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VIRTUAL AGENDA (DRAFT - 25.03.2021)

COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY: PUBLIC POLICY LEADERSHIP AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

2021 INTER-REGIONAL DIALOGUE AND STOCKTAKING FOR ADVANCING SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION IN THE ARAB STATES, EUROPE AND THE CIS

6-8 APRIL 2021

ORGANIZED BY THE DIVISION FOR ARAB STATES, EUROPE AND THE CIS, UNOSSC, ISTANBUL

ISTANBUL TIME

Please click [here](#) to register. **Languages:** English, Arabic and Russian

OBJECTIVES:

- Identify key public policy challenges in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery - current and emerging demands for support.
- Deliberate on opportunities for strengthened inter, intra and sub-regional collaboration, through evidence-based examples and partnership modalities, and recommend actions to overcome challenges and bottlenecks.
- Discuss the role of national architecture for South-South, East-East and triangular cooperation, key ingredients for making those institutions more effective and efficient.
- Discuss how the UN system entities can, in a more systematic and coherent manner, support South-South, East-East and triangular efforts of partner countries both at the regional and country levels, thus enhancing the impact of UN operational activities for development.
- Serve as a platform for sharing of experience, networking, finding synergies, complementarity and optimization of capacities and resources towards collective action in the Arab States, Europe and the CIS.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Greater understanding of the imperative to align South-South and triangular cooperation efforts with national and regional priorities.
- Specific recommendations on addressing the key demands and priorities of national institutions for South-South and triangular cooperation, identification of existing opportunities to strengthen regional and intra-regional collaboration, transfer of knowledge etc.
- Greater understanding of the role of UN system entities in further advancing South-South, East-East and triangular cooperation and the identification of region-specific priorities for alignment and synergies.
- Measures identified for enhanced cooperation and collaboration on South-South, East-East and triangular cooperation between and among UN entities at the regional and national levels, as well as with national partners and institutions in pursuit of further implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- New partnerships initiated among participants on specific areas of public policy to collaborate through South-South and triangular mechanisms.



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- Renewed commitments by national and regional institutions, UN system entities and other stakeholders to strengthen efforts and support towards leveraging South-South, East-East and triangular cooperation modalities for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

DAY 1, TUESDAY, 6 APRIL 2021

Afternoon: 15:00 - 17:20

Master of Ceremony: **Mr. Mithre Sandrasagra**, Strategic Communications Advisor, UNOSSC, New York

OPENING

15:00 - 15:30 Welcome Remarks

- **Mr. Adel M. Abdellatif**, Director a.i., UNOSSC, New York
- **Ms. Agi Veres**, Deputy Regional Director, UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, Istanbul
- **Mr. Khaled Abdel Shafi**, Manager, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States, Amman
- **Ms. Alanna Armitage**, Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UNFPA, Istanbul
- **Ms. Alia El-Yassir**, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia and Representative to Turkey, UN Women
- **Ms. Rosemary Kalapurakal**, Deputy Director a.i., UN Development Coordination Office, New York

OVERVIEW/EXPECTED OUTCOMES

15:30 - 15:35 **Mr. Zanofer Ismalebbe**, Regional Chief, Division for Arab States, Europe and the CIS, UNOSSC, Istanbul

SESSION 1: LONG-TERM IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL POLICY COHERENCE AND INTEGRATION. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

The session will set the overall context for the regional and national development actors to meet the global challenges through ambitious policies and coherent actions at the regional and inter-regional levels in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. More specifically, the session will explore key public policy challenges in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery, lessons emerging out of country level socio-economic impact assessments (SEIAs) carried out by the UN system, what tools and/or types of support have been useful in addressing these challenges, as well as emerging demands that require coordinated and coherent efforts and recommend actions to overcome challenges and bottlenecks. This session will also discuss the potential of South-South, East-East and triangular cooperation for enabling stronger regional integration, especially as countries recover from COVID-19 response and recovery.

Overarching questions:



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- How to ensure that the immediate response to COVID-19 also considers longer-term development ambitions and pre-COVID challenges, including the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change and fragility?
- What were the successful and innovative approaches in managing technical and operational challenges?
- How can more regional and sub-regional cooperation help overcome shared challenges, including infrastructure and value chains?

Moderator: Ms. Aruna Gujral, Advisor to the Deputy Director-General, FAO, Rome

15:35 - 16:20 **Context Setting**

- **Dr. Ebtessam al-Ketbi**, President, Emirates Policy Center, Abu Dhabi
- **Prof. Gyorgy Hajnal**, Director, Institute of Economic and Public Policy, Corvinus University of Budapest. President of the Steering Committee, Network of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration in Central and Eastern Europe (NISPAcee). Research Professor, ELKH Centre for Social Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences Centre of Excellence
- **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin**, Deputy Executive Secretary, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Geneva
- **Ms. Karima El Korri**, Cluster Leader, 2030 Agenda, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Beirut
- **Ms. Ulrika Modéer**, Assistant Secretary-General, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy (BERA), UNDP New York
- **Dr. Mario Pezzini**, Director, OECD Development Centre, Special Advisor to the OECD Secretary General on Development, Paris
- **Mr. Sahba Sobhani**, Director, Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development, Global Finance Sector Hub, UNDP, Istanbul

16:20 - 17:20 **Challenges and Opportunities for South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

- **Mr. Elborni Salhi**, Director-General, Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation
- **Mr. Malek Al-Breazat**, Head, Department of Cooperation with Arab and OIC Institutions, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan
- **Dr. Alikhan Baimenov**, Chairman of the Steering Committee, Astana Civil Service Hub
- **Mr. Joshua Phoho Setipa**, Managing Director, UN Technology Bank
- Additional speakers TBC

17:20 **Q and A/End of Session**



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DAY 2, WEDNESDAY, 7 APRIL 2021

Afternoon: 15:00 - 17:40

SESSION 2: OUTCOMES OF THE 12TH HIGH-LEVEL FORUM OF DIRECTORS GENERAL FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: REFLECTIONS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS FOR ARAB STATES, EUROPE AND THE CIS, AND CROSS-REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Discussions will focus on unpacking the key outcomes of the DG Forum and identifying key opportunities and demands for strengthening national capacities for South-South, East-East and triangular cooperation in the Arab States, Europe and the CIS regions. Core challenges and opportunities that affect the establishment and/or strengthening of national architecture for South-South and triangular cooperation will also be discussed to pursue a more systematic approach and response within the overall context of national public policy process. The session will also provide a space for deeper discussion for sustainable peace in the Arab region. Speakers from diverse institutions will reflect on the role of South-South and triangular cooperation in advancing the development-peace-humanitarian 'nexus' in the political and social environments.

Overarching questions:

- In the context of the current challenges, and through the prism of the outcomes of the DG Forum, what possible changes could be envisioned at the regional and national levels actions as institutions continue supporting COVID-19 response and recovery efforts and other national development priorities?
- How should institutional, financial and human capacities for implementing South-South/East-East/triangular cooperation be shaped to ensure consistency and integration with nationally coordinated financing frameworks?
- What are the needs for strengthening national coordination architectures that can be addressed jointly with public and peer agencies across the regions, international financial institutions and the private sector?
- What innovative solutions in the delivery and implementation of development cooperation through South-South/East-East/Triangular have proven to be effective in addressing critical issues such as governance, administrative reforms, social cohesion, and other areas critical for resilient society and sustaining peace?

Overall Moderator: Dr. Carlos María Correa, Executive Director, South Centre, Geneva

15:00 - 15:20 **Outcomes of the 12th High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation**

- **Mr. Tarik Iziraren**, Deputy Director, Policy and Partnerships, UNOSSC, New York

15:20 - 16:15 **Reflections and Perspectives**

- **Ambassador Mohamed Methqal**, Director General, Moroccan Agency for International Cooperation (AMCI)
- **Dr. Amin Salih Yasin**, Acting Undersecretary for Economic Planning, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Sudan
- **Mr. Ahmed Mohamed Abro**, Deputy Director, Social and Cultural Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Djibouti



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- **Dr. Seymur Fataliyev**, Director, Azerbaijan International Development Agency (AIDA)
- **Mr. Jan Sliva**, Director, Czech Development Agency (CzechAid)
- **Dr. Sebastian Haug**, Researcher, German Development Institute (GDI)
- Additional speakers TBC

16:25 - 17:25 **Durable Peace in the Arab Region: Role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

- **H.E. Ambassador Imad Zuhairi**, Director General, Palestinian International Cooperation Agency (PICA)
- **H.E. Ambassador Nasser Kamel**, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Barcelona
- **Ms. Najat Rochdi**, UN Deputy Special Coordinator for Lebanon, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Lebanon
- **Ms. Georgette Gagnon**, Assistant Secretary General, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Libya
- **Mr. Ahmed Faruk Diken**, Senior Technical Cooperation Coordinator, MENA & Europe, Regional Cooperation and Integration Department, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Jeddah
- **Mr. Arkan El-Seblani**, Head, Regional Team on Anti-Corruption and Integrity, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States, Amman
- Additional speakers TBC

17:25 - 17:40 **Q and A/End of Session**

DAY 3, THURSDAY, 8 APRIL 2021

Afternoon: 15:00 - 17:40

SESSION 3: LAST DECADE OF ACTION: RESPONSE TO NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DEMANDS AND PRIORITIES IN THE ARAB STATES AND ECIS REGIONS, THROUGH SOUTH-SOUTH, EAST-EAST AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

The session will reflect on the efforts of and response by the UN development system entities to national and regional development priorities through South-South, East-East and triangular cooperation, guided further by the UN Development System (UNDS) reform and the 2020 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2020.

The conversation will begin with a presentation on the key elements of the UN System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular cooperation, approved by the Executive Committee of the UN Secretary-General in 2020, and the forthcoming Action Plan for the UN System-wide strategy on SSTC. This will be followed by a “Leadership” conversation with the participation of UN Resident Coordinators and UN entities co-leading on Issue-Based Coalitions (IBCs), established within the context of UNDS reform, at the regional level. The session will reflect on how, within the overall context of UN operational activities for development, country and regional level policy, programming, partnerships and advocacy priorities emanating from UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs), COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact Assessments, Socio-Economic Response Plans, relevant regional processes etc., can be further advanced through South-South, East-East and triangular cooperation, including through the operationalization of the UN System-wide Strategy.

The session will also provide a platform for the participants to share successful innovative approaches and examples in public policy leadership, South-South and Triangular cooperation for possible adaption and/or scaling up in other countries facing similar challenges.



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15:00 - 15:10 **UN System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Key Elements**

- **Mr. Tarik Iziraren**, Deputy Director, Policy and Partnerships, UNOSSC, New York

15:10 - 16:20 **“Leadership Reflections” on enhancing the impact of UN development system’s support to national and regional priorities through South-South, East-East and triangular cooperation within the overall context of UN Development System Reform**

Moderator: Ms. Gwi-Yeop Son, Regional Director for Europe and the CIS, UN Development Coordination Office, Istanbul

- **Dr. Sabine Machl**, UN Resident Coordinator, Georgia
- **Ms. Michaela Friberg-Storey**, UN Resident Coordinator, Kazakhstan
- **Mr. Anders Pedersen**, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Jordan
- **Ms. Nathalie Fustier**, UN Resident Coordinator, Saudi Arabia
- **Dr. Tarek El-Sheikh**, UN Resident Coordinator, Kuwait
- **Ms. Alanna Armitage**, Co-Chair of Issue-Based Coalition – Adolescents and Youth (Regional Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UNFPA, Istanbul)
- **Ms. Alia El-Yassir**, Co-Chair of Issue-Based Coalition – Gender Equality (Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia and Representative to Turkey, UN Women)
- **Mr. Vito Intini**, Co-Convenor of Issue-Based Coalition - Macroeconomic Management and Social Protection (Regional Lead Economist and Team Leader, UNDP, Amman)
- **Ms. Roula Majdalani**, Co-Convenor of Issue-Based Coalition – Climate Change (Leader, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA, Beirut)

16:20 - 16:25 **Commentary**

- **Dr. Sebastian Haug**, Researcher, German Development Institute (GDI-DIE) – Commentary based on the forthcoming publication **“Mainstreaming South-South and triangular cooperation: work in progress at the United Nations”**

16:25 - 16:55 **Roll-out of the UN System-wide Strategy on South-South and Triangular Cooperation**

Moderator: Ms. Sumeeta Banerji, Policy Specialist, UNOSSC, New York

- **Mr. Bobby M. Olarte**, Senior Adviser, Inter-Country Cooperation, Policy and Strategy Division, UNFPA, New York
- **Ms. Martha Santos**, Programme Manager, South-South Cooperation, UNICEF, New York
- **Ms. Yuko Suzuki Naab**, Global Policy Advisor, Effective Development Cooperation, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP, New York
- **Mr. Luis Eduardo Flores Mimica**, Sustainable Development Officer and Focal Point for stakeholder engagement, Office of the Secretary of the Commission, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Santiago
- **Mr. Zanofer Ismalebbe**, Regional Chief, Division for Arab States, Europe and the CIS, UNOSSC, Istanbul
- Additional speakers TBC

16:55 - 17:00 **Q and A**



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17:00 - 17:30 **Catalytic Initiatives and Harnessing Knowledge**

Moderator: Ms. Olena Ovchynnikova, Learning Portfolio Manager, UN System Staff College Knowledge Centre for Sustainable Development, Bonn

- **ODA Capacity Building Initiative - Ms. Berna Bayazit**, Team Leader a.i. (Partnerships), UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
- **UNOSSC Trust Funds - Ms. Ines Tofalo**, Chief, Programme Support Unit, UNOSSC, New York
- **Establishing a statistical population register in the Republic of Moldova - Mr. Eduard Mihalas**, Programme Analyst, Population and Development, UNFPA Moldova (India-UN Development Partnership Fund-supported initiative)
- **Select UNOSSC Global Projects and Initiatives - Ms. Dingding Sun**, Programme Coordination Specialist, UNOSSC, New York
- Additional speakers TBC

CLOSING

17:35 - 17:40

Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Deputy Director, Programme and Operations, UNOSSC, New York