



REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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**UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE CENTRE
BANGKOK, THAILAND**

Session 2: Modalities to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation through South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

INTRODUCTION

South-South cooperation is one of the key modalities for delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It provides an ample opportunity to advance the implementation of SDGs by providing home- or region-grown solutions to developing countries in Asia and the Pacific. Utilizing this cooperation process, countries of the South find a robust way to strengthen their capacity in their sustainable development ecosystem with the engagement of relevant stakeholders involving governments, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector. Through exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how, these countries learn from each other and this interactive collaboration paves way for finding long lasting solutions to similar development needs that they share.

With the increasing role of development partners and multilateral organizations in facilitating South-South initiatives, triangular cooperation is an inseparable part of South-South cooperation, especially through the provision of training, technologies and other forms of support. With their complementary nature to the North-South cooperation, South-South and triangular cooperation need to be aligned, enhanced and structured to correspond with the needs and priorities of developing countries to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

With numerous regional and subregional initiatives promoted by the South, Asia and the Pacific is at forefront of the South-South and triangular cooperation. These include the initiatives by the subregional integration groups such as ASEAN and SAARC, or the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank. Many of these initiatives are strategic and transformative.

Many of the most important South-South partners are member States of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). These countries and vehicles are now leading on South-South cooperation initiatives which reach far beyond Asia, to Africa and Latin America.

OBJECTIVE

Session 2 entitled “Modalities to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation through South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development”, organized by ESCAP, aims to showcase some of the successful transformative South-South and triangular cooperation examples and good practices at the regional and sub-regional level.

The presentations to be made by the panelists are expected to focus on a specific experience in support of sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region through transformative inputs with the use of means of South-South and triangular cooperation.

In this respect, the following questions are expected to be answered by the panellists:

- What is the theme/area of good practice they present under the South-South/triangular cooperation concept?
- Who are the main stakeholders (actors/beneficiaries) of their example of South-South/triangular cooperation?
- What are the transformative inputs of their example of South-South/triangular cooperation?
- What are the outcomes and impact achieved?

FORMAT AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Each presentation by the panelist is to up to 7 minutes, and will be followed by a discussion session facilitated by the moderator, aiming to result in 2-3 key areas for future cooperation in the region.

The presentations and discussion should result in addressing the following issues:

- What are the modalities to strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation through South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development?
- What roles could be the roles of the governmental/non-governmental organizations, the regional/sub-regional organizations and networks in strengthening the South-South and triangular cooperation?
- What are the good practices, experiences and lessons learned from the South-South Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific?
