

Measuring South-South cooperation

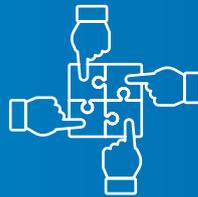


South-South cooperation is a **vital force** underpinning **design, organization** and activities for sustainable development in developing countries, complementing traditional development assistance.

South-South cooperation represents a **significant evolution** in **international development cooperation**, including **multidimensional branches** within the development cooperation landscape.

South-South cooperation:

- **Complements** rather than replaces North-South cooperation.
- Extends beyond financial aid to include **non-financial** collaboration, like knowledge sharing and joint development strategies.
- Fosters **solidarity** and collaboration among Southern countries, helping to **bridge** technological and knowledge gaps.



In South-South cooperation, the relationship evolves from “donor-recipient” to “partnership”.

Core principles

The foundation of South-South cooperation is solidarity among Southern countries. Solidarity is one of the core principles of South-South cooperation.



Why measure South-South cooperation?

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda and its Goals requires a **measurable framework to monitor progress towards the SDGs.**

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Developing countries have taken the lead in establishing concepts and methods to quantify South-South cooperation. This allows Southern countries to play a **central role in defining their own development pathways.**



Methods, developed by the South, to comprehensively measure all intricacies of South-South cooperation, addressing and avoiding **approximations, under-accounting, or misclassifications** of South-South cooperation modalities.

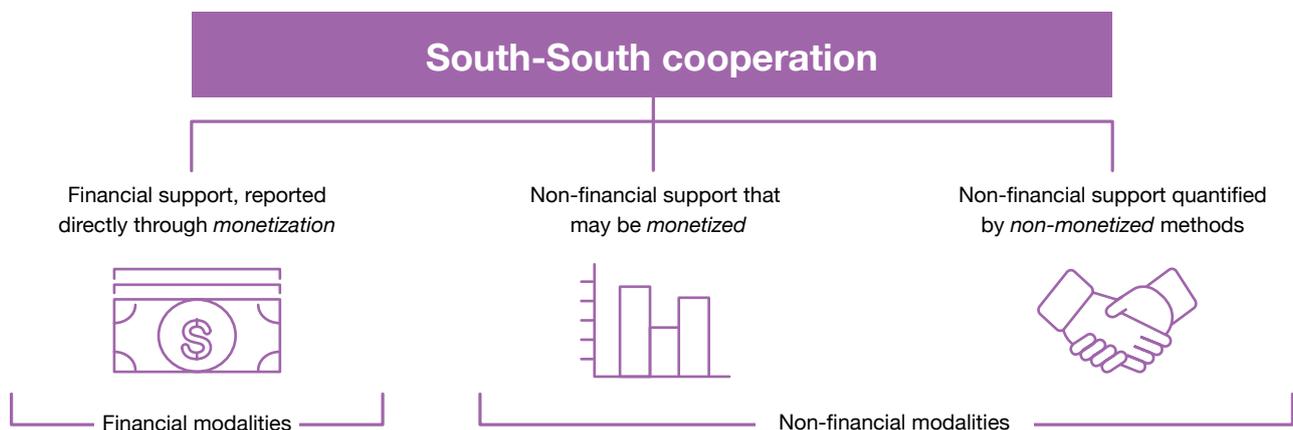
South-South data amplifies the voices of the countries of the South making their contribution to global progress visible.



South-South data, defined and measured by the global South on their terms, can influence **global development support debates** and solutions to global problems.

The three groups of South-South cooperation

Quantifying the impact of South-South cooperation on sustainable development requires a thorough assessment of **all its aspects**. This includes implementing comprehensive measurements that capture both **financial and non-financial** contributions.



The role of UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

For a long time, there was no globally agreed method to measure the diverse forms of collaboration among Southern countries and regions.



2021–2022

A group of Southern countries, chaired by India developed a new framework for measuring South-South cooperation. This group consisted of Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, Mexico, South Africa, and the United Republic of Tanzania. Russian Federation and OECD served as observers.



➤ Conceptual Framework to Measure South-South Cooperation.



➤ Countries asked UN Trade and Development to act as secretariat.

2023–

UN system came together with partners to support countries.

➤ Four UN Regional Commissions.



➤ The UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and UN Office for South-South cooperation (UNOSSC).



March 2022

UN Trade and Development and International Forum on TOSSD, hosted by the OECD, became **co-custodians of the indicator**. UN Trade and Development enables capacity development and the reporting of data on South-South flows. **TOSSD** is the source for North-South flows.



March 2022

SDG indicator 17.3.1 was adopted by all member States.



Let's redefine what development looks like – driven by solidarity, shared knowledge, and the collective strength of the global South!

Engage with UN Trade and Development to:

- Pilot the framework
- Collect and report South-South data
- Champion South-South cooperation for sustainable development.



Mechanisms and achievements to date

UN Trade and Development and its partners have developed tools and frameworks to help countries measure South-South cooperation, highlighting its critical contributions to the 2030 Agenda and global development.

Mechanisms for measuring South-South cooperation

Related achievements

1 **The Conceptual Framework to Measure South-South Cooperation** was collaboratively developed by countries of the global South.



- ✓ **Adopted by the UN Statistical Commission and the General Assembly** in 2022.
- ✓ Elaborates both **financial and non-financial** modalities of South-South cooperation.

2 **Manual for South-South data**
The Manual provides practical guidance to countries for pilot testing collection of data for the Framework and reporting to SDG indicator 17.3.1.



- The Manual now enables:**
- ✓ The collection of **South-South data to achieve more globally balanced, inclusive and representative information** on development support.
 - ✓ **South-South data to be reported to SDG indicator 17.3.1** alongside long-existing North-South flow data for the first time.

3 **Collaborative and inclusive implementation**
UN system and partners, including Ibero-American Secretariat and Islamic Development Bank.



- ✓ Pilot testing concepts and methods in **four regions**.
- ✓ **Over 60 countries** requested technical training and exchange.



4 **Knowledge Exchange for reporting South-South cooperation data.**



- ✓ 1st Inter-Regional Expert meeting in **Brazil, July 2023: 51 participants** from **16 countries** and **10 international and regional organizations**.
- ✓ 2nd Inter-Regional Expert meeting in **Qatar, June 2024: 146 participants** from **71 countries**, and **15 international and regional organizations**.



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