



The Hague International Model United Nations

Forum: Group of 77

Issue: Enhancing economic resilience through broader South-South economic cooperation

Student Officer: Kady W. Falk

Position: Deputy Chair of G77

Introduction

The topic of South-South economic cooperation (SSC) refers to the efforts of developing nations to tackle challenges and mutually promote development in all nations affected. The idea of South-South economic relationships and collaboration began as a substitute for the normal more common North-South relationships, to promote neutrality, respect for sovereignty, and mutual autonomy.

Enhancing economic resilience through South-South cooperation consists of preparing developing nations with the resources and tools necessary to prosper and grow. This growth comes in the form of economic development, trading groups, intergovernmental organizations, and technological advances. Through these groups and advances countries can build their economies to be resilient to shocks and adapt to economic challenges.

South-South Economic Cooperation is crucial because it assists new developing nations with opportunities for economic growth and future prosperity. By the United Nations fostering South-South Cooperation it can build stronger more prosperous countries, improve a country's economic resilience, and reduce the reliance on developed nations specifically those in the Global North. These are important in addressing global issues like poverty, sustainable development, and inequality. South-South Cooperation remains globally significant as it allows nations to control their development agendas and it challenges the typical North-South dynamics of economic dependency and trade. South-South Cooperation remains debatable because it brings up questions on power imbalances in the Global North and it can expose interests and priorities of all nations. Overall South-South cooperation can change the current world trade, economic relationships, and relationships between nations as we currently know it.

Definition of Key Terms

South-South Cooperation (SSC)

The partnerships between nations in the Global South (Latin America, Asia, Africa) to advance development, foster technological exchanges, and promote economic growth. South-South Cooperation works to limit dependency on developed countries specifically those in the Global North, and move to focusing on sustainable development and reduction of poverty.

Economic Resilience

A country's aptitude to recover from economic issues, economically adapt, and grow. For newer nations like those in the Global South, this means growing the local markets and enhancing self-sufficiency.

Triangular Cooperation

An example of a partnership typically in trading or knowledge sharing where a developed nation, international organization, or a multilateral institution helps to support collaboration between developing countries.

Trade Diversification

A vital strategy for nations to increase economic resiliency, trade diversification includes expanding exports and imports beyond the limited variety of goods and services. It Also reduces a country's dependency on foreign markets to ensure nations can better withstand international economic shock.

Sustainable Development

Aims to meet the present needs while still giving the generations to come the ability to take care of themselves. South-South economic cooperation highlights the need for collaboration on issues like climate change, food security, and renewable energy in order to guarantee economic growth and prosperity.

Technology Transfer

The process of sharing technology and innovations from one organization, region, or country to another. In SSC, technology transfers can be beneficial to developing countries to improve industrial capacity, productivity, and lead to innovations.

Collective Self-Reliance

Encourages developing countries to work together to build self-sufficient economies by creating supply chains, making joint investments, and sharing resources. This is one of the core principles of the SSC to decrease reliance on the Global North.

Regional Integration

When countries in the same region come together to reduce trade barriers, build shared infrastructure, and promote economic growth. Examples include; the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other economic groups in Asia and Latin America.)

Bilateral and Multilateral Cooperation

Agreements and Contracts between countries to collaborate on political, economic, and technological projects. Bilateral focuses on specific pairs of countries, and multilateral involves larger groups, typically regional and global initiatives.

Background Information

South-South economic cooperation became more extensive after the end of World War II due to the decolonization period. The decolonization period began in 1945 and ended in 1980 signaling the start of independence for many of today's sovereign nations. One of the first major events was the Bandung Conference held in 1955. At this conference, newly independent African and Asian nations aimed to promote unity against colonialism, the final resolution at the Bandung conference laid the framework for the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War.

In October of 1974, the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation was founded. This organization was established to promote collaboration between developing nations, mainly to create mutual assistance in sustainable development, like the sharing of technologies and knowledge. This Special Unit's largest project was in July 2011 after South Sudan gained independence. The UN Development Programme's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation supported South Sudan in development by creating relationships with nations in the Global South. This fostered economic and political growth in South Sudan to build the nation we know today.

In 1978 the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) was put into place under the United Nations framework. This was the first example of South-South economic cooperation formalized by the United Nations. This plan stressed self-reliance, collective support, and financial independence among nations of the Global South. The objectives of BAPA were to foster the sharing of knowledge and technologies among countries, strengthen national capacities, and help the advancement of technologies. The initiative also made it easier for developing nations to participate in the global economy and supported sustainable development partnerships based on the values of sovereignty and equality.

More recently in the history of enhancing South-South economic cooperation, the Nairobi Outcome Document was published in 2009. This document was published after the Second High-Level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation was held in Nairobi, Kenya. The Nairobi Outcome Document holds significance as it laid the foundation for the future of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, it also reaffirmed the importance of the goals set in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action in 1978. Today the Nairobi Outcome Document continues to play a crucial role in efforts for the Global South to work together and support developing nations.

Many organizations were formed to promote the mutual interests of developing countries in the Global South. These organizations include The Group of 77, The Non-Aligned Movement, and regional

groups like the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa). These organizations all share similar goals of reducing global inequality, aiding developing nations, and challenging the dominance of highly developed nations in global economics and politics.

Today, almost 70 years later, there are many similar topics driving nations in the Global South to work together and hold these conferences. Many developing countries are plagued by debt, inequality, and financial instability on a global scale. Developing economies, particularly those in the Global South stand face to face with a narrow range of external funding and trade partners. These issues continue to drive South-South economic cooperation. In 2024 there are also modern issues these developing countries must face: the COVID-19 pandemic, Climate Change, and ongoing conflicts have left many countries with inequality and uncertainty for the future. Through the enhancement of economic cooperation in the Global South, nations can find trading partners, allies, and other nations facing the same issues. These political and economic connections can stem economic prosperity and the growth of nations.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

UN and International Involvement: The United Nations has developed frameworks, strategies, and constructed programs to foster collaboration among developing countries. For example, the United Nations Office on South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) promoted the initiatives proposed by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) which promoted knowledge exchanges and solutions for challenges like overwhelming poverty, food security, and climate change. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations helped countries in the Global South share vaccines, medical supplies, and best practices. The following resolutions have been presented and passed in favor of “enhancing economic resilience through broader South-South economic cooperation”:

- Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), September 1978, ([Resolution 33/134](#))
- Nairobi Outcome Document, December 2009 ([Resolution 64/222](#))
- UN General Assembly Resolution on South-South Cooperation, December 2022 ([Resolution 77/185](#))
- UN General Assembly Resolution on Triangular Cooperation, 2023 ([Resolution 78/167](#))
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda, July 2015 ([Resolution 69/313](#))

United Nations Office on South-South Cooperation(UNOSSC): The UNOSSC plays a critical role in the advancement of South-South Economic Cooperation, The main functions of the UN Office on South-South Cooperation include:

- Promoting Knowledge Sharing
- Building Partnerships

- Technical Assistance
- Capacity Building

India: The Republic of India plays a major role in South-South economic cooperation through its knowledge-sharing program, trade, and its strategic partnerships. India provides technical support and technological training to more than 150 countries to share their expertise. They have also committed more than \$10 billion in concessional loans and \$600 million in grants to African nations. The Republic of India is also a leading member of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), IBSA (India, Brazil, and South Africa), and G20 (Group of 20). The Republic of India has signed the following resolutions in favor of “enhancing economic resilience through broader South-South economic cooperation”:

- Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), September 1978, ([Resolution 33/134](#))
- Nairobi Outcome Document, December 2009 ([Resolution 64/222](#))
- India-UN Development Partnership Fund, September 6, 2017 ([Resolution 71/318](#))
- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, September 25, 2015 ([Resolution 70/1](#))
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda, July 2015 ([Resolution 69/313](#))

China: China has been a major country with involvement in South-South economic cooperation since the Bandung Conference in 1955., China has continued to strengthen its ties in the Global South particularly in Africa. In 2000 the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation was started with the goals of improving infrastructure, energy production, and technology. in 2015 China pledged over \$5.1 billion to the South-South Climate Cooperation Fund (SSCCF) and the the post-2015 Development Agenda. China has also signed the following resolutions in favor of “enhancing economic resilience through broader South-South economic cooperation”:

- Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), September 1978, ([Resolution 33/134](#))
- Nairobi Outcome Document, December 2009 ([Resolution 64/222](#))
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda, July 2015 ([Resolution 69/313](#))
- South-South Cooperation for Development, December 2015 ([Resolution 70/222](#))
- Strengthening the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, December 2017 ([Resolution 71/244](#))

Brazil: The Federative Republic of Brazil has been a prominent country in South-South economic cooperation, particularly in forums like the IBSA (India, Brazil, and South Africa) which strives to make advances in trade, science, technology, climate change. Brazil’s expertise is in agriculture and bioenergy which has already been shared through multiple forums. The Federative Republic of Brazil has also signed the following resolutions in favor of “enhancing economic resilience through broader South-South economic cooperation”:

- Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), September 1978, ([Resolution 33/134](#))
- Nairobi Outcome Document, December 2009 ([Resolution 64/222](#))

- Addis Ababa Action Agenda, July 2015 ([Resolution 69/313](#))
- South-South Cooperation for Development, December 2015 ([Resolution 70/222](#))
- Strengthening the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, December 2017 ([Resolution 71/244](#))

South Africa: As the leading economy in Africa, the Republic of South Africa is a key player in South-South economic cooperation. South Africa is a key member of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), the African Union, and IBSA (India, Brazil, and South Africa); they have led multiple initiatives with the goals of improving trade, infrastructure development, and reducing poverty. South Africa has signed multiple resolutions in favor of “enhancing economic resilience through broader South-South economic cooperation”:

- Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), September 1978, ([Resolution 33/134](#))
- Nairobi Outcome Document, December 2009 ([Resolution 64/222](#))
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda, July 2015 ([Resolution 69/313](#))
- South-South Cooperation for Development, December 2015 ([Resolution 70/222](#))
- Strengthening the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, December 2017 ([Resolution 71/244](#))

Turkey: Within recent years the Republic of Turkey has exponentially expanded its role within South-South economic cooperation. Turkey has begun this involvement through humanitarian aid, trade partnerships with countries in the Global South, and infrastructure projects across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. The Republic of Turkey’s efforts also include the Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit and investments in technology for African countries. Turkey has signed and supported resolutions favoring “enhancing economic resilience through broader South-South economic cooperation”:

- Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), September 1978, ([Resolution 33/134](#))
- Nairobi Outcome Document, December 2009 ([Resolution 64/222](#))
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda, July 2015 ([Resolution 69/313](#))
- South-South Cooperation for Development, December 2015 ([Resolution 70/222](#))
- Strengthening the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, December 2017 ([Resolution 71/244](#))

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
September 2nd, 1945	World War II ends
October 24th, 1945	United Nations founded

April 18th-24th, 1955	Bandung Conference- Held in Bandung, Indonesia, this conference marks the beginning of South-South cooperation where countries in the Global South expressed their mutual support in resisting colonialism, imperialism, and apartheid. It also set the foundation for the non-aligned movement during the Cold War.
October, 1974	United Nations Development Program for South-South Cooperation- Established in 1974 to promote collaboration between developing nations, mainly to create mutual assistance in sustainable development, like the sharing of technologies and knowledge.
August 30th -September 12th, 1978	Buenos Aires Plan of Action- Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina; consisting of 138 countries who came together to promote technical cooperation among developing countries and reduce the dependency on the Global North.
July 9th, 2011	UN Development Programme's (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in South Sudan- After South Sudan gained independence in 2011 the UNDP started initiatives to promote South-South Cooperation of South Sudan. These initiatives helped to build and strengthen South Sudan through partnerships in the Global South.
December 1st-3rd, 2009	Nairobi Outcome Document- Aiming to strengthen South-South cooperation through improving trade, politics, and economic partnerships. Also to improve collaboration on global issues such as trade, climate change, and reducing poverty.
July 27th, 2012	UN Resolution 66/288 (The Future We Want)- A resolution adopted to improve global conditions; particularly poverty, promoting sustainable production, and urging stronger South-South cooperation for economic resilience.
July 15th, 2015	Addis Ababa Action Agenda- An international conference on the development of Addis Ababa the capital of Ethiopia promoting partnership and development in the region of the South-South. Promoting development in all areas of a country's economy to boost jobs and overall economic output.
December 22nd, 2015	Resolution 70/222- Adopted by the United Nations this emphasized the same goals of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to promote development in all areas and local collaboration in the South-South.
December 24th, 2017	Resolution 72/244- Again this resolution reaffirmed the goals of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to promote collaboration and development between countries in the South-South.
December 20th, 2018	Resolution 73/235- Reaffirming the Addis Ababa Action Agenda goals of promoting development through collaboration throughout the South-South.

July 7th-16th, 2020	2020 UN High-Level Discussions- An annual conference of UN officials being a landmark for the South-South creating a new template of ideas and goals to share technology, strengthen collaboration, increase health care facilities, and develop an effective education system.
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Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

There have been many attempts to enhance economic resilience through broader South-South economic cooperation since the end of World War II. After WWII ended, the global decolonization period began. During this period of roughly 35 years, independence was granted to countries like India and Pakistan (from the United Kingdom), Indonesia (from the Netherlands), the Philippines (from the US), as well as Israel and several Arab nations from specific Mandates which had been granted to great powers by the League of Nations. The Bandung Conference was also held in 1955, where these newly emerged countries of Asia and Africa came together to stand against imperialism and colonization efforts of the Western world. Since the Bandung Conference, 24 different United Nations resolutions have been adopted to help foster South-South cooperation.

The major resolutions adopted by the United Nations include the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) ([Resolution 33/134](#)), the Nairobi Outcome Document, December 2009 ([Resolution 64/222](#)), the UN General Assembly Resolution on South-South Cooperation ([Resolution 77/185](#)), the UN General Assembly Resolution on Triangular Cooperation ([Resolution 78/167](#)), and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, July 2015 ([Resolution 69/313](#)). All these resolutions propose a few strategies, including promoting trade and encouraging relationships between countries in the Global South.

There are also multiple intergovernmental organizations starting with the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) established in 1961 followed by the Group of 77 in 1964. Some more recent examples of intergovernmental organizations include the

- African Union (2001)
- Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa)
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Potential Solutions to Solve the Issue

Possible solutions to further the enhancement of South-South Economic Cooperation includes strengthening regional integration. This can be carried out by the UN Office on South-South Cooperation encouraging the formation of new trade groups and agreements that are more inclusive. This would facilitate more trade within the Global South and promote economic growth amongst all nations involved.

Another solution to further South-South Economic Cooperation is better technology and knowledge transfers. The exchange of techniques, technologies, and skills is crucial in growing the economies of the Global South. New platforms, conferences, and programs could be founded in order to foster innovation and growth. These exchanges can lead to improvements in areas like agriculture, healthcare, education, and renewable energy. Improvements in these areas can lead to a boost in the economy and the development of South-South relationships.

Other ways South-South Economic Cooperation can be improved include Public-Private Partnerships (PPP's), which would strengthen the relationships between the public sector and governments. In the context of SSC, these partnerships could focus on trade, infrastructure, healthcare, and sustainable development. Another solution is Policy Alignment and Dialogue (PAD), PAD refers to a process where stakeholders, organizations, or nations coordinate their policies to ensure they are supporting mutual policies. In the context of South-South Cooperation countries can coordinate their policies on development strategies like trade.

Enhancing South-South Economic Cooperation requires governments to work together towards shared goals. Like inclusive trade agreements, technology sharing, Public-Private Partnerships, and coordinated policy alignment to boost innovation, development, and economies among nations in the Global South.

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Appendix or Appendices

Organizations:

- I. [United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation](#)
- II. [United Nations Development Programme](#)
- III. [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)
- IV. [African Union](#)
- V. [BRICS \(Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa\)](#)
- VI. [Group of 77](#)

Resolutions:

- I. Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA), September 1978, ([Resolution 33/134](#))
- II. Nairobi Outcome Document, December 2009 ([Resolution 64/222](#))
- III. UN General Assembly Resolution on South-South Cooperation, December 2022 ([Resolution 77/185](#))
- IV. UN General Assembly Resolution on Triangular Cooperation, 2023 ([Resolution 78/167](#))
- V. Addis Ababa Action Agenda, July 2015 ([Resolution 69/313](#))