

2ND AFRICA HIGH-LEVEL FORUM FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION (HLFSSTRC) FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Theme: "Building national capacities for South-South and Triangular Cooperation ecosystem in Africa and forging horizontal partnerships for sustainable and resilient societies"



17-19 January 2023

Speke Resort and Conference Centre Munyonyo, Kampala - Uganda

Key highlights and outcome declaration

**2ND AFRICA HIGH-LEVEL FORUM FOR SOUTH-SOUTH
AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION (HLFSSTrC) FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**THEME: “*BUILDING NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR SOUTH-SOUTH
AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION ECOSYSTEM IN AFRICA AND
FORGING HORIZONTAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE AND
RESILIENT SOCIETIES*”**

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Background

The Africa High-level forum for SSTRC is an annual event organized by APRM in partnership with the AU Commission, the United Nations development Program, the Islamic Development Bank and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation in collaboration with the host organisations. The Forum serves as a continental advocacy platform that brings together African leaders, experts, civil society and youth representatives and other regional and global partners to exchange views on SSTRC approaches and methodologies. It also aims to support horizontal partnerships to address development gaps in Africa that hinder the implementation of Agenda 2063. The Forum also builds on the outcomes of the APRM High-Level Forum held in Cairo on 24-25 November 2021 to provide a platform for African countries to discuss the challenges of the governance-development-peace nexus and initiatives for further resilient systems in the Global South. It will also build on the IsDB capacity development programme to enhance their national ecosystems for SSTRC, particularly in their African member countries.

Objectives of the 2nd Africa High-Level Forum of SSTRC for Sustainable Development

1. To gain a good understanding of the state of SSTRC in Africa. Challenges, experiences and comparative advantages of SSTRC in African countries and beyond will be shared;
2. Advance the implementation of the BAPA+40 outcome document in Africa and institutional mechanisms for SSTRC in Africa;
3. Share best practices and lessons learned in strengthening the institutional capacities of African countries and national ecosystems, with a particular focus on Africa, through a range of case studies covering different thematic dimensions and issues; and
4. Discuss the role of international, multilateral organisations and financial institutions in building institutional, human and technical capacity in member states and the UN system needed for South-South and triangular cooperation.
5. To synergize African initiatives and SSC mechanisms for peer learning and sharing ideas on building resilience for post-pandemic recovery scenarios.

Opening ceremony

Key messages from the statements:

Prof. Eddy Maloka, CEO of APRM Continental Secretariat

This forum was established on the basis of several recommendations from development practitioners, member states - led by Uganda- and strategic partners; to keep Africa on track in the implementation of South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Agenda 2063.

South-South cooperation represents a form of collaboration between countries of the Global South, based on the sharing of experiences and the pursuit of common goals, which include but are not limited to poverty alleviation, sustainable societies and investment in human capital to promote self-reliance.

Triangular cooperation, on the other hand, has repeatedly teamed up with traditional partners from the North to support various strategic sectors in countries of the Global South. The critical impetus provided by this corroboration has also led to measurable successes and achievements in the national priorities of several African countries.

The APRM has noted throughout various governance assessment reviews and continental meetings on Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development that both forms of cooperation are on the rise. Interestingly, the 10 largest recipients of Official Development Assistance in Africa, namely Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Uganda, Mozambique, Mali, Somalia and Egypt, are heavily involved in triangular cooperation programmes. Uganda has over 63 triangular partnerships.

Triangular cooperation has mainly supported strategic sectors, including institutional structures and civil society, agriculture, and food security, and healthcare. Investment in education and training for human capital development remains low. The Buenos Aires document noted that countries struggle to adopt holistic approaches to mainstreaming South-South cooperation into development plans. Similarly, there is insufficient data to track the efforts and results of South-South cooperation. This shortcoming has been exacerbated by weak institutional mechanisms that are unable to support the outcomes of South-South Cooperation and the Buenos Aires Action Plan Plus 40 (BAPA+40). There is also a need for an inclusive approach to stakeholders.

This forum serves as a component of the APRM Continental governance approach to improve the effectiveness of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC) in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, especially in view of the serious financial gaps that still exist and have hindered the achievement of the strategic goals of the set agendas.

**Prof. Eddy Maloka, APRM
Continental Secretariat**



The aim of the Forum is to present clear recommendations for the second ten-year plan for the implementation of Agenda 2063, particularly with regard to governance and the role of youth and women in promoting these modalities of cooperation. The PRM Secretariat is also keen to support national ecosystems for South-South Cooperation in Africa through our well-established partnership with African mechanisms and agencies of South-South cooperation alongside development partners.

Hon. Amos Lugoloobi, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development & APRM Focal Point

Much has changed in the SSTC arena since the adoption of Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) in 1987, including the growth and promotion of Africa's own strategies and frameworks. The development of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and its transformation into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA) is a case in point. However, notwithstanding the progress and optimism mentioned above, the potential for SSTRC in sub-Saharan Africa remains largely untapped. This is due to a number of challenges including insufficient political appreciation and support, disconnection between SSTRC initiatives and local realities, inadequate policy and regulatory frameworks, and lack of or insufficient access to financial resources.



At the National level, the Ugandan government gives high priority to SSTRC within the country's development framework. In line with the aspirations enshrined in Uganda 2040 and the Third National Development Plan (2020/21-2024/25), SSTRC provides Uganda with a unique opportunity to find solutions to a range of development challenges. These include sharing knowledge and best practices with partners following a similar development path, technical support, technology transfer, as well as financial support to achieve development goals.

H.E Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission

The African Union is reviewing the strategic outcomes of A2063 during the first decade to promote the development of effective partnerships that will enable improved synergies in funding and consistent implementation of effective frameworks at national, regional and international levels and ensure effective allocation of resources to drive development over the next 10 years.

Recognising the importance of the SSTRC in achieving the Africa we want, the AU has already established strategic partnerships with the regions and countries of the South, including the Africa-South America partnership, the Africa-Arab partnership and the China-Africa cooperation form, among others.



As the African Union prepares for the 6th Arab-African Partnership Summit to be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in November this year, the African Union and its brotherly Arab neighbours will join efforts to mobilise respective resources and capacities to build sustainable and resilient societies.

In this context, it is imperative that cooperation with the Global South including China and South American partners, is strengthened and deepened to continue to deliver tangible results.

Asian and Latin American support, as well as cooperation with traditional partners in the North, are essential to ensure the implementation of our continental priorities. The ongoing challenges to strengthen Africa's economic and social and economic resilience require an inclusive approach to include women and youth in our policy design and programme implementation.

Ambassador Aly El-Hefny, Member of APR Panel of Eminent Persons

South-South and Triangular Cooperation are essential for the promotion of African integration as enshrined in Agenda 2063 and all its Aspirations. Therefore, the significance of the diaspora community in mobilising the necessary resources, especially human capital, is very important to strengthening the effectiveness of our collective efforts towards sustainable growth and development across the continent. An important lesson from the aftermath of the Ukraine war is that we need more than ever to become independent and self-sufficient in terms of food security, basic needs for human survival and diversification of our energy resources.

In this regard, our strategic partnership with the global south is important. Our partnerships with different partners and countries are important in positioning Africa strategically in the world. It is important for Africa and African countries to maintain a balance between foreign and continental policies and avoid the negative effects of patronage and loyalties between the superpowers on the one hand and the emerging powers on the other.

Among the progress made in combating the pandemic is cooperation such as the triangular cooperation between Egypt, China (Sinovac) and African countries to achieve an adequate supply of vaccines for the continent. This can also be used in other areas. Therefore, traditional partners from the Northern Hemisphere need to rethink their engagement with the continent to support African countries, especially in the field of science and technology, and to strengthen the continent's capacity in producing high-tech products based on science and technology. Triangular and South-South cooperation among African countries can also be promoted to strengthen human capacities and enable public officials to address national challenges in a transition context.

The African Union Peace and Security Structure and relevant bodies and mechanisms, including the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development and the APRM as an early warning mechanism for conflict prevention, should work collectively to benefit from SSTRC programmes to curb civil unrest and violence on the continent by promoting political dialogue on the urgent need for a new social contract at the national level to meet the expectations of African citizens.

As we seek to enhance South-South and Triangular Cooperation among ourselves, we must welcome the trilateral cooperation we have witnessed in addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amb. Ali El-Hefny, APR Panel of Eminent Person

Mr. Amer Bukvic, Director General-Global Practice & Partnerships during the first decade, Islamic Development Bank

In the face of the many challenges facing the world, caused by COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, as well as recent geopolitical tensions, in particular the conflict between Russia and Ukraine and its impact on the global economy, the countries of the Global South have shown a high degree of solidarity and, despite their national priorities, have helped each other to respond to emerging developments.

The Global South through the accumulation of a wealth of knowledge, know-how and expertise has positioned South-South and Triangular Cooperation as one of the effective modalities alongside North-South Cooperation to respond to the world's development challenges and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Nevertheless, much can still be done to unlock the full potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

Through the mechanism of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, the Islamic Development Bank facilitates the transfer of knowledge and exchange of insights, expertise and technologies among our member countries in a wide range of sectors and thematic areas.

Based on its field experience and analytical work, the Islamic Development Bank has identified a number of institutional arrangements that can help countries in the South to fully benefit from and participate in South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Together they form the "**National Ecosystem for South-South and Triangular Cooperation**", which consists of several pillars. These arrangements include: A country's political will to engage in South-South and Triangular Cooperation; a development cooperation agency or national body that acts as a national focal point for South-South and Triangular Cooperation activities, and information bases that enable countries to map their national capabilities and development solutions that can be shared with others. To implement this concept, the Bank has also formulated the "Capacity Development Programme for Enhancing National Ecosystems for SSTRC in IsDB Member Countries.



Ms. Susan Ngongi Namondo UN Resident Coordinator, Uganda

The last three years have highlighted the need and potential of South-South and Triangular Cooperation. During this time, we have had to weather some of the greatest threats yet in the history of our nations and National Development Plans. Although we still worry about COVID-19, we are better off today than we were two years ago. But we are not out of the woods yet. As developing countries continue to be at the wrong end of complex, interlinked crises and conflicts, we must continue to strengthen South-South and Triangular cooperation.

It is estimated that 1.3 billion people in the Global South were multidimensionally poor in 2019, 556 million of whom lived in sub-Saharan Africa. As for our own specific context, Africa is the youngest continent, with more than 60% of its population under the age of 25. Not surprisingly with such a young population, Africa also has the highest poverty rate (35%) and unemployment rate (8%) in the world. We still have the continent with the lowest internet penetration (29%) and the continent where more than half the population goes to sleep in the dark (without electricity).

We urgently need to accelerate the pace of our development outcomes to transform the situation of those living in one or more dimensions of poverty into a progressive reality where all people live in dignity as resilient members of peaceful and prosperous communities, societies and nations. In times of tight budgets, this sounds like an unrealistic goal.



Crucial to our deliberations at this conference are therefore questions such as HOW? How can we accelerate progress? How can South-South and Triangular Cooperation support and catalyse transnational efforts to find transformative responses to our common challenges?

- Uganda, has benefited from South-South cooperation initiatives in sectors, such as agriculture, education, health, infrastructure and science, technology and innovation. The country has extended capacity building and knowledge support to others in the areas of peace and security, including women's leadership and participation in peacebuilding, governance, energy and mineral resources development, migration issues, and humanitarian assistance in health and disaster risk management.
- In partnership between South Africa, Uganda and UNDP, the 'Karamoja Greenbelts' initiative was launched. The aim is to improve food security for the people of Karamoja, a sub-region that was affected by the IPC Grade 3 food and nutrition emergency in 2022. This new initiative is anchored in the framework of cooperation between India, Brazil and South Africa. It is a good example of trilateral collaboration in the fight against poverty and hunger.

- After the dramatic results achieved in agricultural production in the first two phases of South-South cooperation with FAO and China, Uganda, a beneficiary country, is contributing significantly to the financing of the third phase of the project. This demonstrates its commitment to cooperation aimed at improving food and nutrition security, creating income opportunities and decent jobs, especially for youth and women, and improving living conditions for small farmers.

Amidst the turmoil in the region, Uganda has consistently played a key role in peace and stabilisation efforts, including by countering violent extremism and terrorism through the deployment of its armed forces in Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), calling for and participating in the joint East African intervention in the conflict in Eastern DRC. Uganda has been a generous host to over 1.5 million refugees in settlements; in 2022 alone, the country welcomed nearly 150,000 new people. There are many experiences here to share with other countries in the Global South.

And as we are just at the end of an impressive Ebola response, Uganda should be more deliberate in offering its expertise in “epidemic and disease outbreak management” and more targeted in supporting other countries in the Global South with this expertise. In short, there is a rich knowledge base – experiences and lessons – that countries of the South should share with each other to advance their common development.

The UN will continue to support Uganda and members of the Global South, to design national, sub-regional and regional development solutions that build on the wisdom and lessons learned that have been acquired from South-South cooperation initiatives. Several UN agencies have developed specific strategies to promote South-South and Triangular Cooperation and all five UN regional commissions have adopted them as core working methods. Several UN agencies, funds and programmes - FAO, IOM, ILO, UNDP, UN HABITAT, UNICEF, UN WOMEN and WFP - are mobilising partnerships for the South-South Cooperation and Triangular framework. The UN already has numerous partners, platforms, and robust policy instruments at national, sub-regional, regional and global levels. There is a need for the future:

- As you brainstorm in the sessions that follow this opening, explore how you can make your implementation as robust as your promises, the HOW part of our vision and plans.
- Discover innovative ways you can use these achievements to help the 1.3 billion men and women, children and senior members, and youth living in multidimensional poverty in the Global South. In addition to sharing impactful development results that have been achieved by countries and communities in the Global south.
- Identify real actions to support regional interventions aimed at stabilising the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa regions. This must be a ‘non-negotiable’ agenda, as we all know that peace is a prerequisite for of all forms of growth and integration; and
- Work on mobilising large-scale South-South and Triangular cooperation initiatives that can improve the situation of 283 million people in the Global South who are experiencing unprecedented levels of food insecurity and help to compensate for educational losses (COVID-19) through the use of science, technology, innovation and technical education.

Rt. Hon. Justine Kasule Lumumba, Representing the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda

This High-Level Forum on South-South Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development is the 2nd event Uganda is hosting following your approval of the request from the APRM Continental Secretariat and the African Union. It is a precursor to the 20th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which Uganda will host later this year.

At the end of the Forum, the participants are expected to present the following outcomes:

- A declaration with specific recommendations to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the outcome document of the Second High Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation in 2019 in Africa in line with the Agenda 2030 and the Agenda 2063 in Africa.
- A series of initiatives and key messages to the High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation (UNGA) to advance the SSTRc Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels (global, regional and national) and through all key stakeholders (governments, UN system entities and multilateral organisations, financial institutions).

Address and Official Opening by H.E Rtd Maj Jessica Alupo Epel, Vice President of the Republic of Uganda

South-South Cooperation is an effort by developing countries in the Southern Hemisphere to share experiences and best practices for their mutual benefit. The South-South cooperation is therefore based on our common goals and our determination to achieve better development of our societies. This solidarity is progressive and guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty and, unconditional membership.

**Her excellency Vice
President of Uganda
(in the middle)**



It is encouraging to note that a number of countries in the South are already implementing projects and programmes that involve significant exchange and transfer of knowledge, skills, and technology, sometimes with or without the support of more developed countries in the North. Some examples of the South-South cooperation are the infrastructure projects that the People's Republic of China is implementing in African countries such as Uganda. Various forms of knowledge and technology exchange are also increasingly taking place through the private sector and other non-governmental arrangements.

The SSTRC should be a collaboration and partnership based on mutual benefit and long-term relationships beyond our traditional position as aid recipients. In essence, South-South and Triangular Cooperation offers the opportunity to replace traditional financial aid and technical assistance and reshape the global development architecture towards a more inclusive, effective, fair and horizontal global development agenda.

In Uganda, the South – South Cooperation has helped us directly and indirectly to fight poverty, improve the quality of life of households and thus, achieve socio-economic change. For example, the FAO-China South-South Cooperation (SSC) Trust Fund has improved the welfare of our people by increasing agricultural productivity. In one of the project areas, for example, rice production per hectare has quadrupled, while in other areas daily milk production has increased from 2 litres to 7 litres per local cow. High-quality and low-cost fish feed techniques, improved technologies for growing foxtail millet, maize, grapes, apples and cherry tomatoes, and animal husbandry including goats, pigs and sheep, have also been developed. These programmes are now aimed at reaching out to more women farmers to improve household income and nutrition in the country.

In order to move forward, we must all work together to find solutions to the challenges facing the South – South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTRC). The solutions include: defining a strategy for cooperation among SSTRC countries; developing a specific trade agreement for the SSTRC framework; maintaining and promoting peace and security among SSTRC countries, especially in Africa; modalities of development financing for SSTRC; establishing an institutional framework for SSTRC on the different continents and in the different countries, E.g. in Africa, Asia and South America, the establishment of an institute for the already agreed SSTRC research and training, technology and education; strengthening the framework for technology transfer and deepening regional integration and cooperation, among others.

Setting the stage and overview of the forum & expected outcomes

Prof. Pamela Mbabazi, Chairperson, National Planning Authority, Uganda

Uganda remains committed to playing a constructive role in promoting effective partnership and cooperation with the international community.

This 2nd High Level Africa Forum takes place in the midst of major global political, epidemiological and environmental crises, including the climate change crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic and the war between Russia and Ukraine. The COVID-19 pandemic has sent shockwaves through the world economy and triggered the largest global economic crisis in more than a century, leading to job losses and a decline in real per capita income in 2020. Countries dependent on trade and tourism (like some of our members) were hit harder than countries with large agricultural and mining sectors. This prompted our President, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, to advise against putting too much emphasis on developing the 'virtual economy' while neglecting the 'real economy'. The Russia-Ukraine war, on the other hand, triggered significant food shortages (especially in the Global South) and an energy crisis.

The result has been a rise in inflation, debt and income inequality that has hampered recovery worldwide while narrowing policy options to address global political, epidemiological and environmental crises.

With intra-African trade accounting for only 16 -18% of all trade in Africa, African countries are largely dependent on the industrial North as an outlet for the goods (mainly commodities) we produce. The weak economic recovery in Africa and elsewhere in the global South is partly due to the increasing prospects of an economic recession in the industrial North, on which we are largely dependent for trade and investment.



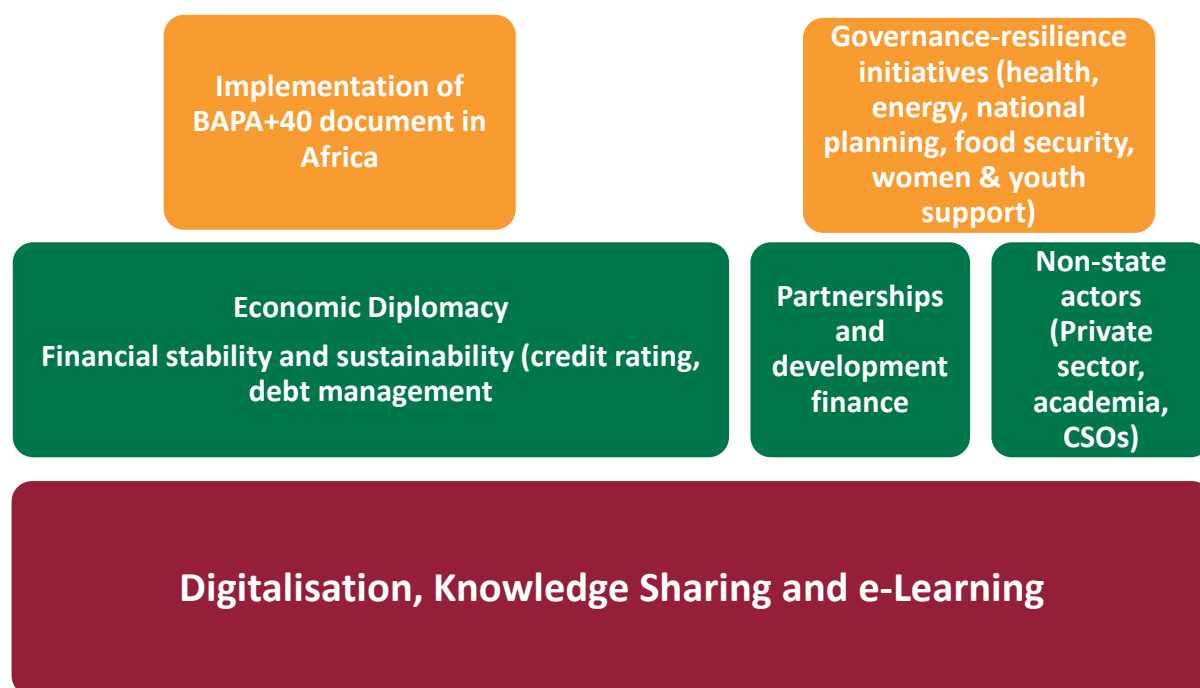
To change the development trajectory, Africa and other countries of the Global South are encouraged to strengthen horizontal cooperation in trade and investment, research and technology development, and capacity development. The South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC) framework provides us with a perfect platform to address the challenge of Africa's economic marginalisation. It also provides a framework for increasing the participation of developing countries in the global economy, building and strengthening technological capacity and promoting self-reliance by harnessing the capacity to find solutions to the challenge of economic marginalisation.

With the implementation initiatives such as the AfCFTA, the APRM and the Africa- CDC (Centre for Disease Control), Africa has laid the foundation for increased horizontal cooperation among African states. Happening soon after global forums such as the World Food Summit 2022 and COP27 (dubbed the “African COP”), which focused on addressing vulnerability and combating climate change, this Forum provides us with a platform to discuss the opportunities and challenges of promoting SSTRC programmes in Africa.

This Forum also gives us the opportunity to discuss ways to realise the considerable potential for SSTRC in Africa that remains untapped due to insufficient political appreciation and support, inadequate policy and regulatory frameworks, disconnection between SSTRC initiatives and local realities, and insufficient funding for SSTRC initiatives.

The Forum discussions cover the following issues:

1. The Global and Country context of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. In this session, discussions should focus on how the SSTRC framework can be effectively used to support Africa’s economic recovery amidst changing global dynamics and a new multipolar world;
2. Building national ecosystems for SSTRC in Africa; Are the policy and institutional frameworks in our countries adequate to make the most of SSTRC opportunities?
3. Economic and Social Resilience for recovery from COVID-19, Climate Change, Food Security and Financial Inclusion in Africa;
4. Strengthening research and training on SSTRC in Africa; research and training in Africa are poorly funded. So, the question is, how to increase funding (both public and private) for research and training in Africa. What are the possibilities?
5. Strengthen private sector participation in promoting SSTRC in Africa; It is now widely accepted that government is a bad businessman. So, the question is how to position the private sector at the forefront of promoting SSTRC, given that our economies are private sector led. Without private sector leadership in SSTRC, many of the initiatives in this framework will not be fully successful.
6. Mainstreaming academia and civil society in SSTRC in Africa, among others. The role of academia in promoting research and evidence-based decision making is well documented. Participants should perhaps discuss the role of academia in the session on research and training.
7. The role of civil society in promoting transparency and improving governance.



Ambassador Adonia Ayebare, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations

Uganda's journey with South-South cooperation is enriching and useful for Africa. The process that led to BAPA+40 has shown that the North-South divide is artificial when the right issues are put on the table. The BAPA+40 outcome document is the guiding document for all member states on the UN regarding South-South Cooperation for the next 40 years. With this consensus, the Global South is well equipped to implement South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

He particularly thanked the APRM and Prof. Eddy Maloka for championing the South-South and Triangular Cooperation and the follow-up of BAPA+40 commitments on the African continent, as such global processes are difficult to break from New York. Therefore, institutions like the APRM need to take a leadership role at the continental level.

All these SSC efforts have their origins in the Afro-Asian Bandung Protocols of 1955, which laid down the timeless principles of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, including: Respect for Fundamental Human Rights, the UN Charter, Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity and Recognition of the Equality of All Races were put in place. These principles must be taken into account when countries implement various South-South cooperation programmes.

The BAPA+40 outcome document goes beyond technical cooperation to other areas such as infrastructure, digitisation, finance, trade, investment, etc. It is therefore very good that institutions like the Islamic Development Bank are working with the countries of the Global South to implement the BAPA+40 outcomes.



Among the things that need consensus during this conference are:

- **Advocacy** – Developing countries still face serious domestic challenges and have limited resources to support others. Against this background, it is difficult for leaders in these countries to justify financial or technical support to others. As a result, much of the expansion of South-South Cooperation in recent years has come from a limited number of countries, and some of this cooperation has been one-sided. Further efforts are needed to expand the scope of actors involved in this mechanism to include less developed countries and to ensure a two-way flow of this cooperation so that all actors benefit from this interaction. There is therefore a need for serious lobbying to convince the various decision-makers in this regard.
- **Stronger institutional arrangements at the national level** - We need to ensure that there is an institutional framework for cooperation at the national level, as this is both a political and a technical process. Without agencies to implement it, it will be very difficult. Most of the existing institutions are designed to receive funding from traditional development partners. They usually lack capacity to shape the demand and supply for cooperation with other developing countries, including legal mechanisms and financing structures. This should be an important component of development partner support, especially through UN organisations. The UN Office of South-South Cooperation and the South-led development banks such as the IsDB and the Asia Infrastructure Development Bank are very important as a resource because they conduct research and provide opportunities to channel financial and technical resources from the global South.

There is a need for coordination at the global level through the structures of the United Nations. In this regard, it is important to revive the G77+China group to provide thought leadership and proposals that advance the agenda beyond the principles and practices already agreed upon. Uganda is taking the lead of both NAP and the G77, which determine much in terms of South-South cooperation, and it will work with the APRM, other African organisations and the UN to provide political support and capacity for the implementation of South-South cooperation programmes.

- **Reporting** – traditional donors criticise the lack of adequate information on South-South cooperation flow. In this context, there is pressure to join and adopt the OECD reporting mechanisms, which is rejected by developing countries because South- South Cooperation also includes other aspects such as solidarity that cannot be measured by these instruments.

However, it is very important to receive information on the results of South-South cooperation without having to bow to pressure from traditional donors who promote their own frameworks.

- The expansion of South-South cooperation will contribute greatly to multilateralism. Given the impact of COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, resources from the Global South are really important to complement the global agenda.

APRM-UNDP Exhibition to support young entrepreneurs in Africa.

Forty exhibitors from 25 African countries participated in the forum, including 15 national exhibitors from Ghana. It enabled them to showcase local initiatives and indigenous solutions to tackle environmental, health and other challenges. In addition, strategic partners such as the, Saudi Development Fund, APC-Brazil, UNDP in Uganda and others were able to present their development projects and programmes.



Closing remarks of the forum delivered by his excellency, Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda

The President of Uganda congratulated all the organisers and participants on the conclusion of a well-organised SSTRC Forum in Uganda.

He pointed out that SSTRC is historical and has been in existence for a number of years. At the time, there were interactions between East Africa and Middle-Eastern countries (especially Oman and Yemen) and also communication with China and India to create development links. Through the links with Latin America, African slaves were also brought to Latin America. By 1900, all of Africa except Ethiopia had been colonised. Similarly, India, Indo-China, Indonesia, and Malaysia, among others, had been colonised. Therefore, we have been fighting for our freedom together ever since. The first modern anti-colonial movement was founded in South Africa in 1912 by the ANC. It is good that we remember that Mahatma Gandhi was in South Africa at some point and worked with the African liberators. Africa also worked with leaders from China, Egypt and India, among others, to free itself from the chains of colonisation.



Therefore, SSTRC is not necessarily new. At the Bandung Indonesia conference in 1955, the Bandung Principles were proclaimed. In the anti-colonial struggle, the SSTRC supported each other to achieve development until India gained independence in 1947

Currently, the main goal of SSTRC countries is social transformation rather than independence from colonial powers. The challenge now is to create prosperity for all our people. Until 1960, prosperity, wealth, and affluence were found only in a few countries in Western Europe, North America, the United States, Canada and Japan. The rest of the world on the other hand, struggled with poverty.

SSTRC countries and Africa in particular, have many natural resources. However, there were internal weaknesses in the SSTRC countries and Africa, especially in terms of lack of visionary leadership. This was compounded by the interference of external stakeholders. So, it is high time to address the issue of global prosperity. It should not be about partial prosperity in only a few countries. Partial prosperity represents a system of parasitism, yet, we all desire symbiosis and equal benefits from working together.

The indicators and description of prosperity include aspects such as: good and quality food, clothing, shelter, locomotion and transport, energy (for cooking, for light, for cooling), health care, education, and recreation, among others.

The key question to be answered is the modalities and ways to achieve this prosperity (The How). Is it a matter of donations or begging? The key answer is that prosperity should not be achieved through begging and donations.

Prosperity should be achieved in two ways, through the production of goods and services for sale (everyone must be a producer of a good or service) and through education for all. These two are the ingredients for a sustainable prosperous society.

It is important to note some improvements in partial prosperity as China, India and some sections of African society have achieved some prosperity. However, this is still not enough. That is why such an SSTRC conference is good. “In order to achieve global prosperity, member states must support each other by creating a sustainable market for their goods and services. When we talk about South-South Cooperation, we should also talk about trade in North-South Cooperation trade to expand our market”.

The production of goods and services in Uganda takes place mainly in four sectors: Agriculture, Manufacturing Industry, Services and ICT. It is around these sectors that we work to create wealth in Uganda. These four sectors represent wealth creation for the individual, the family and the country. It is these sectors that create wealth that led to development. Africa has too much food, but the problem is the market. SSTRC and Africa should also prioritise research and science and technology in all their development activities.

More news about the forum, please visit

<https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/south-south-co-operation-forum-kicks-off-in-k-151763>.

<http://www.npa.go.ug/aprm-south-to-south-triangular/>. <https://aprm.au.int/en/node/3443>.





THE 2ND AFRICA HIGH-LEVEL FORUM OF SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Date: 17-19 January 2023

Venue: SPEKE RESORT HOTEL, MUNYONYO

KAMPALA, UGANDA

Declaration

RECALLING its resolution of 24-25 November 2021 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt, in which it decided that the 2nd Africa High-Level Forum of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development would be held in Kampala, the Republic of Uganda and the approval of H.E Museveni to organise the 2nd edition of the Forum from 17-19 January 2023 under the theme: *“BUILDING NATIONAL CAPACITIES FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION ECOSYSTEM IN AFRICA AND FORGING HORIZONTAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES”*

EXPRESSING its gratitude to the Islamic Development Bank, UNDP Service Centre for Africa in Addis Ababa and UNDP in Uganda to collaborate with APRM as co-organisers of the 2nd High-Level Forum of South-South and Triangular Cooperation as well as providing all the necessary support.

AND EXPRESSING special appreciation to Ambassador Adonia Ayebare, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations, for his unwavering support to the APRM to achieving its mandate and the successful organisation of this Forum;

WELCOMING WITH SUPPORT the Outcome Document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation which took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina in March 2019 (BAPA+40) and progress made towards its implementation;

APPRECIATING the important role played by the Government of the Republic of Uganda led by H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, in hosting the Second Africa High-Level Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development at Munyonyo Commonwealth Resort, Kampala, from 17-19 January 2023;

WELCOMING WITH GRATITUDE the efforts of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), Islamic Development Bank, Saudi Fund for Development, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the AU Commission for partnering in organizing the Africa High -Level Forum of South -South and Triangular Cooperation Forum;

ENCOURAGING the AU Member States, AU Observers, Strategic Partners, Civil Society, African Woman and Youth to support the convening of the Africa High-Level Forum of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development on annual basis;

RECALLING the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (1978), Doha Declaration (2005), the Nairobi outcome document (2009), and the outcome document of the Second High level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) (2019) as cornerstones for South-South and Triangular Cooperation promotion in Africa;

FURTHER RECALLING the United Nations System-wide Strategy on SSTRC for Sustainable Development, 2020-24, validated by the Executive Committee of the United Nations Secretary-General in 2020, and its role in coordinating, systematic, and coherent approaches of the United Nations' policies, programmatic and partnership support to SSTRC among the Member States in particular African countries.

RECOGNISING the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as a Pan-African homegrown instrument dedicated to sharing experiences and best practices on good governance as well as monitoring and evaluating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063;

NOTING, WITH APPRECIATION the success of horizontal South-South cooperation with tangible results such as infrastructure projects undertaken by the People's Republic of China in African countries through the Forum for China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) beside other modalities i.e. Tokyo International Conference on African Development; India-Brazil -South Africa Economic Cooperation (IBSA); Arab-Africa Summit amongst others;

FURTHER APPRECIATING the efforts exerted by African countries to nurture Capacity Development Programs for Enhancing National Ecosystems for South-South and Triangular Cooperation supported by the Islamic Development Bank and its member states and urges other countries in Africa and development partners to upscale innovative pathways for capitalizing gains of existing SSTRC and to work on mobilizing large-scale South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives on an immediate basis;

NOTING with great concern disastrous consequences of climate change on the livelihood of peoples of developing countries especially African people and calling for an immediate disbursing of the pledged \$100 billion to developing countries to mitigate against its impact.

RECALLING the multiple and multifaceted challenges faced by the African continent over the past three years including Covid- health crisis, flows of irregular migration and increasing conflicts and **URGING** AU Member States to recognize the impact of Covid-19 on the lives of woman, and youth.

RECOGNISING the fact that through our well-established partnership mechanisms and agencies, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, can enable us overcome the lingering severe financial and capacity gaps that have obstructed the achievement of our strategic goals of the set Agendas

CALLING on AU Member States to utilize SSTRC to address the financial gaps for Agenda 2063, Illicit Financial Flows (IFF), skills mismatch with the market needs, gender discrimination and lobby for debt cancelation as a strategy to revitalize African economies post Covid-19 recovery.

HEREBY DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Global and Regional Context of South-South and Triangular Cooperation for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and SDGs

- **NOTES** the historical need for South-to-South Cooperation to fight for freedom and the current need to achieve **Global Affluence** (prosperity) for all our people, where there is equal gain (NOT PARASITISM) from working together through the South-to-South Cooperation.
- **REITERATES A CALL** made in Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation that South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTrC) contributes to the implementation of the Africa Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving the overarching goal of eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, as it shares the comprehensive vision of development contained in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, that balance the three dimensions of sustainable development – the economic, social, and environmental.
- **ALSO REITERATES** that South-South and Triangular Cooperation is conducted among countries of the South, including but not limited to the economic, social, cultural, environmental, and technical domains, that can take place in a bilateral, regional or interregional context, for developing countries to meet their development goals through concerted efforts, taking into account the principles of South-South cooperation. **AND REAFFIRMS** the need for further Advocacy to convince the different leaders in developing countries that South-to-South Cooperation should be a two-way flow so that all actors benefit from it.
- **STRESSES** the need for South-South and Triangular Cooperation to promote African integration as encapsulated in Agenda 2063 with all its Aspirations by sharing development solutions, transferring knowledge, and providing mutual support and technical assistance. **AND EXPRESSES** the significance of the diaspora community in galvanising necessary resources, especially human capital, is very essential to bolster the effectiveness of our collective efforts to achieve sustainable growth and development across the continent.
- **ALSO STRESSES** the need to invest in building resilience and preparedness for shocks in the Global South through improving governance policies. Access to information is necessity to enhance countries trust in governments and hence stabilising the continent.
- **EXPRESSES** its concern that the second edition of the Forum is taking place in a further complex global and continental context especially within the Russian – Ukrainian situation that has exacerbated the challenges that countries in the South, in particular Africa, are experiencing presently.
- **RENEWS ITS CALL** that Africa needs more than ever before to become auto-independent and auto-sufficient, especially regarding food security, basic needs for human survival, and the diversification of our energy resources in light of the situation in the eastern Europe. These strategic interventions require our appreciation and deployment of green economy and green energy approaches.

- **ALSO STRESSES** the need for partnerships with diverse partners and countries to position Africa strategically in the world. This resonates with Aspiration seven of Agenda 2063 **AND WELCOMES** the signing of the MoU between APRM and Rwanda Cooperation initiative (RCI) to galvanize South-South and Triangular cooperation programs for the achievement of Agenda 2063 “the Africa we want” and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development represented an important milestone for synergising efforts to promote SSTRC and its national eco-system across the continent.
- **CALLS UPON** African countries to maintain a balance between foreign and continental policies, and to avoid the negative impacts of patronage and allegiances between the superpowers on one side and emerging powers on the other.
- **REAFFIRMS** that Triangular and south-south cooperation are both efficient modalities to assist Africa in pursuing agenda 2063 as a pivot to strategically tackle the challenges at hand and the envisaged ones. As we are trying to enhance this modality of cooperation among us, we need to hail what we experienced as a trilateral cooperation with China in facing the challenges posed by COVID-19 pandemic.
- **CALLS ON** the traditional partners from the Northern hemisphere to reassess their engagement on the continent to empower African countries, especially on science and technology, to bolster the continent’s capacity in the production of high-tech products that are powered by science and technology.
- **RENEWS** its call that South-South and Triangular cooperation to be boosted amongst African countries for building human capacities and to enable public civil servants to address national challenges in a transitional context. **AND URGENTLY CALLS** for utilising South-South Cooperation programs to support governance policies in post-conflict countries or those going through political transition as this could assist the continent to avoid the recurrence of violence.
- **URGES African Union** member states to proceed to ratify and implement the inter-African Convention establishing an African Technical Cooperation Program to speed up the implementation of SSTRC Initiatives.

2. Building National Ecosystems for SSTRC in Africa

- **STRESSES** the need for building national eco-system of South-South cooperation in the Global South to ensure that countries are endorsing political ownership and leading development planning, financing and aligning Development Partners’ strategies with national priorities. **AND ALSO STRESSES** the need to establish an institutional framework for cooperation at the national level because South-South cooperation is both a political and technical process and it will be very difficult to achieve without dedicated agencies at the national level.
- **WELCOMES, WITH APPRECIATION,** efforts made by African countries and AU observers including Morocco, Tunisia, Rwanda, Egypt, Chad, Cameroon, Guinea, Comoros and Palestine on institutionalising national coordination mechanism for SSTRC.

- **RECOGNISES** that the Latin-American mechanisms of Triangular and South-South Cooperation can be leveraged with African countries and the African Union based on the continued support between the two continents.
- **NOTES** the concern from traditional donors that there is inadequate information on flows from south-to-south cooperation. **AND REITERATES** its call on partners to support monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 through SSTRC programs.
- **WELCOMES WITH APPRECIATION** the efforts of the Government of Uganda to institutionalise an eco-system for SSTRC and maintain balanced and diverse cooperation with different partners including India, Malaysia, Indonesia alongside other partners.
- **ENCOURAGES** APRM and the Islamic Development Bank to strengthen partnership for the implementation of SSC Eco-system in Africa in addition to co-organising the forum on annual basis and provide further capacity building program on SSTRC policies alongside sharing experiences amongst African countries to achieve Agenda 2063.

3. Economic Resilience and Finance for Development

- **WELCOMES WITH SUPPORT** the multidimensional policies adopted by African countries including Uganda, Rwanda, and Kenya to curb the consequences of COVID-19 and similar pandemics and develop innovative financial solutions i.e., investment in green bonds and sovereign state funds.
- **ALSO WELCOMES** efforts by African countries to enhance domestic resource mobilisation strategies (DRMS), empowering Small-Medium enterprises Sustainable economy including investment in green bonds, blended finance alongside creating national sovereign funds to encourage public-private partnerships for SDGs/Agenda 2063 financing.
- **EXPRESSES** its concerns on the cost of financing climate change programs, lack of support by the international community, high cost of borrowing in Africa and its consequent burden on the next generations.
- **ALSO WELCOMES, WITH APPRECIATION**, the support by private sector and its participation in the public-private partnership in the implementation of SDGs at national level.
- **REITERATES** the urgent need for AU Member States working with the Private Sector, Civil Society, Development Partners to define a strategy for cooperation among SSTRC States; develop a Special Trade Agreement for the SSTRC Framework; maintain and work towards peace and security among countries especially the Great Lakes Region, in Africa; develop finance modalities for SSTRC; establish institutional frameworks for SSTRC in the different Continents;

4. Accelerating the implementation of Agenda 2063: Role of the AU, UN and other partners from the Global South

- **CALLS ON** the Africans in diaspora and African think tanks to contribute towards enhancing Intellectual capital in African through African universities.
- **WELCOMES, WITH APPRECIATION**, the efforts made by the European Union and other partners including the OECD for launching the APRM-OEDC public governance program during the Forum to improve policy coherence for Sustainable Development in Africa which aims to ensure institutional preparedness and inclusive environments for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and SDGs.
- **RECOGNISES** the role played by partners of Africa including JICA, China, African Development Bank to stimulate funding and technical support for Agenda 2063 and **ENCOURAGES** other potential Development Partners and funds i.e., Saudi Fund for Development to join African efforts in this regard.

5. Trade and Industrialization for value-addition economies in Africa and Global South

- **ACKNOWLEDGES** the importance of localizing industries in Africa especially intensive- labour industries that can absorb youth capacities in Africa and hence facilitate intra-trade between African countries.
- **URGES** countries in Africa to urgently design and implement strategies and plans to reverse the situation where they are largely dependent on the industrial north in terms of trade and investment due to the low level of intra-Africa trade, currently at about 16% - 18% of total trade in Africa.
- **EMPHASISES** the role of Africa Continental Free Trade Area in scaling up capacities of African economies and urging African countries to finalise protocols and frameworks necessary to accelerate its ratification.

6. Role of Science, Technology, and Education in invigorating SSTRc for African countries and the Global South

- **REAFFIRMS** the need for advancing technology and e-governance amongst countries of Global South to attain access to education, training and skills building in Africa.
- **REITERATES** the need to change the African narrative about technology through supporting thinktanks and southern tanks to galvanize digitalization and access to information; and encourages Africans in diaspora and Africa- oriented centers to collaborate to support this narrative transformation.
- **STRESSES** the need to identify priority industrial value chains in our respective countries and regions and the competencies required to fully exploit our raw materials and knowledge to inform our education systems.
- **CALLS ON** the Global South countries to undertake reforms in their education systems to take care of values, mindset change, patriotism, and competencies to develop Science, Technology and Innovation, which will enable us to domesticate the industries for value addition.

- **ENCOURAGES** African think-tanks to develop Research and Training on South-South and Triangular Cooperation Policies, Technology and Education; Strengthens frameworks for technological innovation transfer; and deepen regional integration and cooperation, among others.

7. Impact of South-South and Triangular Cooperation on youth and women empowerment in Africa

- **RENEWS ITS CALL** that South-South and Triangular Cooperation can be beneficial for youth exchange and work experience. **And REAFFIRMS** that the youth remain strategic players in the African societies and empowering the youth and associated Civil Society Organizations shall be useful for the implementation of sustainable development at long scale.
- **RECOMMENDS** that the APRM Continental Secretariat and the African Union Commission present the Outcomes of the High-Level Forum of South-South and Triangular Cooperation Forum and the Third Youth Symposium to the relevant APRM Structures and AU Policy Organs for consideration and possible action to APR Forum of Heads of States and Government and the 20th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit to be hosted by Uganda in 2023.

8. The role of inclusive and participatory governance, transformational leadership, transparency and accountability in boosting South-South and Triangular Cooperation program

- **REITERATES** the African Union declarations and decisions pertinent to promotion of good governance in the continent guided by Agenda 2063 as a continental framework for the African Integration and calls AU member states to prioritize.
- **ENCOURAGES** African countries to support the APRM core and expanded mandates through universal accession to APRM by 2023 to improve the state of governance on the continent as well as the implementation of imperative principles and policies pertinent to such a goal such as transparency, accountability and transformational leadership across the continent.

DONE ON 19 JANUARY 2023 IN KAMPALA, REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Figure 1 honorary recognition for the APRM continental secretariat and national organisers

