical cooperation among these Southern States started as a pioneering associative effort to strengthen their diplomatic and international negotiating power through political dialogue. This ambition translated into the *Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (BAPA)*, a major cornerstone of the so-called South-South Cooperation (SSC), adopted by 138 UN Member States at the UN Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (UNTCDC) held in Buenos Aires in 1978.¹

Since then, TCDC has become part and parcel of SSC, together with political dialogue, economic cooperation and financial cooperation, shaping a wide range of exchanges through programs, projects and initiatives that have contributed to solving specific problems of the countries of the South.

At the request of the UN Secretary-General (SG), the UN System-wide Strategy on South-South Cooperation was developed by the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) through the United Nations Inter-Agency Mechanism for South-South and Triangular Cooperation and in consultation with United Nations entities to galvanize a coordinated, coherent

approach to the policy and programmatic work of the UN system on South-South and triangular cooperation. Through the implementation of this strategy and its accompanying Action Plan, the UN system entities are envisioned to be better positioned to coordinate and harmonize policies and operational and programmatic work on South-South and triangular cooperation at global, regional and country levels with the aim of supporting the national priorities of countries of the South, under national ownership and leadership.

The 21st session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation convened on 31 May – 2 June 2023 focused on “Accelerating the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through South-South and triangular cooperation.” The SG report noted the past two years has seen the growing momentum of UN organizations to further institutionalize South-South and triangular cooperation as an integral part of their policies, strategies and programmes, indicating that those modalities can complement, without replacing, other forms of development cooperation. Among others, several UN entities have already set-up their South-South and triangular cooperation units. To support SDG transformation, there is a call for new and innovative ways to expand the models and approaches to South-South and triangular cooperation particularly on common challenges such issues as food security, health, education for all, social protection, gender and income inequality, digital gap, access to clean and affordable energy,

¹ Technical cooperation was defined in Buenos Aires as “an instrument capable of promoting the exchange of successful experiences among countries that share similar historical realities and similar challenges.”

debt relief and climate change which are not being addressed quickly enough. There is a need to better identify the kinds of funding and institutional support required through South-South and triangular cooperation, reinforcing the call for partnerships inclusive of civil society, academia and the private sector.

II. National context

The 2019 Philippine Voluntary National Review (VNR) recognized the need to maximize South-South and triangular cooperation as a means to share knowledge and to promote the replicability of good development experiences between countries of similar development capacities. The report further noted that despite its potential, South-South and triangular cooperation has not been fully utilized as a modality for development cooperation due to the absence of a mapping of needs, competencies and advantages. It thus called on support from the international community to provide a platform for matching development needs with possible solutions. The importance of South-South and triangular cooperation was reiterated in the 2022 Philippine VNR, noting its role in enabling developing countries to obtain medical supplies and vaccines from southern partners during the pandemic.

At the 2021 High-Level Committee on South-South and triangular cooperation, the Philippines reaffirmed its support and commitment to SSC as an effective and complementary modality for cooperation among developing countries, given similarities in circumstances, government capacities and views on national development strategies. The Philippine statement underlined that “partnerships that accelerate and strengthen developing countries’ recovery, response and resilience against COVID-19 and future external shocks and epidemics/pandemics are very crucial.” The delegation reaffirmed the key role of the UN funds, programmes, specialized agencies, UN Regional Commissions, including the UN Country Teams (UNCTs), in supporting and promoting SSC and welcomed the proposed setting up in Manila of a new South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility.

At the 2023 High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, the Philippines underlined South-South and triangular cooperation as a key modality for the 2030 Agenda. The national statement notes: “The Philippines is committed to South-South Cooperation and intends to strengthen its support to the efforts of the other developing countries.” Universal health coverage; equity in pandemic prevention; preparedness and response; one health joint plan; health infrastructure and human resources were identified as critical sectors to benefit from South-South and triangular cooperation.

The Philippines’ long-term development vision is articulated in the AmBisyon Natin 2040 as follows: “By 2040, the Philippines is a prosperous middle-class society where no one is poor. People live long and healthy lives and are smart and innovative. This vision collectively represents the aspirations of the Filipino people until 2040 and guides the development plans that operationalize this vision. The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028 has an overall goal “to achieve economic and social transformation for a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient society.” In view of the Philippines’ thrust to become an upper middle-income country (UMIC), establishing a dynamic innovation ecosystem is at the heart of the transformation agenda of the PDP 2023-2028. This will help position the Philippines among the innovation achievers of the region and help promote the attractiveness of the Philippines as a top location for research and development and other innovative activities. Among others, focus will be on improving the domestic adoption, implementation, and reengineering of new technologies from domestic and international sources. Such approaches bring great opportunity for new and innovative ways to expand the models and approaches to South-South and triangular cooperation.

III. 2024-2028 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

The combination of socioeconomic challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the geopolitical situation and the threats of the triple planetary crisis – impact of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution – have severely impacted global and local sustainable development pathways, including that of the Philippines. This has, however, called for repositioning of multilateral institutions and a strengthened role of UN development system so it can better respond to the current global challenges.

As part of the preparation of the forthcoming 2024-2028 CF, the UN in the Philippines prepared its Common Country Analysis (CCA) that provides a comprehensive overview of the current situation in the country. The CCA found that the Philippines has been characterized by high inequality and concentration of wealth as economic growth has not translated into commensurate human development outcomes. Food and nutrition insecurity, maternal mortality and child stunting rates are high for a country aspiring to be an upper middle-income country. The country is at high risk of the impact of climate change, and its exposure to natural hazards, continuous degradation of natural resource base and pollution already have serious consequences for the economy and health. Long-standing human rights challenges are both a cause and a consequence of inequality and development challenges. The peace process underway in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) has the greatest potential to deliver lasting peace and eliminate key drivers of poverty and instability in the region. Further progress on the SDGs requires continued action for rapid recovery and making the economy more inclusive, competitive, innovative and resilient; making governance more transparent and accountable; promoting a more human rights conducive climate; supporting peace and development in regions that are also the most economically marginalized; promoting evidence-based and participatory policymaking; deepening

commitment to leaving no one behind with focus on the vulnerable groups; strengthening the human rights-based approach to drug policies, investing in human capital; action on climate change, environmental governance and pollution; and reducing disaster risks emanating from climate change and increasing natural hazards.

The 2024-2028 CF is the first *new generation* cooperation framework in the Philippines – the key strategic document that guides the work of all UN development system entities in their joint endeavor to support the country on its path to sustainable development and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The CF embodies global UN development system reform aspirations underpinned by the UN system leading the sustainable development agenda through enhanced coherence, relevance, and efficiency.

The CF is transformative as it sets the stage for UN's shift from *development assistance to strategic and expanded partnerships* for sustainable development, where greater focus is placed on policy development, capacity building, bringing forward global knowledge, supporting coalitions – locally, nationally and globally – and playing a strong development-enabling role. The CF is also transformative in how the UN works collectively – with much greater emphasis on internal collaboration, jointness and shared expertise.

These CF features, together with its full alignment with national development priorities, are a testament of commitment to promoting and supporting South-South and triangular cooperation in the Philippines. The UN plays an enabling role by leveraging expertise, innovations, knowledge, technology and resources from the Global South to help diversify access to sustainable development solutions that address common transnational development challenges, but are adapted to specific needs of the local context and environment.

Strategic guidance on supporting and promoting United Nations System-wide Strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development*

I. Guiding principles for engagement

The 2009 Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation identified the following principles of South-South and triangular cooperation as reaffirmed in the BAPA+40 document:

A. Normative principles

- Respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs
- National ownership and leadership
- Solidarity
- Partnership among equals
- Non-conditionality
- Complementarity

B. Operational principles

- Mutual accountability and transparency
- Development effectiveness
- Coordination of evidence- and results-based initiatives
- Multi-stakeholder approach.

Key considerations for UN System engagement in operational activities of SSTC include:

1. Alignment with national plans and priorities and support to regional efforts and agreements
2. Response to the specific development challenges of developing countries
3. Alignment with the UN CF
4. Alignment with international, regional and national normative frameworks
5. Leveraging of the unique role and comparative advantages of the UN entities
6. Long-term engagement and sustainability
7. Strengthening of human, technical and institutional capacity development
8. Improvement of the exchange of experiences and know-how; and
9. Results-focused programming, monitoring and impact applicable to South-South and triangular cooperation.

II. Recommendations

Entry points and approaches

The 2019 BAPA+40 Document recognizes the different and evolving forms of South-South and triangular cooperation, including technical

* The Strategy, adopted by the Secretary Generals Executive Committee in 2020, provides a UN system-wide orientation to spur a coordinated, coherent UN approach to South-South and triangular cooperation policy, programming and partnership support and a boost to the impact of the support of the UN development system to South-South and triangular cooperation at the national, regional and global levels.

cooperation, the sharing of knowledge and experience, training, capacity building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, aimed at achieving sustainable development through the promotion of, inter alia, economic cooperation, including trade, investment, infrastructure development and connectivity, agriculture and rural development, food security and nutrition, food safety, health, energy, disaster risk reduction, addressing climate change, as well as mutual learning and the coordination of development policies and strategies among developing countries.

a consultant which undertook consultations with key government partners, development partners/ embassies, and UN bodies to identify and analyse the potential for South-South and triangular cooperation in the Philippines, including the identification of strategic opportunities, key sectors and modalities of cooperation to present recommendations to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation in the country. Listed below are select national priorities in the Philippines which are identified in the CF, are transnational in nature, and require collective action/ sub-regional solutions through the South-South and triangular cooperation modality.

The UN Resident Coordinator’s Office (RCO) engaged

<p>CF Outcome 1: Human capital development, inclusion and resilience building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice research and technologies* • Universal health care and strengthening health systems • One health joint plan • Technology (epidemiological and surveillance capacities for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases) • Food security • Demographic dividend • Education and training (psycho-social COVID related) • Social protection* • School feeding and family farming • Nutrition and food fortification • Empowering smallholder farmers and connecting them to market • Human rights • Migration • Conflict transformation, peacebuilding • Counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism, transnational crimes • Durable solutions for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) • Good governance • Responses to gender-based violence and trafficking • Digital-based development solutions in public-service innovations (national portal, empathy training, and service process simplification)
<p>CF Outcome 2: Sustainable economic development, decent work, and innovation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology (forensic technology, artificial intelligence, satellite imagery) • Just transition • Digital skilling

**CF Outcome 3:
Climate action,
environmental
sustainability and
disaster-resilience**

- Disaster risk reduction*
- Green finance (crop insurance, disaster risk finance)
- Strengthening agricultural, rice value chain
- Renewable energy
- Sustainable consumption and production
- Natural resource management, climate change and the environment
- Green technology innovation
- Anticipatory action
- Waste management

Cross-cutting

- Gender mainstreaming*

** Recognized as areas where Philippines has strength*



Studying at the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Philippines. A group of aircraft technician trainees work on a piece of an aircraft outer shell. Photo from ILO/Ruben Hamahiga Dela Cruz

As the UN reflects on, redesigns and expands its support for South-South and triangular cooperation in the Philippines, the following approaches are proposed for it to be fit for purpose:

- **Leverage the UN's comparative advantages** of neutrality, convening role, extensive technical know-how/cutting edge knowledge and folio of good practices, and flexibility to respond at country level.
- **Play a catalytic role** and then step back so affected stakeholders can take the reins. This is particularly relevant in the context of South-South and triangular cooperation where the ownership of 'Southern' actions is supposed to be an integral part of the very core of the relationship.
- **Prioritize upstream engagement** on South-South and triangular cooperation in middle-income countries (MICs) where there is a strong demand for the UN's highly specialized and high-quality technical assistance and policy expertise.
- **Provide knowledge, not 'solutions.'** As each country chooses its own unique path, comparative information to guide reform choices is often more helpful than providing visions or ideologies that could be dismissed as Western transplants.
- **Emphasize capacity development** and a **demand-led approach** to help ensure the solutions developed at the local level adequately address the current challenges.
- **Integrate policy and programme work** so that programmes/projects can be leveraged to engage state policy-makers and serve as a way to turn policy recommendations into actual reforms on the ground.

Areas and actions

The Action Plan for the United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development 2020–2024 and its results framework identified a set of specific deliverables, recommended indicators, and indicative activities for each of the expected outcomes of the strategy. Below are some key actions to consider in the integration of South-South and triangular cooperation in the operationalization of the 2024-2028 CF through the annual Joint Workplans (JWPs). The full set of indicative activities is provided in the Annex.

Institutional

1. UNCT to nominate South-South and triangular cooperation focal points
2. Establish an inter-agency working group on South-South and triangular cooperation with a formalized Terms of Reference or build on existing working groups to include South-South and triangular cooperation promotion; and
3. Explore the feasibility of establishing a new South-South and triangular cooperation Facility in-country, including support for related arrangements.

Planning and programming

4. Identify development needs that can be supported through South-South and triangular cooperation and assets that Philippines can offer to other developing countries, as well as key priority areas for collaboration and engagement on South-South and triangular cooperation through the CF processes
5. Support mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation in national development strategies and plans of action, and strengthen national South-South and triangular cooperation institutions
6. Identify within the context of the CF:
 - (i) areas that are best suited for matching needs and comparative advantages among countries of the South, including through joint activities by the UN, and
 - (ii) needs and solutions to facilitate technology transfer, based on mutually agreed terms as part of the CF process

7. Feature and promote innovative South-South and triangular cooperation activities within UN joint initiatives and programmes; and
8. Develop a joint programme on South-South and triangular cooperation, maximizing available opportunities.

Capacity building and knowledge exchange

9. Based on needs/demands, organize joint trainings, peer learnings, workshops and/or engage in the sharing of Southern knowledge and experiences, and in technology transfer, including through the establishment and use of knowledge exchange platforms or by supporting national knowledge exchange initiatives and platforms; and
10. Conduct/update mapping of existing national stakeholders (including CSOs, private sector, academia), expertise and resources to identify capacity assets and gaps, in a gender-responsive manner for improved South-South and triangular cooperation as part of the CF process.
11. Facilitate participation of UN staff and Member states in capacity development programmes on South-South and triangular cooperation.

Monitoring, reporting, communications

12. Incorporate South-South and triangular cooperation results into the UN Philippines Annual Results Report
13. Include South-South and triangular cooperation in the CF Outcome Groups' agenda, and submit quarterly/semi-annual updates on South-South and triangular cooperation work

– progress, challenges, opportunities, potential areas for exploration;

14. Document and share good South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and projects (knowledge portals like the Global South-South Galaxy, publications or other communication products), and recognize their excellence (e.g. through an award, events).
15. Support national authorities in mapping, evaluating and documenting Southern solutions, including through evidence-based research, as requested.
16. Support national partners in integrating South-South and triangular cooperation in Voluntary National Reviews on SDGs, as requested, including reporting progress on SDG indicator 17.3.1 on measurement of South-South Cooperation.

Partnerships and financing

17. Deepen partnerships with centers of excellence, development institutions, including development cooperation agencies, the global Director Generals Forum and new development actors to leverage technical capacities and resources and to foster innovations and engage new and emerging partners
18. Promote the development of multi-partner resource mobilization plans for South-South and triangular cooperation, and, if requested, support establishment of national funding mechanisms (including through innovative instruments/new partners).



Studying at the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Philippines. TESDA trainees Aiza Cortez, Wendy Serdena and Susana Advincula bottling the mango concentrate and papaya pickle. Photo from ILO/Ruben Hamahiga Dela Cruz

19. Organize specific events that showcase successful partnerships for the achievement of the SDGs including for the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation (12 September)
20. Organize annual high-level events such as possible hosting of a regional conference on South-South and triangular cooperation in collaboration with government and key partners; and
21. Map and raise awareness among UN entities of existing funding and financing opportunities to support SSTC activities.

III. Operational considerations

The 2024-2028 CF commits to launch a new generation of strategic partnerships with international financial institutions (IFIs), the private sector, civil society, and academia, including innovative South-South, triangular and regional cooperation. The sections on Strategic Planning and Programming sections of the Management and Accountability Framework (MAF) of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System indicated the role of Resident Coordinators (RCs) in advancing, together with and in support of Government, the UNCT and relevant regional entities, regional knowledge-sharing and collaboration, policy integration, South-South and triangular exchanges, and multi-country and transboundary initiatives in pursuit of greater system-wide results and impact. This Policy Note thus facilitates the operationalization of the UN system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation, as part of the implementation of the 2024-2028 CF.

While inter-agency coordination in support of SSC happens at the global and regional levels, attempts to coordinate SSC-related work of different parts of the UN system at the country level are still in infancy, including in the Philippines. This is a challenge in MICs – even though the BAPA+40 document encourages countries to support SSTC initiatives of the UN development system, particularly those at the country level under the leadership of the RC. The UN Office for South-South Cooperation is currently finalizing Guidelines for the integration of South-South and triangular cooperation into the country and regional level work of the UN Development System. These Guidelines, developed in consultation with the UN

Development Coordination Office, the UN Inter-agency Mechanism for South-South and triangular cooperation, Regional Commissions and Resident Coordinators, will provide useful support to UN Country Teams as they support national partners to leverage South-South and triangular cooperation to address national priorities and the SDGs.

The national development strategy in the Philippines and the CF could both benefit from a more strategic link with South-South and triangular cooperation. Multistakeholder consultations have highlighted that most bi- and multi-lateral development initiatives (of the government, the UN system, donors, academia and civil society) are ad-hoc and not anchored to a coherent, integrated, holistic national South-South and triangular cooperation strategy. Such a strategy is needed as guidance for a country's activities, initiatives and institutional framework, both from the perspective of being a provider and a beneficiary of South-South and triangular cooperation. It usually serves the country's national foreign policy and aims to strengthen and build new trade and commercial relationships.

The UNCT in the Philippines will be among the first to address the UN system's role in systematically supporting South-South and triangular cooperation. The initial work facilitated by the UN RCO in the Philippines to map and analyze support to South-South and triangular cooperation will serve as foundation for a more comprehensive coordination and collaboration process with government, counterparts and partners. Furthermore, the proposed establishment of South-South and triangular cooperation inter-agency working group within the UNCT or updating of the TORs of existing WG to include South-South and triangular cooperation will facilitate the coordination within the CF Outcome Groups (OGs) and with external partners. The Action Plan for the UN System-wide strategy and accompanying results framework is envisioned to allow the monitoring of the implementation of the strategy by the UN System, mainstreamed in the CF processes (see Annex). The document is expected to allow for the collection and analysis of relevant information that will inform the monitoring and reporting by each entity of the UN System and collectively on its South-South and triangular cooperation work.

Annex: Country-level action plan to support a UN system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development

OUTCOME 1: Strengthened UN ability to respond to developing countries' demands to address specific development challenges through South-South and triangular cooperation

- I. Number of Member States whose requests to the UN system for support on South-South and triangular cooperation have been responded/supported
- II. Number of Member States whose requests to the UN system for support on South-South and triangular cooperation have been supported

Sub-outcome 1.1	Outputs	Indicators
South-South and triangular cooperation is mainstreamed as a specific implementation modality for achieving the SDGs and other global agendas, and is holistically incorporated into policies, strategic frameworks and other planning and programming instruments of UN entities, including in the CF	The UN CCA, CF, and other key strategic frameworks and planning and programming instruments at the national level incorporate South-South and triangular cooperation as a specific implementation modality and/or include related outputs, activities and indicators	Number of newly developed CCAs, CFs and appropriate country programmes that follow the system-wide guidance on SSC and/or include South-South and triangular cooperation-related indicators/ activities

Recommendation:

- Identification of development needs that can be supported through South-South and triangular cooperation, assets that the country has to offer and of key priority areas for collaboration and engagement on South-South and triangular cooperation through the CCA and in 2024-2028 CF processes

Sub-outcome 1.2	Outputs	Indicators
Strengthened South-South and triangular cooperation support structure(s), including dedicated unit and/or institutional focal points, appropriately and adequately funded by UN entities, in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, institutional arrangement, and policy/strategy	Inter-agency working/ thematic groups on South-South and triangular cooperation are established or built within the CF OGs to coordinate the mainstreaming of South-South and triangular cooperation during CCA and the CF roll-out processes	Number of UNCTs with an inter-agency working/thematic group on South-South and triangular cooperation

Recommendations:

- UN agencies to nominate focal points to comprise inter-agency Working Group (WG) on SSTC
- Development of Terms of Reference (TORs) for the South-South and triangular cooperation inter-agency WG or update the TORs for the existing WG to, among others: (i) coordinate South-South and triangular cooperation mainstreaming in CF, including by informing CF Outcome Group discussions, proposing South-South and triangular cooperation related indicators for the CF, and to (ii) coordinate outreach to relevant stakeholders, including NGOs and CSOs, sub-national authorities, parliaments, academia, workers and employers' organizations and other partners based on relevant national and regional needs assessments, including the CCA
- Explore the feasibility of setting-up a new South-South and triangular cooperation Facility in country, including support for related arrangements

Sub-outcome 1.3	Outputs	Indicators
Enhanced technical and human capacities in the UN system, including UNCTs, to respond to Member States' requests for support through South-South and triangular cooperation, including requests for rapid and timely support to crises; and to report on its support to South-South and triangular cooperation programmes and initiatives, including in the Annual SG Report	<p>Joint UN programmes/ initiatives are developed and facilitated to respond to Member States' request for support through South-South and triangular cooperation, including related to COVID-19 and/or similar crises</p> <p>South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and results are reported in the annual UNCT reports. Joint Program reports, Member States briefings, thematic publications or other communication products</p>	<p>Number of South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives/ programmes developed jointly by UNCTs, or a specific Agency, in response to Member States' requests; of which, number of joint programmes related to the COVID-19 or similar crises</p> <p>Number of UNCTs reporting on South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and results, of which in annual UNCT reports, where applicable</p>

Recommendation:

- Based on needs/demands, RCO to organize joint trainings and workshops for capacity development among UNCTs to strengthen UNCT's ability to identify development needs that can be supported through South-South and triangular cooperation, and the specific results to be achieved to mainstream South-South and triangular cooperation in the CCA and the CF roll-out processes
- Incorporate South-South and triangular cooperation results in the UN Philippines Annual Results Report
- CF Outcome Groups to include South-South and triangular cooperation in their agenda and submit a quarterly/semi-annual updates on progress to RCO to inform publications or other communication products on South-South and triangular cooperation

OUTCOME 2: Strengthened institutional, human and technical capacities in countries of the South for/ through South-South and triangular cooperation

- I. Number of South-South and triangular cooperation programmes and initiatives developed and facilitated by countries from the South with support from the UN system
- II. Number of Member States from the South actively involved in South-South Cooperation

Sub-outcome 2.1	Outputs	Indicators
Strengthened capacities of Member States from the South to assess capacity gaps, define their comparative advantages and/or matching with other relevant Member States, and design and implement SSC programmes/ initiatives	Member States from the Global South are supported to identify capacity gaps and assets (including in the context of developing national development strategies and relevant action plans), to identify their comparative advantages or matching needs with other relevant Member States from the Global South, and to design and implement SSC programmes/ initiatives	Number of Member States and national institutions receiving capacity development support in the context of developing national development strategies and relevant action plans

Recommendations:

- Leverage existing UN fora or organize events (fora/workshops /trainings) with government partners to support capacity development of national development cooperation agencies and institutions engaged and interested in South-South and triangular cooperation or address national capacity development needs for South-South and triangular cooperation
- Conduct/update mappings of existing national stakeholders (including CSOs, private sector, academia), expertise and resources to identify capacity assets and gaps, in a gender- responsive manner for improved South-South and triangular cooperation as part of the CF process
- CF Outcome Groups to identify: (i) areas that are best suited for matching needs and comparative advantages among countries of the South, including through joint activities by the UNCT, and (ii) technology needs and solutions to facilitate technology transfer, based on mutually agreed terms as part of the CF process
- Support mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation in national development strategies and plans of action; and in strengthening national South-South and triangular cooperation institutions
- Support preparation of programming tools, manuals and cooperation frameworks on South-South and triangular cooperation
- Support the establishment/strengthening of national coordination mechanisms/units for South-South and triangular cooperation to foster synergies with relevant national, regional and inter-regional SSC frameworks/plans

Sub-outcome 2.2	Outputs	Indicators
Strengthened capacities of countries of the South to identify, evaluate and document successful development solutions and appropriate technologies of the South and SDG progress, including through centres of excellence of the South	Relevant national public institutions, academic institutions, think-tanks, knowledge networks, centers of excellence and resource centers of countries from the South are supported (or established) to identify, evaluate, adapt and document Southern regional solutions and technologies	Number of countries in which relevant institutions/ entities were supported
	Member States are supported to map, evaluate and document South-South and triangular cooperation development solutions and good practices from the South, and/or to undertake evidence-based research on Southern solutions to sustainable development	Number of Member States supported to map, evaluate and document Southern solutions, including through evidence-based research

Recommendation:

- With the government and national partners, identify, map, study/evaluate and document (at local, sub-national or national levels) successful development solutions from the South, good practices, experiences, knowledge, expertise and technologies most promising for South-South and triangular cooperation and country to country learning
- Strengthen the capacities of national entities responsible for South-South and triangular cooperation to map, evaluate and document Southern solutions to address sustainable development challenges, and/or support the establishment of national institutions or centers of excellence
- Support Southern countries and entities to document South-South and triangular cooperation good practices and incorporate these into South-South Galaxy, UN entities' publications, including UNOSSC's publications (e.g. South-South in Action series, UNOSSC compendium on South-South and triangular cooperation good practices)
- Support, as appropriate, evidence-based research to enable countries from the South to better evaluate the impact of their own South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and sustainable development investments.
- Identify and document national institutions that have demonstrated excellence in South-South and triangular cooperation, and recognize their excellence (e.g. through an award)

OUTCOME 3: Improved exchanges of experiences, know-how, appropriate technologies and adaptable development solutions among developing countries and Southern policymakers, institutions, professionals, civil society, academia, and private sector organizations

- I. Number of global, regional and national knowledge-sharing initiatives on solutions from the South supported or facilitated by the UN system
- II. Number of countries from the South showcasing Southern solutions in various fora and through contributions to the HLC-SSC, HLPF-VNR, Regional SDG Fora, etc.

Sub-outcome 3.1	Outputs	Indicators
Enhanced ability of the UN System to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience on successful development solutions from the South using South-South and triangular cooperation tools and platforms, including digital platforms, for country learning and cooperation	The use of UN development system (UNDS) knowledge exchange platforms, as well as other relevant national knowledge exchange mechanisms supported by the UNDS, is promoted among UNCTs, and serve as a resource for South-South and triangular cooperation knowledge exchange	Number of knowledge exchange platforms promoted and used by UNCTs

Recommendation:

- Promote and optimize among UNCTs the use of UNDS knowledge exchange platforms, as well as other relevant national knowledge exchange mechanisms supported by the UNDS, as one of the global platforms for South-South and triangular cooperation, and resources for South-South and triangular cooperation knowledge exchange

Sub-outcome 3.2	Outputs	Indicators
Enhanced support by the UN system for the sharing of knowledge on effective and successful South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives, and on adaptable development solutions and appropriate technologies of the South, for learning and replication purposes	UNCT documentation and publication of good South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and projects led, promoted, supported by the government and national partners	Number of South-South and triangular cooperation good practices identified and published by the UNCT, including those submitted to the South-South Galaxy
	Member States from the South and other national partners are supported to organize peer learning or share their knowledge, solutions and technologies, including through strengthening of national knowledge exchange platforms and resource centres	Number of national knowledge exchange initiatives and platforms supported by the UN system

Recommendations:

- Support Member States and other national partners to organize peer learning and/or engage in the sharing of Southern knowledge and experiences, and in technology transfer, including through the establishment of knowledge exchange platforms
- Organize annual high-level South-South and triangular cooperation events such as possible hosting of a regional conference in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to facilitate the exchange of good practices and solutions to development challenges, adaptation and scaling up among national institutions and partners from the South, highlighting how South-South and triangular cooperation can accelerate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs
- Document and share good South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives and project

OUTCOME 4: Mobilize financial and in-kind resources and expertise through South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships and strategic alliances for increased impact of South-South cooperation

- I. Volume of financial resources (including in-kind equivalent) mobilized through South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships and strategic alliances

Sub-outcome 4.1	Outputs	Indicators
Enhanced United Nations system support to the establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships between Governmental agencies and institutions, financial and non-financial partners, public and private organizations and/or academia from developing countries for the identification, negotiation, formulation, financing and implementation of South-South and triangular cooperation programmes and initiatives	Multi-stakeholder partnerships are established between Governmental agencies and institutions, public and private organizations, financial and non-financial partners and/or academia and other partners from Southern countries for engaging in South-South and triangular cooperation	Number of new South-South and triangular cooperation partnerships established at country level; number of countries concerned; and the volume of financial and non-financial resources mobilized

Recommendation:

- Identify areas of complementarities and synergies between national partners, in collaborative arrangements geared to partnership and engagement for South-South and triangular cooperation
- Facilitate the development of clear, realistic regional and sub-regional initiatives and sign agreements, letters of intent, and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covering South-South and triangular cooperation partnership

Sub-outcome 4.2	Outputs	Indicators
UN system resource base for South-South and triangular cooperation programmes is increased and diversified to ensure their long-term sustainability, including through new sources or innovative financing instruments	Joint UN funding mechanisms, trust funds or innovative mechanisms are expanded or established to respond to specific Member States' South-South and triangular cooperation requests, including related to COVID-19 or similar crises	Number of national funding mechanisms established (including through innovative instruments/new partners; and related to COVID-19 or similar crises); and the volume of resources mobilized

Recommendation:

- Deepen partnerships with centers of excellence, development institutions and new development actors to leverage technical capacities and resources and to foster innovations for the engagement of new and emerging partners, including IFIs and the private sector, as appropriate
- Promote the development of multi-partner resource mobilization plans for South-South and triangular cooperation
- Organize specific South-South and triangular cooperation events that showcase successful partnerships for the achievement of the SDGs (e.g. United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation/Sept)
- Raise awareness among the UN entities about existing funding and financing opportunities to support South-South and triangular cooperation activities

Abbreviations

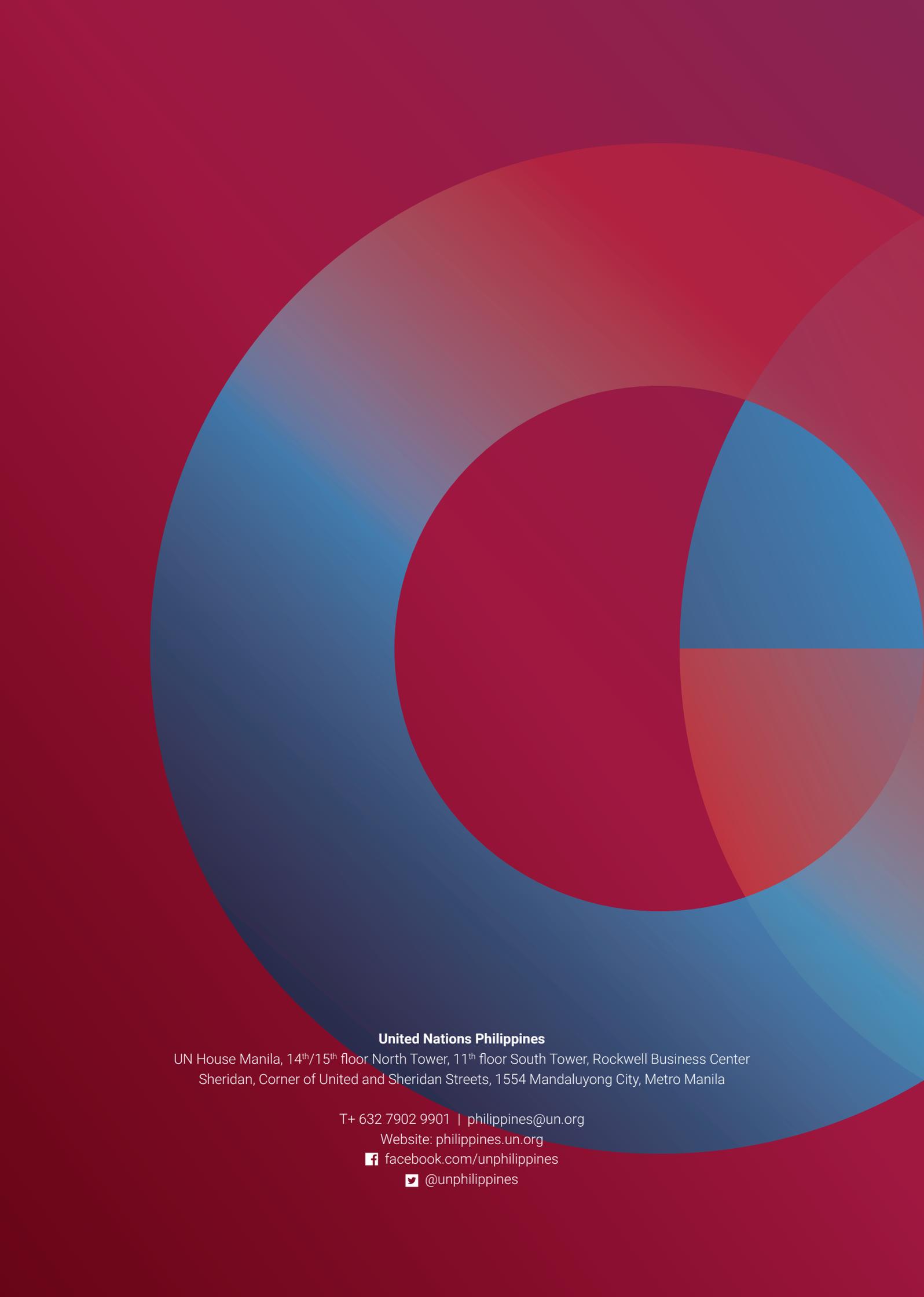
BAPA	Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries	RA	Republic Act
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	RC	Resident Coordinator
CCA	Common Country Analysis	RCO	Resident Coordinator's Office
CF	The Philippines 2024-2028 United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
CSO	civil society organization	SG	United Nations Secretary-General
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs	SSC	South-South cooperation
IDP	internally displaced person	TWG	technical working group
MIC	middle-income country	UN	United Nations
OG	outcome group	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights	UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
NCIP	National Commission on Indigenous Peoples	VNR	Voluntary National Review
PDP	Philippine Development Plan	WG	working group
PSA	Philippine Statistics Authority		
PSEA	Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse		

CREDITS

This document was produced by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator (RCO) in the Philippines on behalf of the United Nations Country Team. RCO wishes to acknowledge the contributions of all stakeholders in preparing this document.

The latest version of this document is available on UN Philippines website at philippines.un.org.

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