



PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

Ambassadorial-level meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for building and sustaining peace

29 July 2025, 10AM – 1PM, Conference Room 3

Concept Note

Background

South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) includes both South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation. South-South Cooperation involves two or more developing countries pursuing development objectives through the exchange of knowledge, skills, resources, and technical know-how. Triangular Cooperation involves Southern-driven partnerships of two or more developing countries, supported by one or more developed countries and/or multilateral organizations. SSTC is guided by principles of national sovereignty, national ownership and independence, equality, non-conditionality, non-interference in domestic affairs, and mutual benefit. Examples of SSTC for peace and development abound, including in the areas of mediation support, electoral assistance, rule of law and judicial capacity-building, security sector reform, and management of natural resources.¹

The Pact for the Future encourages Member States to develop national prevention and peacebuilding strategies.² This is an area in which the comparative advantages of South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation may be particularly relevant. In his 2024 reports on the State of South-South Cooperation and on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace, the Secretary-General encourages Member States to leverage South-South Cooperation to develop and implement national prevention and peacebuilding strategies, through peer mediation and learning, the sharing of technical and political expertise, and exchanging knowledge and experiences between countries that have faced similar peacebuilding challenges.³

¹ For examples, see the chapter on SDG16 in [Good Practices in South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Sustainable Development](#) (2022) and chapter 2 in [South-South in Action: South-South and Triangular Cooperation on Peace and Development](#) (2019).

² See Action 18(d) in the [Pact for the Future](#).

³ See [A/79/230](#) for the 2024 report on the State of South-South Cooperation and [A/79/552*-S/2024/767*](#) for the 2024 report on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace.

The Peacebuilding Commission has a long-standing record of promoting SSTC. It facilitates the exchange of good practices and assists with the mobilization of political support and resources involving a range of North-South, South-South, and Triangular forms of cooperation. In 2019, the Commission held an Ambassadorial-level meeting on SSTC for peacebuilding and sustaining peace.⁴ In May 2025, the PBC convened an Expert-level meeting on SSTC for building and sustaining peace. At this meeting, Member States recognized the convergence between the principles that undergird SSTC and the PBC, cited examples of peacebuilding-related SSTC initiatives, proposed that a repository of such initiatives be created, encouraged collaboration between the PBSO's Peacebuilding Impact Hub and UNOSSC, encouraged synergies between the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and SSTC-focused trust funds, and noted the role that SSTC can play in conflict prevention.⁵ Similarly, after that meeting, on 28 May, the PBC Chair addressed the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.⁶ Furthermore, oftentimes United Nations entities that provide technical support to Member States obtain financing from the Peacebuilding Fund, using South-South cooperation as an important modality. Member States benefiting from the support of the Fund are always encouraged to continue to seek South-South cooperation to pursue their peacebuilding priorities.

In November 2024, Colombia launched a South-South Cooperation Programme for Peacebuilding, “From Colombia to the World,” whereby it makes available the lessons it has drawn from its own experience as a conflict-affected country. As part of this programme, Colombia developed a “Learning Route” in four strategic areas: disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration; financing for peace; regional development; and reparations for victims. Delegations from the Philippines, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Nigeria learnt about experiences in the Colombian departments of La Guajira and Cesar, and are proceeding to implement measures of their own with technical support from Colombia. Colombia is currently designing a second Learning Route, “Knitting equality and peace,” focused on the link between gender equality and peacebuilding.

Objectives and guiding questions

This PBC Ambassadorial-level meeting will follow on as an outcome of the Expert-level meeting held in May. It will provide an opportunity for Member States to reflect on the role of SSTC in building and sustaining peace, and ways in which the United Nations System, including the PBC, can help advance peacebuilding efforts through SSTC. Representatives from Colombia and partner countries involved with its South-South Cooperation Programme for Peacebuilding will brief on their experiences.

⁴ See [here](#) for Chair's Summary of the Ambassadorial-level meeting.

⁵ See “[Informal notes of PBC Expert-level meeting on South-South and Triangular Cooperation for building and sustaining peace \(14 May 2025\)](#)”.

⁶ See [here](#) for the remarks.

Delegations are encouraged to consider making concrete commitments and pledges relating to peacebuilding through SSTC.

Delegates may also wish to consider the following guiding questions:

- What are good examples and lessons of SSTC in action for building and sustaining peace that could be scaled up or replicated?
- What innovative financing mechanisms could be explored to support SSTC initiatives?
- What role should multilateral organizations play in facilitating horizontal networks of technical cooperation between actors from the Global South working on peacebuilding?
- How can the United Nations System, especially the PBC, be better positioned to drive peacebuilding through SSTC?
- How could the experiences and efforts of local and community actors in the Global South in peacebuilding be further reinforced and recognized as legitimate South-South cooperation?
- How may SSTC be applied in support of national prevention and peacebuilding strategies, as called for in the Pact for the Future?