

Forum:	United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
Issue:	Promoting Cooperation Between Countries of the Global South (South South Development) for Development
Chair:	Aaron Chen and Aaron Liu

Introduction

Ever since the advent of the Age of Exploration in the 1450s, northern countries have increased in prominence on the global stage. Not only have these nations accumulated massive amounts of wealth, they've also left many southern nations behind. As a result of the lack to international attention to ameliorate this issue, southern nations are currently in a state of peril and is in desperate need of international cooperation.

There are many factors that contribute to this north-south split in terms of wealth and individual capital. Firstly, these southern nations have little to no alternative when it comes to boosting their economy. The International Monetary Fund often requires stringent goals for borrowing, the World Bank is much less generous when borrowing to southern nations as the promise of return is often low. Secondly, the lack of international attention reduces the amount of investment that these nations receive, slowing their potential for growth. More importantly, these nations lack the expertise to utilize their natural resources and grow their respective economies. For instance, Africa has almost a quarter of the world's natural resources, but cannot export them due to political, economical, and social reasons.

In response to these issues that plague these southern nations, in 1955, Indonesia hosted the Bandung Conference in hopes of bring these Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) together to garner international attention. Not only was that achieved, the conference established the moral principles that will guide future advancement. It was also from this conference that the ideology of South-South Cooperation formed.

Soon after, the United Nations established the Southern Cooperation Unit with goals of facilitating southern discussions and general cooperation. Throughout the years, the Southern Cooperation Unit, along with the United Nations Development Programme, have seen millions lifted out of poverty and deaths by disease plunge. In short, progress has been made, but countries of the Global South are still in need of effective channels of communication to bolster their respective economies.

Definition of Key Terms

Belt and Road Initiative

The Belt and Road Initiative refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, a significant development strategy launched by the Chinese government with the intention of promoting economic co-operation among countries along the proposed Belt and Road routes.

Global south

Global south is a term that has been emerging in transnational and postcolonial studies to refer to what may also be called the “Developing World” (i.e., Africa, Latin America, and the developing countries in Asia), "developing countries," "less developed countries," and "less developed regions."

South–South cooperation (SSC)

South-South cooperation (SSC) is about developing countries working together to find solutions to common development challenges. Linked by similarities in their development contexts and challenges, the countries of the South have been increasingly active in sharing knowledge, exchanging technologies and forming common agenda and collective actions.

Third World

"Third World" is a phrase frequently used to describe a developing nation. Despite its current usage, the phrase "Third World" arose during the Cold War to identify countries whose views did not align with NATO and capitalism or the Soviet Union and communism.

Background Information

Birth of the United Nations Officer for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

In 1974, the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 3251 (XXIX), endorsed the establishment of a special unit within the United Nations Development Programme to promote technical co-operation among developing countries”. With the endorsement of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) the Special Unit was strengthened in order to fulfil its primary mandate, set forth in BAPA. Its name was then changed to the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) by High-level Committee decision 17/1 of 2 April 2012 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/39.

Notable Achievements of the Initiative

1978 – A conference of the Global South on TCDC is held in Buenos Aires, resulting in the adoption of

the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) for Promoting and Implementing TCDC. It identifies 15 focal areas for TCDC and stipulates that special attention be paid to the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries, and the small island developing States.

2009 – The High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation is held in Nairobi, Kenya. At this conference, participants produce the Nairobi outcome document highlighting the roles that national governments, regional entities and UN agencies are to play in supporting and implementing South-South and triangular cooperation.

2013 – The General Assembly in its resolution 67/227 endorses the decision of the 17th session of the High-level Committee, which reaffirms the mandate of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, hosted by UNDP, as a separate entity and coordinator for promoting and facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation on a global and United Nations system-wide basis, and decides to rename the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation the “United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation”.

2015 – The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is adopted by the UN General Assembly (resolution 70/1).

2016 – The General Assembly, in its resolution A/RES/71/244, decided to convene a high-level United Nations conference on South-South cooperation on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action."

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Brazil

As a major economy in the Global South, Brazil holds a considerable amount of sway in southern conferences. As seen through the annual reports of South South Cooperation, the country cares deeply about the issue. As expressed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Brazil considers Trilateral South-South cooperation as a modality for international development cooperation that complements bilateral South-South cooperation.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Founded on Nov 22, 1975 with the mission to connect countries to knowledge, the UNDP strongly believes that South South Cooperation has "the potential to accelerate improvements in health, education, social welfare, in harnessing knowledge and experience, and in establishing critical partnerships which is instrumental to fast tracking the Sustainable Development Goals." Currently, the organization works closely with the Global South and has "supported more than 500 projects that utilized South-South and triangular cooperation across 127 countries."

Indonesia

Also one of the major players in the South South Cooperation community, "Indonesia has been implementing South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) framework in its international cooperation for more than thirty years to support the development of its peer countries." Under the guidance of the National Coordination Team of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (NCT of SSTC), the country has conducted a wide range of activities and has facilitated more than 300 requests from 42 countries of the south in hopes of advancing this effort. As of now, Indonesia specializes in the promotion of "democracy, governance and elections, microfinance, and management of natural disasters" and is currently working to advance its expertise in areas of agriculture and public health.

India

According to Jandhayla Tilak of National University of Educational Planning and Administration in New Delhi, "India has a great potential to emerge as a major donor country, and even to rank among big traditional donor countries. It can also influence the global aid architecture. There are many lessons that others can learn from the "Indian model of aid". However, there are certain problems and challenges that India has to address for it to become a major international player in the aid business. One of the most important problems refers to the absence of detailed information."

India, over the years, has recognized both its potentials and its downfalls in the international community, and has indeed taken steps to advance itself on the global stage. In 2017, the country partnered with the United Nations and created the India-UN Development Partnership Fund, which supports "Southern-owned and led, demand-driven, and transformational sustainable development projects across the developing world, with a focus on least developed countries and small island developing states. United Nations agencies implement the Funds projects in close collaboration with partnering governments."

India's economy is expected to grow dramatically over the next few years; the country is undoubtedly a key player in the Global South cooperation community.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description
1955	Bandung Conference. The conference has been largely regarded as a milestone for SSC cooperation.
1978	United Nations established the Unit for South–South Cooperation to promote South

1990 South–South cooperation only started to influence the field of development in the late 1990s

Relevant UN Resolutions and Treaties

- Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (**A/RES/48/172**)
- Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (**A/RES/52/205**)
- South-South cooperation (**A/RES/62/209**)
- High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (**A/RES/63/233**)
- High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (**A/RES/64/1**)

Possible Solutions

- Further UN emphasis on South South Cooperation through the promotion of UNOSSC
 - Advantage: More awareness
 - Disadvantage: Limited in scope
- Establishment of stronger ties between southern nations through the recommendation of more frequent meetings, perhaps even recommend the establishment of organizations like the EU
 - Advantage: Significantly strengthen the South South Cooperation Initiative
 - Disadvantage: Requires southern countries to relinquish parts of their sovereignty
- Encourage southern nations to recognize the importance of SSC by welcoming more wide-ranging participation in southern conferences (Bandung Conference)
 - Advantage: Increase the scope of participation
 - Disadvantage: Erodes the meaning of the SSC
- Encouraging member states, especially MEDCs to promote the goods and services of the south in the form of monetary and or humanitarian aid
 - Advantage: Immediate support allows for immediate growth

- Disadvantage: Not a long term solution

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