



GSSD EXPO 2022

UN DPPA - UNDP Joint Virtual Side Event

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENED SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION (SSTC) FOR PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE

This brief report, prepared by the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UN DPPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), compiles the recommendations for SSTC for peacebuilding and sustaining peace gathered during the UN DPPA – UNDP joint side event organized on 13 September 2022, “South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development and sustaining peace”, held at the margins of the 11th Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo 2022)



Disclaimer: The views expressed in this publication are those expressed during the side event of reference, and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UN DPPA) or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

I. *Background and Introduction – The strong call from Member States for more SSTC in support of peace and development, and the UN response*

Countries in the Global South, including LDCs and SIDS, are some of the most affected at the front-lines of conflict, poverty, economic downturns and unsustainable debt, climate extremes and natural disasters, simultaneously¹. Out of the 84 million people forcibly displaced in 2021 due to conflict, violence and human rights violations², 86% lived in developing countries³. Confronted with compounded risks, the Global South has called for enhanced UN system-wide support to SSTC to promote exchanges of technologies, knowledge, innovative solutions and expertise to build collective capacities in support of peace and development. Especially, there is increased demand to scale up the support to accelerate progress to achieve SDG 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies, as recognized in the [United Nations system-wide strategy on South-South and triangular cooperation and its Action Plan](#)⁴.

In recognition of multidimensional, protracted, and compounded threats to peace and development, DPPA and UNDP have increased their collaboration. The DPPA-UNDP [Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention](#), with Peace and Development Advisors deployed across 70 countries, fosters greater coherence and complementarity among humanitarian, development, human rights, and peace and security partners, strengthening the capacity of stakeholders including local peacebuilding organizations, and promoting robust SSTC among them. Globally, the Joint Programme facilitates information-sharing and collaboration among partners and promotes peer-to-peer learning.⁵ In 2022, DPPA and UNDP also developed the [UNSDG Good Practice Note on Conflict Sensitivity, Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace](#).

The DPPA-UNDP joint side event “South-South and triangular cooperation for sustainable development and sustaining peace”, held on 13 September 2022 at the margins of the Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) provided a unique opportunity to demonstrate the added value of SSTC for peacebuilding and sustaining peace by showcasing concrete SSTC initiatives implemented by the Global South, with and without the support of DPPA and UNDP. The event also provided recommendations to galvanize strategic, coordinated and coherent policy and programmatic support on SSTC to increase impact at all levels, as encouraged by the UN SSTC strategy. The Programme of the event is available as Annex.

The following pages aim to capture the richness of the event, and to provide all partners, stakeholders and practitioners with recommendations on ways to strengthen SSTC for peace and development. It captures over 12 recommendations grouped in 3 main areas. The purpose of this report is to promote collective support of the UN to SSTC for peace and development, providing a system-wide policy orientation as promoted by the UN SSTC Strategy⁶.

¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), [Report on conflicts, human rights and peacebuilding](#) (8 July 2021).

² [UN Secretary-General’ remarks at the PBC meeting on his report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace](#), 30 March 2022.

³ [UNDP Strategic Plan 2022-2025](#), para. 5.

⁴ Page 20, box “South-South cooperation within the framework of sustaining peace”.

⁵ Highlights of global and regional learning and exchanges and cross-border frameworks demonstrating the importance of SSC for conflict prevention and sustaining peace are available in the [Programme’s 2020 annual report \(launched in October 2021\)](#).

⁶ Paragraphs 7 and 12.b).

II. Remarks from the UN entities organizing the event

Representing the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support, highlighted that, in the face of a multitude of challenges and resource and capacity limitations, the solidarity and peer-to-peer support through SSTC is more important than ever. She noted that the value of SSTC is evident in a recently adopted General Assembly resolution on financing for peacebuilding ([76/305](#) of 8 September 2022), which encourages Member States to foster cooperation, including SSTC, for peacebuilding, and to strengthen SSTC within the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), reaffirming the importance of such cooperation as an important element of multilateral cooperation. She noted that the dynamism and diverse membership of the UN Peacebuilding Commission has provided a platform for national governments, regional entities, civil society and others to seek opportunities for cooperation, encourage innovation, and contribute to peacebuilding strategies and resource mobilization. She emphasized that the UN system, including DPPA and UNDP, has been facilitating demand driven SSTC support for conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities, including through DPPA's support for intergovernmental frameworks and regional organizations, DPPA and UNDP's electoral assistance, the PBF's projects and the DPPA-UNDP Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention. She expressed her hope that UNDP and DPPA and the rest of the UN system will be able to advance support for SSTC, building on the insights and recommendations from this event.

The closing remarks from Mr. Haoliang Xu, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), empathized that, while many developing countries are already working collaborative through SSTC, many others are still left fighting for themselves on crucial areas of peace and development. Southern countries should keep pushing for an inclusive SSTC that leaves no one behind, in line with the UN principle, so less-developed areas are supported with additional resources. He flagged that solidarity and development cooperation are the best tools we have internationally, and that in addition to traditional development cooperation, SSTC is becoming increasingly important because the world is changing, and developing countries have accumulated rich and relevant experiences that are willing to keep sharing with each other, as demonstrated during this event.

Mr. Haoliang Xu remarked that SSTC is part of UNDP's DNA, and that the event was an important occasion to showcase how DPPA and UNDP are working together to promote the SSTC under the peace and development context. The challenge is to make sure the supply meets the strong demand in a way that works for developing countries. In this regard, he concluded that the UN should keep contributing to and supporting SSTC across all SDGs, because despite all the efforts, more is still needed. SSTC should be seen as an effective tool to help counties to achieve peace and development.

III. Highlights of Case studies

1) Sierra Leone, in its national capacity and as chair of the g7+ (presented by H.E. Mr. Alhaji Fanday Turay, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations)

SSTC experiences at national level:

After eleven years of devastating civil war, Sierra Leone was able to become democratic and peaceful state through regional and cross regional cooperation. Based on its experience benefiting by and contributing to SSTC, the country believes that the SSTC in support of peace and development is centered around areas such as partnership and collaboration.

Through **partnership**, Sierra Leone benefited from UN and non-UN peacekeeping missions. The civil war ended thanks to collaborative **efforts** from Member States of the Global South and other development partners, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was set to respond to needs of victims and promote reconciliation and healing, while preventing repetition.

Sierra Leone made significant progress in consolidating democracy, building **post-conflict institutions** and addressing the needs of people, and has successfully held National Presidential Parliamentary and local **elections** in 2007, 2012 and 2018, representing an important democratic and peacebuilding milestone. Root causes of conflict such as youth exclusion and unemployment, corruption, inequality, centralization, food insecurity and lack of access to lands, especially for women and girls, have been addressed, with support from the Global South. Sierra Leone has been engaging with the Peacebuilding Commission, which consists of Member States from both Global South and North, to mobilize support to further consolidating peace and achieving sustainable development.

Recently, a delegation from Sierra Leone embarked on a study tour to learn from Uganda's experiences in championing the SSTC framework, through which Uganda made significant progress in agricultural production. Sierra Leone has resolved to adopt the SSTC model to accelerate the country's target for rice self-sufficiency. There are other exchange programmes on ICT, environmental science, marine biology to or from other countries in the Global South to build the capacities of professionals. During the Ebola virus and COVID-19 pandemics, Sierra Leone was supported by medical personnel from Cuba, which constitutes a good example of cross-regional South-South Cooperation.

The role of SSTC in the g7+ (as the chair of the g7+ since 2019):

The g7+ serves as a platform for conflict-affected countries to advocate for better peace building, state building and development policies. The Group has grown in impact and has become an influential voice. The g7+ played an indispensable role in securing the SDG16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions within the Agenda 2030. The g7+ has also provided a platform to member countries to collectively engage in dialogue with peacebuilding, humanitarian, and development actors to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation. Agreement on the New Deal for engagement in fragile States among the g7+, donors and civil society was a major milestone in this regard. Country ownership and nexus between peace and development are the principles of the New Deal.

As the chair of the g7+, Sierra Leone has been greatly involved in peer-to-peer learning, providing support to elections in Guinea Bissau, being part of a mediation mission in Central Africa Republic, and was part of the delegation that supported South Sudan emerging from conflict. The g7+ countries support each other in experience sharing through fragile-to-fragile cooperation.

2) UN's support for SSTC through the Women and Ceasefire Course (presented by Ms. Juanita Millan Hernandez, UN Senior Mediation Adviser)

The DPPA's Women and Ceasefire Course, led by Ms. Millan, aimed to **increase the number of women in conflict-affected countries** to be able to participate in negotiations, design and implement ceasefire by building up their knowledge, capacities and technical skills of ceasefire and security arrangements negotiation and implementation, to support women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace efforts, and strengthen the gender-responsiveness of security arrangements.

The participatory course ran intensively through twelve weeks and convened **women from over ten countries across all regions from the Global South** to exchange ideas and learn from each other how ceasefires are being negotiated and implemented and how they could change the dynamics. After the first course, a network of the women who participated in the course is being established to keep supporting each other. The practical idea of this course is not only for these women to be part of one negotiation, but also to replicate the knowledge to more women in their own countries and communities and disseminate techniques, tools and knowledge regarding ceasefire and security arrangements, and also participate in negotiations in their local settings.

The first step was taken to find people who could support the project and operationalize it. Ms. Millan and her team worked hard to find women willing to learn about ceasefire, and select participants across different regions to be able to start building a Community of Practice of women for security arrangements. The course also overcame language difference among women from different countries. Making English the main language of the course, all participants were able to communicate with each other. Effort is being made to translate all the resource materials in more languages. For example, inclusive mediation and ceasefire guidelines from DPPA, one of the most important tools that are open to anyone to consult and research, has been produced in several languages.⁷ The course is still at a learning stage regarding ways to combine different methods of teaching and learning. The key is to understand accessibility challenges and different contexts of each participant while making the course as open and inclusive as possible.

3) India's experience in South-South cooperation for peace and development (presented by H.E. Mrs. Ruchira Kamboj, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations)

In the realm of **peacekeeping**, India is a strong advocate for introducing new and advanced technology through South-South cooperation. In 2021, under its presidency of the Security Council and at a cost of US\$ 1.6 million, India supported the rolling out of the "UNITE AWARE Platform" aimed at enhancing safety and security of peacekeepers. India also signed an MoU with the UN Academy for Peace Operations in Entebbe, Uganda, to meet the increasing training and technology needs.

As a strong advocate of the role of **women peacekeepers**, India deployed the first ever all-female Formed Police Unit (FPU) for UN Peacekeeping in Liberia in 2007. During the decade-long service, the Unit served as an example of how the deployment of more female uniformed personnel can help the UN's efforts to combat sexual exploitation and abuse.

Another unique South-South cooperation initiative is **India-UN Development Partnership Fund**, managed by UNOSSC and with UNDP playing a key facilitation role for its implementation in the field.

⁷ Cf. [Guidance on Mediation of Ceasefires, UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs \(UN DPPA\) 2022](#), and Cf. [Guidance on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Strategies, UN DPPA 2017](#).

Launched in June 2017, this US\$ 150 million Fund supports South-owned and South-led sustainable development projects focusing on LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS. As part of the COVID-19 response, the Fund has commissioned projects in 15 countries in the Caribbean, the Pacific, South America, and Africa, addressing a broad spectrum of sectors and issues, including health, education, drinking water supply, vaccinations, disaster resilient infrastructure, empowerment of women, increased capacity building and creation of centers of innovation. **The India-Brazil-South Africa Fund**, also hosted at UNOSSC, is a concrete expression of solidarity and cooperation among countries of the Global South to address developmental challenges. The Fund has disbursed an amount of US\$ 44 million, supporting 39 development projects in partner countries, a majority of them Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

The Indian Technology and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program is a flagship program of the Government of India, where India have shared their development experience and provided capacity building and annual training slots to over 160 countries.

India has also been active in South-South cooperation in crises situation. For example, India provided the supply of more than 240 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to over one hundred countries. India has also offered its vaccine delivery Co-WIN platform as open-source software to interested countries. To address the ongoing food crisis, India have exported 1.8 million tons of meat to countries in need in the last three months alone, particularly Afghanistan, Myanmar, Sudan, and Yemen.

IV. Recommendations for strengthened SSTC in support of peace and development

1. The UN system can scale up support and facilitation of SSTC in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in conflicted-affected countries. The UN system will benefit from collaboration with the g7+ in support of SSTC.

- a) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other significant global challenges, Member State from the Global South are falling back drastically on the implementation of the 2030 agenda. The UN system can scale up support and facilitation of SSTC in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace in conflict-affected countries by providing support to
 - i. strengthen Member States' institutions and capacities through exchange programmes, dialogues and trainings;
 - ii. increase resource mobilization and ensure resources are effectively directed to the goals;
 - iii. promote a whole-of-society approach
 - iv. ensure that policy formulation is supported by data
 - v. Strengthen national mechanisms and reinforce multilateral partnership and cooperation with increased focus on the SDGs.
- b) The UN system and the g7+ can strengthen their collaboration in support of conflict-affected countries to replicate and adapt good practices in g7+ countries, with the UN System and g7+ countries supporting resource mobilization and scaling up peer-to-peer learning and experience sharing with other countries in the Global South.
- c) Dialogues among conflict-affected countries, including through the g7+, could help exploring ways to accelerate nationally owned peacebuilding and development efforts, mobilize and effectively utilize resources. They could explore ways to further learn from each other and identify areas where support from the UN system and partners in the Global North can be scaled up.

2. UN entities and governments can further support women's participation and empowerment in conflict-affected countries through SSTC

- a) SSTC for supporting women's participation and empowerment could be strengthened by investing in long-term processes, rather than pursuing short-term outcomes.
- b) Through inclusive processes, participation and empowerment of women and mutual support should be facilitated through SSTC, including in peacekeeping settings, and work related to ceasefire and security arrangements. Establishment of a network of women is helpful in giving an example for other women.
- c) Providing a platform for women from the Global South to share and exchange knowledge, capacities and technical skills has been proven effective. Such initiative also could benefit from further investment and use of technology.
- d) It is critical to increase support for and invest more in women mediators and peacebuilders from the Global South.
- e) Finally, improving the coordination between UN system and its partners on the ground, sharing more information in order to identify women that have been doing a great job for years already as champions on inclusivity, gender and peacebuilding, involving them in the design of projects, and processes. The UN can support women to become facilitators of all these processes.

3. More recommendations to further strengthen the peace and development dimension of SSTC:

- a) SSTC in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace must take an inclusive and people-centered approach, based on national ownership and mutual respect.
- b) The cardinal principle of SSC still binds us together is that sharing valuable capacities, experience and knowledge amongst developing countries can be a catalyst for development. As opportunities have improved for sharing the fruits of knowledge, technology and growth, new channels of cooperation and pathways for development should be continuously explored and identified.
- c) In the face of a multitude of challenges and resource and capacity limitations, it is critical to not only mobilize financial resources and ensure the optimum utilization of their availability, but also mobilize significant non-monetary contributions in support of peacebuilding and sustaining peace, for which SSTC is key. While it is crucial to encourage countries in the Global South to continue to support each other, it is equally important for developed countries to come forward in the same spirit and make sure that we do not slacken in their support for SSTC.
- d) Existing tools of the UN system should be further utilized in support of SSTC, from DPPA's support for intergovernmental frameworks and regional organizations, to DPPA and UNDP's electoral assistance, to the Peacebuilding Fund's peacebuilding projects, to the DPPA-UNDP Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention. Going forward, it is essential to explore ways to assist the Peacebuilding Commission and other appropriate intergovernmental fora in scaling up their support for SSTC for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.
- e) Coherence and coordination among the UN system in support of SSTC and partnerships with other humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors should be strengthened both at headquarter and on the ground.

2. Annex

Programme of the Event

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	Moderator (Professor Cedric de Coning)
OPENING REMARKS	UN DPPA (Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support)
SSTC INITIATIVES FOR PEACEBUILDING AND SUSTAINING PEACE	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. H.E. Ms. Ruchira Kamboj, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations2. H.E. Mr. Alhaji Fanday Turay, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations3. Ms. Juanita Millan Hernandez, UN Senior Mediation Adviser from Colombia
Q&A and OPEN DISCUSSION	All participants
WRAP UP and CLOSING REMARKS	UNDP (Mr. Haoliang Xu, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS))