

Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators

WORKING GROUP ON MEASUREMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT

Sub-group on South-South cooperation

Terms of Reference

Amended as of 22 December 2020

I. Background and Mandate

1. At its fifth meeting on 15 October 2020 the Working Group discussed the issue of South-South cooperation. UNCTAD provided a presentation covering its evolution, broad definition, guiding principles and debates around its measurement. It explained that country and regional variations in approaches to and concepts of South-South cooperation, as well as political dimensions, made it difficult to reach consensus on a definition. There were also reservations about monetizing South-South cooperation because of difficulties in quantifying components such as knowledge exchange and in-kind contributions. Brazil and Mexico outlined their experiences in quantifying South-South cooperation. Mexico, supported by Russia, suggested forming a Sub-group on South-South cooperation and the Working Group agreed to establish it. On 29 October, on behalf of the Co-Chairs, the Secretariat invited countries to express their interest in joining this proposed Sub-group.

II. Objectives and Tasks

2. The Sub-group will
 - (a) Advise the Working Group on how best to address South-South cooperation in the context of measuring progress against SDG target 17.3 while giving appropriate consideration to paras. 8, 18, 25 and 26 of A/RES/73/291¹ and to the special nature of South-South cooperation.
 - (b) Provide its first set of considerations by February 2021, a preliminary proposal by June 2021 and a final proposal by August 2021, which will also consider validity and feasibility, and include information on case or pilot studies.

III. Membership

3. Membership is open to member and observer countries of the Working Group that are participating in South-South cooperation, and additional countries that wish to contribute. The Sub-group strives for the participation of countries of all regions in which South-South cooperation takes place.

IV. Governance and Organization of Work

4. The Sub-group reports to the Working Group and updates the Working Group on its progress on a regular basis. The Sub-group will elect a Chair who will report to the Working Group.

¹ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3801900?ln=en#record-files-collapse-header>.

5. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) will maintain the wiki page of the Sub-group. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will provide secretariat services to support the progress of work as required.

6. The Sub-group may invite the Statistics Division, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as well as other entities with relevant expertise to provide inputs to its deliberations.

Annex 1: Membership

Eastern Africa:

- United Republic of Tanzania

Middle and Southern Africa:

- South Africa

Western Africa:

- Ghana

Northern Africa:

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Western Asia:

- Egypt

Central, Eastern, Southern, and South-Eastern Asia:

- China
- India

Oceania:

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The Caribbean:

- Cuba

Central and South America:

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Mexico

Eastern Europe:

- Russian Federation (as observer to the Sub-group)

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