

Concept Note for side-event at the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF)

South-South Climate Cooperation in Support of the SDGs

Conference Room 7, United Nations Headquarters, Monday 21 May 2018, 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement together with a series of landmark international agreements adopted in 2015 provide an overarching blueprint for a more sustainable and prosperous future. However, significant efforts are needed to transform visions into reality. Our present and future global development progress and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are severely threatened by the adverse impacts of climate change. The current efforts made to address climate changes is far from that is required to create an enabling environment for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to keep the temperature rise well below 2 degree Celsius as set up by the Paris Agreement.

Achieving sustainable development and addressing climate change is not a standalone endeavor and cannot be attained in isolation. Though climate action is one of the 17 SDGs, climate actions are crosscutting with multi-sectors and therefore are interconnected with all other SDGs. Due to this interconnectedness, climate cooperation at all level offers a catalytic solution to the SDGs. Also, as the global South is at the forefront of development needs due to limited capacity in terms of finance, technology and institutional arrangement, South-South climate cooperation opens door to paving a low-carbon and climate resilient economy to tackle multiple development challenges. Therefore, South-South cooperation (SSC), as a complement to North-South cooperation, provides an opportunity realize the 2030 Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda calls for the widest possible international cooperation for the implementation of the SDGs, including for capacity building, resource mobilization, institution building, increased investment, water resource management, access to clean energy research and technology, access to science, technology and innovation, data monitoring and follow-up among others. Harnessing the potential of South-South climate cooperation for the SDGs will provide more opportunities for developing countries with limited capacity and means, to combine resources, technology and knowledge to effectively and efficiently transform to a low-carbon and climate resilient development pathways and achieve green growth.

In this context, United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) will organize a side-event during the Development Cooperation Forum on how South-South climate cooperation can support the implementation of the SDGs.

I. Goals and Objectives

The event will focus on South-South climate cooperation for the SDGs with the aim to strengthen partnership, promote cooperation and coordination on SSC on sustainable development and climate change and facilitate exchanges among the member states. It will introduce the United Nations' efforts in promoting South-South climate cooperation for the SDGs and in advancing interchange of experiences and lessons learned among the member states and international organizations. It will bring together senior officials from the member states, international and intergovernmental organizations, and academia.

II. Agenda

Date and Time: Monday 21 May 2018, 1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Venue: Conference Room 7, United Nations Headquarters
Organized by: United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

<p>Opening Session (20 mins) 1:15 - 1:35</p>	<p><u>Opening Remarks and Keynote Speeches</u></p> <p>Senior representatives of the United Nations and Member States will deliver their remarks and introduce their efforts in promoting South-South climate cooperation for the SDGs. Each representative will be provided three minutes.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary, UN ESCAP- H.E. Ambassador Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Chair of AOSIS, Maldives- H.E. Ambassador Agustín García López, Executive Director of the Mexican Agency for International Cooperation, Mexico- H.E. Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Bangladesh- H.E. Ambassador Mahmamin Mahmaminov, Tajikistan- Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, Director, UNOSSC
<p>Interactive Discussion (50 mins) 1:35 - 2:25</p>	<p><u>How can South-South climate cooperation support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?</u></p> <p>The interactive discussion will convene stakeholders to highlight their ideas and actions on SSC on climate change, including technology cooperation on climate change, in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Each Representative will be provided three minutes and are welcome to answer any of the questions below. Intended speakers include Member States, United Nations agencies, International and Intergovernmental Organizations and Academia</p> <p><i>Moderator, Mr. Xiaohua Zhang, Manager, Climate and Sustainability Programme, UNOSSC</i></p> <p>Guiding questions—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What are the key challenges for developing countries to tackle climate change and implement SDGs and NDCs? How can SSC help address these challenges?- From your member states’/organization’s perspective, what concrete measures/efforts/policies have been taken or could be undertaken to advance climate actions in developing countries?- How could United Nations and international and inter-governmental organizations better support SSC on climate change?
<p>Closing Remarks (5 min) 2:25 – 2:30</p>	<p><u>Closing Remarks</u></p> <p>This session will conclude the event with closing remarks from Mr. Jorge Chediek, Envoy of the Secretary-General on South-South Cooperation, Director, UNOSSC</p>