

Outcome document of the sub-group on South-South cooperation

As discussed within the Working Group on Measurement of Development Support

Introduction

With only eight years left to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreeing on a statistical concept and framework to measure South-South cooperation (SSC) is crucial if the world is to assess progress towards Target 17.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to “mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources”. The COVID-19 pandemic has not only caused immeasurable suffering but has also derailed global efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. In some parts of the world, the pandemic is fast turning into a humanitarian crisis. The policy response of developing countries has been severely limited due to financial constraints, making it even more important to mobilize additional financial resources as envisaged in Target 17.3.

In April 2019, the United Nations General Assembly (A/RES/73/291, para 25) encouraged “all actors to support initiatives for information and data collection, coordination, dissemination and evaluation of South-South cooperation, upon the request of developing countries”. So far, country and regional variations in approaches to and concepts of South-South cooperation, as well as political dimensions, have made it difficult to reach consensus on a definition or statistical estimates as to the value of South-South cooperation. Furthermore, there have been reservations about monetizing SSC because of difficulties in quantifying components such as knowledge exchange and in-kind contributions. This uncertainty has prevented reporting on the related SDG indicator and seriously hampers the monitoring of progress in mobilizing financial resources for developing countries.

In view of the increased urgency, the Working Group on Measurement of Development Support, set up by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), established a sub-group dedicated to South-South cooperation in October 2020. The sub-group was created taking into account the research agenda set up by the Working Group and following the suggestion made by members. Following the approval by the Working Group, the sub-group is chaired by India and the Secretariat is held by UNCTAD. This note reflects the draft proposal on how to measure SSC for further discussion in the Working Group with the aim of reporting on Target 17.3.

According to the terms of reference (see Annex I), **the objective of the sub-group is “to advise the Working Group on how best to address South-South cooperation in the context of measuring progress against SDG target 17.3”**. In its report to the United Nations Statistical Commission, the IAEG-SDGs suggested a process to further develop the measurement of development support and noted that the measure would include components other than official development assistance (ODA), such as other official flows, private finance, and South-South and triangular cooperation. The IAEG-SDGs agreed that work on this indicator, including the analysis of data sources, should be completed in time for the indicator to be submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2022.

The sub-group was asked to provide its first set of considerations by February 2021, a preliminary proposal by June 2021 and a final proposal by August 2021, which will also consider validity and feasibility, and include information on case or pilot studies. The initial framework was consulted with all Working Group members in April-May 2021 and discussed in their meeting in July 2021. This proposal is presented for discussion and finalization, as agreed by the sub-group on 7 September, so that the new SDG indicator proposal can be completed for submission to the Commission in 2022, as requested by the IAEG-SDGs.

The terms of reference asked the sub-group to give appropriate consideration to paras. 8, 18, 25 and 26 of A/RES/73/291 and to the special nature of South-South cooperation. To ensure that “South-South cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South” (para 8 of A/RES/73/291), the sub-group was open to member and observer countries of the Working Group that are participating in South-South cooperation, and additional countries that wished to contribute. The sub-group aimed at the participation of countries of all regions in which South-South cooperation takes place. The member countries included Brazil, China, Colombia Cuba, Egypt, Ghana, India (chair), Mexico, South Africa and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Russian Federation and OECD were observers, and UNCTAD provided the Secretariat.

Background

The Buenos Aires Action Plan (BAPA), ratified in 1978, states that South-South cooperation “is a vital force for initiating, designing, organizing and promoting co-operation among developing countries so that they can create, acquire, adapt, transfer and pool knowledge and experience for their mutual benefit and for achieving national and collective self-reliance, which are essential for their social and economic development”¹.

40 years later, South-South cooperation is no longer solely understood as its technical assistance modality. It has, in fact, evolved into multidimensional branches within the development cooperation landscape. These new contours were emphasized in the outcome document of the Second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (Buenos Aires, 2019, BAPA+40): “We recognize that South-South and triangular cooperation contribute to the implementation of 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.”²

The BAPA+40 acknowledged “the voluntary, participative, and demand driven nature of South-South Cooperation, born out of shared experiences and sympathies, based on their common objectives and solidarity” and recognized “that South-South cooperation leads to more diverse opportunities for development”. South-South cooperation has emerged as a major force in international development cooperation that operates in parallel to ODA from Northern countries. As noted by BAPA+40 “South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation”.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) develops, collects and reports statistics on development finance for the members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), and for some other countries on a voluntary basis. However, without agreed concepts and methods among South-South providers, it is impossible to adequately measure the contribution which South-South cooperation is making to global, regional and national development. This note is an attempt to initiate a step towards measurement of SSC for target 17.3.

¹ See: <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/bapa40/documents/buenos-aires-plan-of-action/>

² See: <https://www.unsouthsouth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/N1911172.pdf>

Proceedings of the sub-group

The sub-group started its work with a discussion aiming to understand the specifics of South-South cooperation, including its nature, evolution, challenges in the measurement of SSC, the principles of South-South cooperation, consideration of the General Assembly resolution (A/RES/73/291) and the related outcome document of BAPA+40.

The sub-group agreed in principle that South-South cooperation should be measured for the purposes of Target 17.3, as suggested by the IAEG-SDGs. Some members noted that the methodology developed for the SDG indicator should not be seen as an all-encompassing measure of SSC or synonymous with the full context of South-South cooperation.

In the course of its work, the sub-group:

- a. categorized and grouped elements of South-South cooperation;
- b. identified categories which are appropriate for 1) measurement and 2) monetization; and
- c. investigated and agreed on categories and groups to be included in the measure of SSC.

Brazil and Mexico volunteered to prepare a matrix of alternatives for grouping South-South cooperation modalities that can be quantified by different methods. The resulting matrix was consulted among all members of the sub-group. Brazil and Mexico refined the matrix and clarified questions raised by members. For the benefit of understanding, a “glossary of terms” was prepared by Brazil and Mexico (see Annex III). With the contribution and strong support of China, the matrix was further modified and refined. India too responded to the table but without diluting its stand.

The sub-group invited the OECD to make a presentation on the methodology known as total official support for sustainable development (TOSSD). The TOSSD methodology is based on reporting of activities which is likely to facilitate the integration of SSC in the overall SDG indicator. The presentation was considered helpful for the work of the sub-group.

After the consultations, the sub-group achieved a wide agreement on the conceptual framework for measuring SSC for target 17.3. The sub-group noted that South-South cooperation has different modalities depending on country which may be challenging to account for in an internationally comparable way and that the framework should allow flexible application to different national contexts and priorities. Wider consultation of the framework among Southern countries will, thus, be essential. Time was short for the development of the conceptual framework. While challenges remain with some elements of the framework and its application, it will be important to move ahead and pilot test the framework to refine it based on country experience.

Quantification of South-South cooperation in the context of Target 17.3

The sub-group developed a conceptual framework for the measurement of SSC reflecting current experience and solutions for addressing measurement challenges. This proposal was developed in a process led by Southern countries. The purpose is to deliver an operational framework which among other things will allow measurement of the current modalities of SSC under Target 17.3.

In the course of work, Brazil and Mexico outlined their experiences in quantifying SSC, enabling the sub-group to build upon existing experiences (as requested in para 26 of A/RES/73/291). The framework, however, does not reflect the particular experience or model of any country. It takes into account the multidimensional and unique characteristics of South-South cooperation (as requested in para 18 of

A/RES/73/291), and includes items related to different modalities of South-South cooperation (see Annex II). These include elements of solidarity between developing countries that constitute powerful instruments for promoting international and regional development, instead of focusing only on vertical relations driven by grants, technical cooperation and concessional loans.

The present framework allows quantification of SSC in both in its financial and non-financial dimensions from the perspective of developing countries. In line with target 17.3, the current framework focuses only on the collection of data regarding development cooperation modalities in benefit of receiving developing countries.

Considering different views among developing countries on the methods that could be applied to quantify SSC and to allow flexibility to develop country-led systems (as in para 25 of A/RES/73/291), the framework presents three sets of quantifiable items, that can be independently measured and reported:

- Group A: Financial modalities of South-South cooperation (reported directly through monetization)
- Group B: Non-financial modalities of South-South cooperation (including items that may be monetized)
- Group C: Non-financial modalities of South-South cooperation (The same items as in Group B, subject to quantification by non-monetized methods)

Annex II provides a full listing and a description of the items included in each group of the conceptual framework. It reflects the proposal on what to include in a measure of South-South cooperation as part of the SDG indicator proposal. Some sub-group members emphasized the importance of stand-alone measurement of SSC and its elements. As the IAEG-SDGs calls for improved disaggregation of SDG indicators as a fundamental condition for the full implementation of the SDG indicator framework, elements of SSC could be among the recommended disaggregation of the SDG indicator.

Steps following the draft proposal

This note presents the draft proposal by the sub-group on South-South cooperation to the Working Group on Measurement of Development Support, as envisaged by its terms of reference. The sub-group has, thus, fulfilled its mandate and will be disbanded in line with the timeline set by its terms of reference. Cuba objected to the closure of the sub-group and requested a continuation to support pilot activities.

The Working Group is invited to review the proposal and consider the conceptual framework as the initial tool for measuring South-South cooperation to be integrated in the new SDG indicator for Target 17.3.

The next steps will include the following:

- The launching of pilot testing of the methodology and its further technical refinement based on the findings related to the validity and feasibility of the approach in pilot countries.
- Based on its deliberations, the Working Group will present an integrated proposal for a new indicator under SDG Target 17.3 to the 12th meeting of the IAEG-SDGs to be held during the fourth quarter of 2021.

The United Nations Statistical Commission will consider the new indicator proposal for target 17.3 at its 53rd session (1 - 4 March 2022).

Recognizing UNCTAD's role in convening the sub-group on South-South cooperation as its Secretariat and reflecting its mandate in support of developing countries, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Ms. Ann Lisbet Brathaug of Norway and Mr. Camilo Méndez of Colombia, jointly with the United Nations Statistics Division, asked UNCTAD to act provisionally as a co-custodian of the new indicator currently being developed under Target 17.3, including further consultations on the current proposal of the sub-group and the conduct of a pilot study. The OECD is expected to become a co-custodian of the new SDG indicator as it concerns the reporting of countries which are not recipients of development support.

The draft proposal on measuring SSC will be subject to pilot testing in participating countries and subsequent refinement based on country experience. To date, the experience by Brazil, China, Colombia and Mexico confirms the feasibility of the conceptual framework and the practical utility of reusing data to fill the tables. Further work will be needed to ensure consistency of the new SDG indicator across all its elements. To this end, UNCTAD with Southern and OECD with Northern countries will analyse country experiences and refine the technical aspects of measurement of the SDG indicator to ensure validity and flexibility in different national data environments.

To ensure wider consultation of Southern countries, addressing a concern raised by Cuba, the recommendations by the sub-group will be presented to a larger group of countries for consideration within the Working Group and beyond, and UNCTAD will brief the G77 ahead of the IAEG-SDG meeting. As time was short for the preparation of the conceptual framework, further refinement of the framework will be carried out based on technical findings that may arise in country pilot testing. The pilots will also help strengthen the flexibility of the measurement framework to different national contexts.

The goal to measure SSC as part of the SDG indicator is a step towards developing established indicators and a more comprehensive statistical framework for the measurement of SSC. For countries that so decide, the conceptual framework provides a possibility to report granular information on SSC to complete the picture given by the SDG indicator.

The sub-group noted that many developing countries would benefit from guidance, tools and support to report on SSC as part of the SDG indicator, and to strengthen their statistical capacity for the measurement of South-South cooperation in line with the national needs and priorities in each country. Several members of the sub-group, including Brazil, China, Colombia and Mexico, expressed their interest to contribute to the pilot studies and support capacity building jointly with UNCTAD.

Annex I. Terms of reference for the sub-group on South-South cooperation

Amended as of 22 December 2020

I. Background and Mandate

1. At its fifth meeting on 15 October 2020 the Working Group discussed the issue of South-South cooperation. UNCTAD provided a presentation covering its evolution, broad definition, guiding principles and debates around its measurement. It explained that country and regional variations in approaches to and concepts of South-South cooperation, as well as political dimensions, made it difficult to reach consensus on a definition. There were also reservations about monetizing South-South cooperation because of difficulties in quantifying components such as knowledge exchange and in-kind contributions. Brazil and Mexico outlined their experiences in quantifying South-South cooperation. Mexico, supported by Russia, suggested forming a Sub-group on South-South cooperation and the Working Group agreed to establish it. On 29 October, on behalf of the Co-Chairs, the Secretariat invited countries to express their interest in joining this proposed Sub-group.

II. Objectives and Tasks

2. The Sub-group will
 - (a) Advise the Working Group on how best to address South-South cooperation in the context of measuring progress against SDG target 17.3 while giving appropriate consideration to paras. 8, 18, 25 and 26 of A/RES/73/291³ and to the special nature of South-South cooperation.
 - (b) Provide its first set of considerations by February 2021, a preliminary proposal by June 2021 and a final proposal by August 2021, which will also consider validity and feasibility, and include information on case or pilot studies.

III. Membership

3. Membership is open to member and observer countries of the Working Group that are participating in South-South cooperation, and additional countries that wish to contribute. The Sub-group strives for the participation of countries of all regions in which South-South cooperation takes place.

IV. Governance and Organization of Work

4. The Sub-group reports to the Working Group and updates the Working Group on its progress on a regular basis. The Sub-group will elect a Chair who will report to the Working Group.
5. The Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) will maintain the wiki page of the Sub-group. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will provide secretariat services to support the progress of work as required.

³ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3801900?ln=en#record-files-collapse-header>.

6. The Sub-group may invite the Statistics Division, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as well as other entities with relevant expertise to provide inputs to its deliberations.

Membership

Eastern Africa:

- United Republic of Tanzania

Middle and Southern Africa:

- South Africa

Western Africa:

- Ghana

Northern Africa:

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Western Asia:

- Egypt

Central, Eastern, Southern, and South-Eastern Asia:

- China
- India

Oceania:

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The Caribbean:

- Cuba

Central and South America:

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Mexico

Eastern Europe:

- Russian Federation (as observer to the Sub-group)

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Annex II. Description of groups included in the conceptual framework

The following eligibility criteria applies:

1. Sustainable development purposes
2. Concessional in nature
3. Provided through official channels
4. Voluntary reporting

Group A – Financial SSC modalities (reported directly through monetization)

Group A assembles modalities of a financial nature, which may be directly reported through monetization:

Table 1 - Financial SSC modalities (reported directly through monetization)

Group A: Financial modalities of South-South cooperation (to be reported directly through monetization):	
A.1 - Loans	
A.2 - Concessional (grant element) in credit operations between developing countries	
A.3 - Interest-free loans	
A.4 - Non-refundable grants	A.4.1: developmental purposes
	A.4.2: humanitarian purposes
A.5 - Contributions to International Organizations, Development Banks and Funds	A.5.1: Regular contributions to international organizations
	A.5.2: Voluntary contributions (excluding self-benefit)
	A.5.3: Capital paid-in to IFI and Regional/Multilateral Funds
A.6 - Direct cash transfers under social development public programmes in partner countries (approved by the partner country)	

A.1. Loans – Transfers for which the recipient partner incurs legal debt (and the resulting claim is not intended to be traded). The full amount of the loan shall be reported, in full accordance with the IMF's characterization.

A.2. Concessional (grant element) in credit operations between developing countries - Grants are transfers for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient.

A.3. Interest-free loans – Loans to a partner with no interest charges.

A.4. Non-refundable grants – Contributions without the expectation of reflow. This item has two modalities, depending on the cooperation purpose:

A.4.1. Non-refundable grants with developmental purposes.

A.4.2. Non-refundable grants with humanitarian purposes.

A.5. Contributions to International Organizations, Development Banks and Funds - Non-regular contributions to development banks, development funds, international development and humanitarian organizations. This item presents two modalities:

A.5.1. Regular contributions to international organizations - Regular contributions to development banks, development funds, international development and humanitarian organizations. Only the coefficient for development activities for developing countries may be reported. Each multilateral institution must report annually the percentage of direct expenditures on projects for developing countries.

A.5.2. Voluntary Contributions – Occasional voluntary contributions for development projects by development banks, development funds and multilateral development organizations, excluding self-benefit activities.

A.5.3. Capital paid-in to IFI and Regional/Multilateral Funds – Report made in the year of payment of the capital paid to IFI and Regional/Multilateral Funds. Only developing countries are eligible for finance, and the purpose may be associated with an SDG.

A.6. Direct cash transfers under social development public programs in partner countries - Direct cash transfers benefiting individuals, in the context of public programs managed by partner countries (with the official consent of the partner country).

Group B – Non-financial South-South Cooperation Modalities (that may be monetized)

Group B includes non-financial modalities of South-South Cooperation that may be reported through monetization (man-hours, materials, travel expenses, scholarships etc.):

Table 2 - Group B: Non-Financial SSC modalities (monetized by some countries)

Group B: Non-Financial modalities of South-South cooperation (suitable for monetization):	
B.1: Infrastructure projects	
B.2: Goods and materials	
B.3: Scholarships	
B.4: Humanitarian assistance (between developing countries)	B.4.1: Donations of food, medicine, medical supplies and or other materials
	B.4.2: Assistance to refugees
	B.4.3: Dispatch of humanitarian missions: health professionals; first-aid workers; teachers
B.5: Training	
B.6: Participation in Peace Keeping Operations	
B.7: Technical cooperation	B.7.1: Experts - technical hours / opportunity costs

	B.7.2: Per Diems, daily allowances, and airfares
	B.7.3: Services; materials; equipment; supplies
B.8: Volunteers	
B.9: Joint Research	B.9.1: Scientific-related infrastructure (labs, equipment, supplies)
	B.9.2: Research personnel - working hours / opportunity costs
B.10: Administrative/Operational/Management/Coordination associated with the provision of SSC	

- B.1. **Infrastructure projects** - Expenses with infrastructure projects with development purposes.
- B.2. **Goods and materials** – Donation of goods and materials with development purposes.
- B.3. **Scholarships** - Financial awards for individual students from developing countries; contributions to trainees; and indirect (“imputed”) costs of tuition in provider partner countries to nationals from developing countries.
- B.4. **Humanitarian assistance** (*between developing countries*) – Assistance that is either delivered directly by a partner country or through multilateral channels in benefit of developing countries. Includes contributions, donations of food, medicine, medical supplies, and other materials in case of humanitarian distress circumstances. This item is divided into three types:
- B.4.1. **Donation of food, medicine, medical supplies and or other needed materials in case of humanitarian distress situations** – Expenses with the donation of food, medicine, medical supplies and or other materials in case of humanitarian distress circumstances.
- B.4.2. **Assistance to refugees** - Expenses with temporary assistance to refugees and individuals in refugee-like situations in the provider country, as well as material or technical support to refugees in other host countries. Also includes support to refugees returning voluntarily to their countries of origin.
- B.4.3. **Dispatch of humanitarian missions: health professionals; first-aid workers; teachers** - Covers operational expenses, salaries, and all non-salary costs of experts (including those of public officials from the reporting country) such as airfare, per-diems, accommodation, and other transportation costs.
- B.5. **Training** - Includes the delivery of training by internationally or locally recruited experts. All non-salary costs of such experts are included (comprising those incurred by public officials from the reporting country), such as airfare, per-diems, accommodation, domestic transportation in the recipient country and training. This category also covers training, research, and several capacity building activities such as conferences, seminars, workshops, and exchange visits.
- B.6. **Participation in Peace Keeping Operations** - Disbursements related to UN peacekeeping operations and related operations mandated or authorized by a UNSC resolution. Operations should support the creation of conditions for lasting peace, with no belligerent nature and approach. Moreover, they

should comply with the three basic principles of UN peacekeeping operations: consent of the parties⁴; impartiality⁵; and non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate⁶.

- B.7. **Technical cooperation** - Activities to foster capacity building through knowledge sharing. This item is divided into three types:
- B.7.1. **Experts - technical hours / opportunity costs** - Expenses related to the mobilization of experts/specialists from developing countries, government officials' technical working time and opportunity costs.
 - B.7.2. **Per Diems, daily allowances, and airfares** – Expenses related to per diems, daily allowances, and airfares that stem from technical cooperation activities between developing countries.
 - B.7.3. **Services; materials; equipment; supplies** - Expenses regarding the acquisition of services, materials, equipment, and supplies that are needed to deliver technical cooperation activities/projects between developing countries.
- B.8. **Volunteers** - Non-remuneration costs of experts (e.g., airfare, per-diems, accommodation, insurance etc.).
- B.9. **Joint Research** - Disbursements with joint research projects between two or more developing countries, covering the working time of scientists/specialists from the reporting country, opportunity costs and expenses with services, materials, equipment and supplies mobilized to develop them.
- B.9.1 **Scientific-related infrastructure** (labs, equipment, supplies)
 - B.9.2 **Research personnel** - working hours / opportunity costs
- B.10. **Administrative/Operational/Management/Coordination** – In-kind expenses (*human and physical inputs*) of administrative, operational and coordination activities that are related with SSC, however not to a specific bilateral activity. Includes all human and physical inputs associated with technical

⁴ Consent of the parties: United Nations peacekeeping operations are deployed with the consent of the main parties to the conflict. This requires a commitment by the parties to a political process and their acceptance of a peacekeeping operation mandated to support that process.

⁵ Impartiality: United Nations peacekeeping operations must implement their mandate without favor or prejudice to any party. Impartiality is crucial to maintaining the consent and co-operation of the main parties. Impartiality may be seen as playing a fundamental function in drawing the limits to the use of force and its purpose. Impartiality does not prohibit peacekeepers from using military force, but links and limits the use of force to a political process and the search for a political solution. The logic differs for counterterrorism, which requires the identification of an enemy.

⁶ Non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate: A United Nations peacekeeping operation only uses force as a measure of last resort, when other methods of persuasion have been exhausted, and an operation must always exercise restraint when doing so. The ultimate aim of the use of force is to influence and deter spoilers working against the peace process or seeking to harm civilians; and not to seek their military defeat.

cooperation projects, scholarships, volunteer management, training, humanitarian assistance, and any other South-South (and triangular) cooperation modalities.

Group C - Non-Financial Modalities of South-South Cooperation (Non-Monetized Measurement)

Group C includes the same non-financial modalities of SSC as Group B, which may be also quantified through non-monetized methodologies and reported in terms of “material/physical/human” inputs or outputs.

Table 3 - Group C: Non-Financial South-South cooperation modalities (quantification through non-monetized methodologies).

Group C: Non-Financial modalities of South-South cooperation (quantification through non-monetized methodologies):	
C.1. Infrastructure projects	
C.2. Goods and materials	
C.3. Scholarships	
C.4. Humanitarian assistance (between developing countries)	C.4.1. Type: donation of food, medicine, medical supplies and or other needed materials in case of humanitarian distress situations
	C.4.2. Type: assistance to refugees
	C.4.3. Type: dispatch of humanitarian missions: health professionals; first-aid workers; teachers
C.5. Training	
C.6. Participation in Peace Keeping Operations	
C.7. Technical cooperation	C.7.1. Type: Experts - technical hours
	C.7.2. Type: services; materials; equipment; supplies
C.8. Volunteers	
C.9: Joint Research	C.9.1: Scientific-related infrastructure (labs, equipment, supplies)
	C.9.2: Research personnel - working hours / opportunity costs
C.10. Administrative/Operational/Management/Coordination associated with SSC	

The items in **Table 3** (Group C) follow the same principles and requirements as those from Group B. However, under this framework component, the items listed in Group C may be quantified through non-monetary measurement units, as presented in **Table 4**.

Table 4 - Quantifying non-monetary SSC inputs and/or outputs

Unit of measurement	Sub-units (Inputs and Outputs in the year reported):	SSC Modalities (non-exclusive):
1. Hour	1.1 Numbers of hours worked	Technical cooperation

		Joint Research (Cooperation in Sc&T)
		Training (instructors)
2. Individual	2.1 Number of Individuals directly benefited (# by Gender) (as OUTPUT)	Training (seats offered)
		Assistance to refugees (individuals registered for assistance)
	2.2 Number of volunteers dispatched	Volunteers
	2.3 Number of disaster relief personnel dispatched	Humanitarian assistance
	2.4 Number of foreign students (# by Gender) (as OUTPUT)	Scholarships (number of scholarships offered)
3. Unit	3.1 Number of jobs created (# by Gender) (as OUTPUT)	Economic cooperation (Infrastructure; public equipment etc.)
	3.2 Number of patents registered (as OUTPUT)	Joint Research (Cooperation in Sc&T)
	3.3 Number of documents published (studies, research etc.) (as OUTPUT)	Joint Research (Cooperation in Sc&T)
	3.4 Number of technical cooperation and/or initiatives implemented	Technical cooperation
	3.5 Goods, equipment, materials and supplies donated	Economic cooperation (Infrastructure; public equipment etc.)
		Humanitarian assistance
	3.6 Number of infrastructure or public equipment units built (as OUTPUT)	Economic cooperation (Infrastructure; public equipment etc.)
3.7 Number of Operations	Humanitarian assistance	
	Peacekeeping operations	
4. Volume/ Quantity	4.1 Infrastructure or public equipment built (Sq. meters) (as OUTPUT)	Economic cooperation (Infrastructure; public equipment etc.)
		Technical cooperation
	4.2 Goods, materials and supplies donated (Tons)	Economic cooperation (Infrastructure; public equipment etc.)
		Technical cooperation
		Humanitarian assistance
	4.3 Goods, materials and supplies donated (Sq. meters)	Economic cooperation (Infrastructure; public equipment etc.)
Technical cooperation		
Humanitarian assistance		

Annex III - South- South measurement glossary

1. **Loans (only concessional amount)** – Loans are transfers in cash or in kind for which the recipient partner incurs legal debt (and the resulting claim is not intended to be traded). Only the concessional portion of the loan will be reported, in accordance with the definition of the IMF (International Monetary Fund).
2. **Interest-free loans** – Interest-free loans are loans to a partner without interest charges.
3. **Grants** - Grants are transfers in cash or in kind for which no legal debt is incurred by the recipient.
4. **Non-refundable grants** – Non-refundable grants consist of contributions provided to a partner institution, without the expectation of reflows.
5. **Contributions to International Organizations, Development Banks and Funds**
 - 5.1. **Regular Contributions** – Regular contributions to development banks, development funds, international development and humanitarian organizations. Only the coefficient for development activities for developing countries may be reported. Each multilateral institution must report annually the percentage of direct expenditures on projects for developing countries.
 - 5.2. **Voluntary Contributions** – Occasional voluntary contributions for development projects of development banks, development funds and multilateral development organizations, excluding self-benefit activities.
 - 5.3. **Capital paid-in to IFI and Regional/Multilateral Funds** – Report, in the year of payment, of the capital paid to IFI and Regional/Multilateral Funds where only developing countries are eligible for finance, and the final destination may be associated with the SDG.
6. **Direct cash transfers under social development public programs in partner countries** - Direct cash transfers expenditure benefiting individuals, in the context of public programs of sustainable development in partner countries (with the consent and support of the partner country).
7. **Expenditures in the provider country not included elsewhere** - Includes domestic cooperation expenses that can be reported to support global and regional sustainable development challenges for the benefit of developing countries, for which it is not possible to identify a specific partner country.
8. **South-South Trade (*Indicator 17.11)** - Credits to finance exports originating from developing countries.
9. **South-to-South Remittances (*Indicator 17.3.2)** - Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP, among Global South Countries.
10. **Debt relief among Southern Countries (* Indicator for 17.4)** - All actions relating to debt restructuring (forgiveness, conversions, swaps, buy-backs, rescheduling, refinancing), among Global South Countries.
11. **South-South Grants and other research subsidies (and capital investment in joint research projects) (* Indicator 17.6)** - Research grants awarded to foreign researchers from Global

South Countries and capital investment in joint research projects for sustainable development, supported by bilateral, triangular or multilateral agreements.

12. **Scholarships** - Includes financial awards for individual students from Global South Countries, contributions to trainees and indirect (“imputed”) costs of tuition in provider partner countries to nationals of south countries.
13. **Humanitarian assistance** (*between developing countries*) - Humanitarian cooperation conducted by the provider partner country or through multilateral channels for the benefit of Southern countries. Includes Contributions, donations of food, medicine, medical supplies and other needed materials in case of humanitarian distress.
 - 13.1. **Voluntary Contributions** – Occasional voluntary contributions for humanitarian assistance to international development and humanitarian organizations, excluding self-benefit activities.
 - 13.2. **Type: donations of food, medicine, medical supplies and or other needed materials in case of humanitarian distress** – Covers expenses with donations of food, medicine, medical supplies and or other needed materials in case of humanitarian distress.
 - 13.3. **Type: assistance to refugees** - Covers expenses on the temporary sustenance of refugees and protected persons in refugee-like situations in the provider country as well as financial, material or technical support to refugees in other host countries. Also includes support to refugees returning voluntarily to their countries of origin.
 - 13.4. **Type: dispatch of humanitarian missions: health professionals; first-aid workers; teachers** - Covers operational expenses, salaries and all non-salary costs of experts (including those of public officials of the reporting country) such as flights, per-diem, accommodation and other transportation costs.
14. **Training** - Includes the provision of training using internationally or locally recruited experts. All non-salary costs of experts (including those of public officials of the reporting country) such as flights, per-diem, accommodation, internal transportation within the recipient country and training, are also included. This category also covers training and research as well as various capacity building activities such as conferences, seminars, workshops, exchange visits.
15. **Participation in Peace Keeping Operations** - Spends related to UN peacekeeping operations and other peacekeeping operations mandated or authorised by a UNSC resolution. Operations should support the creation of conditions for lasting peace, and not have an explicitly belligerent role and approach. Moreover, they should comply with the three basic

principles of UN peacekeeping operations: consent of the parties⁷; impartiality⁸; and non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate⁹.

16. **Technical cooperation** - Projects with a set of interrelated activities to be carried out in order to achieve a specific sustainable development objective, within a previously established period of time, under an official legal framework between southern countries.
 - 16.1. **Experts - technical hours / opportunity costs** - Expenses related to hiring specialists, technical hours of government officials and opportunity costs, directly associated with the technical cooperation activity between the partner countries.
 - 16.2. **Per Diems, daily allowances, and airfares** – Expenses related to Expenses related to per diems, daily allowances, and airfares, directly associated with the technical cooperation activity between the partner countries.
 - 16.3. **Services; materials; equipment; supplies** - Expenses for the acquisition of services, materials, equipment and supplies, necessary to carry out the technical cooperation activity between the partner countries.
17. **Volunteers** - Non-salary costs of experts such as flights, per-diem, accommodation and other transportation costs.
18. **Joint research** - Disbursements with joint research projects between two or more developing countries, covering the working time of scientists/specialists from the reporting country, opportunity costs and expenses with services, materials, equipment and supplies mobilized to develop them. This consists of scientific-related infrastructure (labs, equipment, supplies) and research personnel, including working hours and opportunity costs.
19. **Administrative/Operational/Management/Coordination** – In-kind expenses (*human and physical inputs*) with administrative, operational, coordination activities directly associated with SSC, but not to a specific bilateral activity. Includes human and physical inputs associated with technical cooperation projects, scholarships, volunteer’s management, training, humanitarian assistance, and any other South-South Cooperation modalities.

⁷ Consent of the parties: United Nations peacekeeping operations are deployed with the consent of the main parties to the conflict. This requires a commitment by the parties to a political process and their acceptance of a peacekeeping operation mandated to support that process.

⁸ Impartiality: United Nations peacekeeping operations must implement their mandate without favor or prejudice to any party. Impartiality is crucial to maintaining the consent and co-operation of the main parties. Impartiality may be seen as playing a fundamental function in drawing the limits to the use of force and its purpose. Impartiality does not prohibit peacekeepers from using military force, but links and limits the use of force to a political process and the search for a political solution. The logic differs for counterterrorism, which requires the identification of an enemy.

⁹ Non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate: A United Nations peacekeeping operation only uses force as a measure of last resort, when other methods of persuasion have been exhausted, and an operation must always exercise restraint when doing so. The ultimate aim of the use of force is to influence and deter spoilers working against the peace process or seeking to harm civilians; and not to seek their military defeat.