



## High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation 2023

### Statement

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#### ▶ ILO Key Messages SSTC

At the outset, let me congratulate the President of the HLC and the new Director of UNOSSC for their respective appointments.

It is a pleasure for me to represent the ILO at the 21st session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation. This session is reviewing progress on the implementation of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation and the Buenos Aires outcome document of the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40).

The ILO has been a champion of South-South and triangular cooperation, recognizing the immense value of sharing experiences, expertise, and resources among countries in the Global South. Over the past twenty years, the ILO has facilitated numerous partnerships, fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among member states.

The Governing Body has discussed the SSTC on several occasions. In March 2012, the Governing Body endorsed the paper “South–South and triangular cooperation: The way forward”, making the ILO the first UN agency with a dedicated strategy. In November 2012, the Governing Body revised the SSTC indicators and, in November 2015, the Governing Body discussed the updated ILO Development Cooperation Strategy 2015–17, which further stressed the importance of SSTC, and agreed to continue the 2012 strategy. In 2018 the GB endorsed the paper on “South-South and triangular cooperation: next steps”. Currently the DC strategy (2021-2025) contains one action area dedicated to SSTC.

After JIU recommendations, as well as several UN resolutions, the ILO was one of the first UN entities to establish a work unit dedicated to Emerging Partnerships and South-South cooperation: this was welcomed in the UN yearly SSTC reports. The ILO was also one of the first agencies to have a SSTC strategy approved by a governing body (2012, 2018), and this is also welcomed by the SG reports 2013, 2015, 2020.

The ILO cooperates with the UN system on SSTC, including the UNOSSC, it also cooperated with government groups such as G20, G7+, G77 + China. The ILO has established SSTC, the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), BRICS, MERCOSUR, ASEAN, ECOWAS, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the g7+ group of fragile states, the South Centre, UCLG, as well as the India-Brazil-South Africa Forum (IBSA).

The ILO is promoting the Decent Work Agenda in UN system-wide consultations related to the follow-up Second High-level United Nations Conference on South–South Cooperation (BAPA+40, Argentina, 2019). The ILO led the Geneva-Rome based group of agencies work therein, especially on South-South results.

The ILO participated in the Global South-South Expos of the United Nations since 2008 and hosted the GSSD Expo in 2010. The ILO was very proactive in GSSD 2022 in charge of a Solution forum on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and, in particular, Social Protection, Fragility and Youth and Skills in ASEAN.

Following the UNOSSC inter-agency mechanism recommendations (2021), and the follow-up to BAPA+40 UN Conference on South-South Cooperation, global and regional good practices were inventoried and shared by the ILO regional offices and outcome leads. The ILO's platform [www.southsouthpoint.net](http://www.southsouthpoint.net) is a repository of good practices, lessons learned, publications, materials and South-South courses and solutions.

In the context of BRICS, the ILO has played a pivotal role in promoting decent work, enhancing Labor standards, and fostering discussions on informality, skills development, the future of work and productivity ecosystems across these emerging economies. The ILO has supported initiatives such as the BRICS Labour and Employment Ministerial Meetings, where member countries have engaged in discussions on youth employment, social security, and labour market policies. Through these dialogues, the ILO has facilitated the sharing of experiences and good practices among BRICS countries. A tangible outcome of this collaboration is the development of joint research projects on labour market dynamics and policies in BRICS countries, providing valuable insights for evidence-based policy making, as well as the BRICS knowledge series, promoted with the support of ITC Turin.

The ILO's engagement with the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) has been instrumental in advancing labour rights, social dialogue, combatting child labour. For example, the ILO has collaborated with CPLP member countries to strengthen labour inspection systems,

improve occupational safety and health standards, and share through common knowledge platforms products that can be tailor-made for each CPLP member. Through joint initiatives, such as the CPLP Labor Ministers' Meetings, the ILO has facilitated policy discussions and knowledge exchange on topics such as formalization of the informal economy, skills development, and social protection. This collaboration has resulted in the adoption of common guidelines and frameworks for labour policies, benefitting workers and enterprises in CPLP countries.

Moreover, the ILO has played a crucial role in supporting countries in the Global South to achieve their sustainable development goals. Through partnerships and knowledge-sharing, the organization has facilitated the transfer of expertise and technology in various sectors. For example, the ILO has collaborated with countries in Latin America to promote green jobs in renewable energy, leading to the creation of sustainable employment opportunities in the sector. In addition, the ILO has supported CPLP member countries in enhancing their social protection systems, providing technical assistance in the design and implementation of comprehensive social security schemes.

The ILO has continued to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing the devastating impact on global employment and livelihoods, the organization swiftly mobilized to provide critical guidance and support to governments, employers, and workers. Through its comprehensive response, the ILO has played a pivotal role in mitigating the socio-economic consequences of the pandemic and ensuring a just recovery. During the COVID 19 pandemic, over 75 initiatives funded by the regular budget were repurposed for the crisis, and integrated digital inclusion, virtual study tours, and online peer learning.

The ILO is fully committed to South-South Cooperation, and, through its cooperation with Brazil it is launching the first South-South project on Social Justice for the Global South, with a focus on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, Gender Equality and Social Protection.