Bringing South-South and Triangular Cooperation into action through the Voluntary National Reviews

Side Event: 10th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development
March 30, 12:30-13:45
Theatre, Ground Floor, United Nations Conference Center (UNCC), Bangkok

Organizer
United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

Co-organizer
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)

Registration
To register for this side event, please use https://forms.microsoft.com/e/vLe3B347ZC

Mandatory text for in-person side events: To attend the side event, all registrants must also register on Indico to attend the APFSD by March 13 using the link here:

https://indico.un.org/event/1003108/

Please register using the option “Registration for Others” and choose your side event. Those who do not register on Indico will not be able to access the United Nations Conference Center.

Background
The Member States, in the outcome document of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40), recognize that South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC & TrC) contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving the overarching goal of eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions. In the Ministerial Declaration
of the High-Level Political Forum 2022 (E/HLS/2022/1), the Member States recognize the importance of taking development cooperation policies into account in the voluntary national reviews (VNRs), including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. UN General Assembly Resolution (A/C.2/77/L.62) encourages United Nations entities to support developing countries in integrating development cooperation perspectives, including, SSC & TrC perspectives, into the preparation and presentation of the VNRs.

Integration of South-South and Triangular Cooperation in the VNR process and report can play a key role in bringing much-needed leadership to sustainable development. It can help accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through facilitating the sharing of experiences, best practices, and lessons learned, and mobilizing multi-stakeholder partnerships. It can also help track progress in SDG implementation more comprehensively and inclusively and generate evidence on SSC & TrC’s contributions to achieving the SDGs. As many of the countries present their second, third or fourth reviews, the role of peer-learning and SSC & TrC is even more important.

ESCAP VNR Twinning Programme, which has been running since 2020, supports countries in their VNR preparation by providing a platform for cross-learning among peers, in the spirit of South–South cooperation. Thanks to its experiential and hands-on nature, twinning amplifies the role that SSC & TrC and VNRs can play in strengthening leadership on the 2030 Agenda. As we approach the mid-way point of the 2030 Agenda, attention is focusing on the critical role of VNRs in mobilising countries to take concrete action on the SDGs. Understanding how countries acquire the knowledge, drive, and partnerships to implement course-corrections and reforms is vital to accelerate implementation of the SDGs.

**Scope:**

This joint side event will explore the added value of SSC & TrC in the VNR process and report, including through peer-to-peer support. By underscoring the importance of SSC & TrC, the side event will discuss how twinning initiatives can benefit the VNR process and explore the impact they are having on SDG acceleration efforts. The side event will tease out key lessons on SSC & TrC in the VNR process that can be extended to broader initiatives to promote SDG leadership and accelerate SDG progress. It will present good practices of integrating SSC & TrC in VNR process and report. It will also discuss what practical support the UN system can provide to facilitate and support in integrating SSC & TrC and twinning in the VNR process.
Furthermore, it will present key elements of the forthcoming UNOSSC’s handbook on ‘Integrating South-South and Triangular Cooperation into Voluntary National Reviews’ for discussion and a plan to offer UN support for the same.

**Key Questions and Outcomes**

**Key questions:**

- What are the key enablers in leveraging SSC & TrC in the VNR process?
- How do SSC & TrC integration and twinning initiatives benefit the VNR process and report, and what impact do they have on SDG acceleration efforts?
- What support can the UN system provide to facilitate and support in integrating SSC & TrC and twinning in the VNR process and report, and beyond?
- What lessons can be learned about SSC & TrC in the VNR process and report that can be extended to broader initiatives globally to promote SDG leaderships and accelerate SDG progress?

**Expected outcomes:**

- Improved understanding of the crucial factors that contribute to successful SSC & TrC initiatives in the VNR process.
- Practical knowledge of ways the UN system can facilitate and support SSC & TrC in the VNRs.
- Improved knowledge of good practice and benefits of integrating SSC & TrC in VNRs.
- Increased motivation for scaling up SSC & TrC initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region and globally.
- Ideas and recommendations for how SSC & TrC can make a greater contribution to SDG acceleration.

**Programme**

**Agenda**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master of Ceremony: opening of side event</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Audience engagement activity: Live-polling**

*Few questions to warm up the audience and gauge the audience’s knowledge and perception on the role of SSC & TrC in the VNRs*

**Welcome remarks: UNOSSC representative**
| 10 minutes | **Highlights from UNOSSC handbook on South-South and Triangular Cooperation in VNRs**  
*Focusing on key elements of the forthcoming handbook and areas for feedback*  
- UNOSSC representative |
|---|---|
| 40 minutes + 15 minutes Q&A | **Panel discussion: South-South cooperation in the VNR process**  
*Sharing experiences from the triangular VNR cooperation among Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan and tips, and lessons on integrating South-South and Triangular cooperation in the VNR reports.*  
**Moderator:** Ms. Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, UN Resident Coordinator, Nepal  
**Panellists:**  
- Mr. Balchinluvsan Ilkhavasuren, Director General of Integrated Development Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Development, Government of Mongolia  
- Mr. Kamoliddin Boziev, Head of Department on Rural Development and M&A of implementation of Strategic Documents, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Tajikistan  
- Ms. Urantsooj Gombosuren, Centre for Human Rights and Development, Mongolia  
- Ms. Nasibakhon Aminova, Executive Director, National Association of Small and Medium Businesses of Tajikistan  
- Expert from Indonesia TBC  
- Expert from India TBC  
**Q & A**  
**3 minutes** | **Wrap-up and summary**  
- ESCAP representative |
| **Contacts:** | **UNOSSC:** Mr. Bhushan Shrestha, Result Management Specialist  
bhushan.shrestha@unossc.org  
**ESCAP:** Ms. Caitlin Porter, Senior VNR Advisor caitlin.porter@un.org |
More information:

- On the 10th APFSD: [https://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd10](https://www.unescap.org/events/apfsd10)
- On ESCAP’s VNR Twinning Programme: [https://www.unescap.org/2030-agenda/voluntary-national-reviews](https://www.unescap.org/2030-agenda/voluntary-national-reviews)
- On South-South & Triangular Cooperation: [https://unsouthsouth.org/about/about-sstc/](https://unsouthsouth.org/about/about-sstc/)
- Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation ([BAPA+40 outcome document](https))