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# ILO & South-South and Triangular Cooperation

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# What is South-South and triangular cooperation?



- Two or more developing countries pursuing their individual or collective development through cooperative exchanges of knowledge, skills, resources and technical know-how
- An expression of solidarity and cooperation between countries, based on their shared experiences and objectives
- SSC complements rather than substitutes for North-South cooperation



## ***Main features of cooperation***

SSC programmes have mainly focused on knowledge exchange and sharing among developing countries in political, economic, social and cultural areas.

SSC partnerships have taken place under:

- bilateral initiatives: e.g. Turkey- Palestine Cooperation (2008)
- trilateral initiatives: e.g. the India-Brazil-South Africa Partnership (IBSA, 2003)
- multi-country initiatives: e.g. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS)
- triangular cooperation initiatives: South-South- North (Brazil-US)
- regional initiatives: e.g. ASEAN
- Inter-regional agreements: e.g. Afro-Arab Cooperation (1977)



# What is ILO's role in IBSA?



- IBSA is the partnership of India, Brazil, South Africa created in 2003
- IBSA have signed in 2010 a Declaration of Intent to cooperate with the ILO on the Promotion of the Decent Work Agenda through SSC
- The aims of the IBSA partnership are to expand those countries' influence on global issues and to promote cooperation and exchange between them in areas such as agriculture, culture, defence, education, energy, environment and climate change, health, human settlements, the information society, public administration, revenue administration, science and technology, social development, trade, transport and tourism



# ***ILO and South-South and Triangular Cooperation***

- South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) converges with the approach of the ILO's Decent Work Agenda, and the ILO has attached enormous value to these forms of cooperation for several decades.
- In 1987 the ILO signed an agreement with the Government of Brazil to undertake technical cooperation with other countries in Latin America and Africa
- In 2005 Brazil became the first donor country from the South for the ILO's technical cooperation programmes, of which 17 per cent was allocated to SSC specifically.



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# Successful experience



- The ILO hosted the United Nations Third Global South-South Development Expo in Geneva in November 2010.

- The Expo demonstrated the potential of SSC as a pillar of development assistance, and the promising contribution of decent work as a South-South aid modality

- The ILO, in partnership with the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of UNDP, produced the publication Successful Social Protection Floor Experiences, in 2011. This publication presents 18 case studies from 15 developing countries on their efforts to develop and implement a social protection floor.



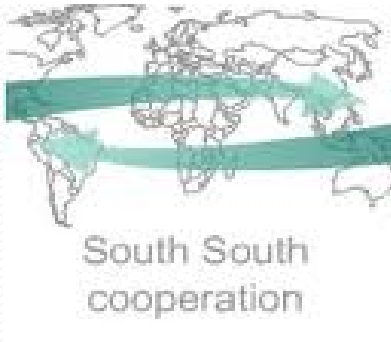
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- The ILO has also had success stories of SSTC in the field. Exchanges of successful experience in the implementation of social protection floors and employment programmes;
- policies to combat child and forced labour;
- knowledge sharing platforms for skills development policies;
- capacity building in the port and tourism sectors in Central America are just a few examples. International Migration represents, by topic, the fourth largest technical cooperation portfolio in the ILO at over \$25 million and nearly all of it is SSTC by definition.



# Lessons learned



- The strengthening of national response capacities and coordination mechanisms, as well as the commitment of social partners, are crucial to the sustainability of results and actions.
- It is important to take into account the regional characteristics and national contexts when designing and implementing SSC and TC projects.
- It is important that the south-south initiatives respond to official demand of the developing countries involved.
- Documentation of successful experience and good practice can be used as a template not only for the countries participating in the project, but also for countries seeking solutions on the same subject;
- Countries of the South have an important role to play as donors, even where they remain ILO beneficiary countries. Triangular cooperation will thus enhance ILO technical cooperation.



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## Comparative advantage and benefits



- The ILO's tripartite constituency makes it a useful platform for consensus building and cooperation between the social actors

- The ILO is the only organization where the knowledge and experience of its tripartite constituency are documented, discussed and shared across countries and regions.

- For example, explicit reliance on SSTC is factored into the strategies for the outcomes on skills development, social security, working conditions, workers' organizations, labour administration and labour law, decent work in economic sectors, forced labour and child labour.



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## Strategic framework for supporting and promoting SSC and TC

- The ILO's strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation for 2012-2016 will continue to be guided by the UN Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review (TCPR) of 2007, the Nairobi Outcome Document endorsed by the General Assembly in 2009 and the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for Fair Globalization.
- The ILO increases its capacity and institutional awareness to implement SSTC partnerships
- More countries have successful experience of advancing the Decent Work Agenda through South-South and Triangular Cooperation ILO organizational structure is reviewed and assessed in order to facilitate South-South and Triangular Cooperation.
- The Office enhances and expands its partnerships within the UN and the bilateral and multilateral system and establishes new partnerships with non-state entities and economic actors on South-South and Triangular Cooperation.



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# How to realize the Decent Work Agenda through SSTC.

## New development partners

Brazil: biggest SSC partner for ILO  
China, for example, is actually the largest funding source for SSC. Building on the Memorandum of Understanding on Decent Work between the ILO and China, the Office will make special efforts to influence China's policy and steer it further towards the Decent Work Agenda through continuous dialogue and seminars. Potential collaboration with new development partners may also include Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Hungary, India, Israel, Kuwait, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

## Several regional institutions

such as MERCOSUR and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), have already demonstrated the effectiveness of SSC, and partnering with them will assist ILO Member States in advancing their Decent Work Agenda

## Universities

The Global Labour University (GLU) is a good example: GLU is a network of universities, international and national trade unions, civil society organizations and the ILO, which was created as a partnership for international knowledge management, research, and capacity building. Primarily based on university campuses in Brazil, India, South Africa and Germany, the GLU offers postgraduate programmes and research opportunities for trade unionists and labour activists.





**The Office enhances and expands its partnerships within the UN and bilateral and multilateral system and establishes new partnerships with non-state entities and economic actors on South-South and Triangular Cooperation**



**The Office will analyze how traditional donors and partners are working with SSC and TC, and will identify trends and opportunities to promote the Decent Work Agenda through SSTC.**



**The ILO will arrange strategic dialogues with potential new partners from the Global South to seek their political commitment and explore possibilities for collaboration. PARDEV, in close collaboration with field offices, will prepare country profiles to identify countries from the South as potential partners**



**The ILO has entered into many partnerships with non-state entities and economic actors over the past few years (employers' and workers' organizations, foundations, public institutions, and the private sector). But the relationship of the ILO with these partners is often ad hoc and in need of expansion, diversification and intensification.**

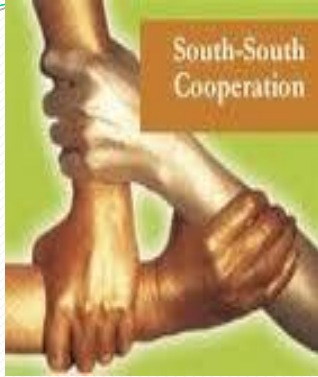
# Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

1. *A list of new partners and potential partners in countries in the Global South will be finalized by ILO colleagues based on: a) requests and offers from countries of the South to participate in the South South Scheme; b) consultations with Regional Directors, field directors, the ILO South South network and social partners; c) a situation analysis and mapping of countries of the South.*
2. *A good practices study will be prepared, based on an ILO-UNICEF-World Bank methodology on the collection of good practices, and will provide solid indications for the SSC areas that can be further developed, and the countries more likely to participate in the exercise.*
3. *Delegates, including senior officials from pivotal countries of the*
4. *A “menu of potential South South proposals” will be developed.*
5. *A clearing house system will be established in order to provide more in depth assistance to countries wishing to embark on the SSC modality of technical cooperation*



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