

UNEP Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

Briefing by the Secretariat on 5 September 2019

Comments by the EU and its Member States

- The EU and its Member States thank UNEP for the first draft of the new South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Strategy and for the update of the process and next steps.
- We welcome UNEP's efforts in mainstreaming and improving SSTC both within UNEP and in the UN system-wide coordination. We see South-South and triangular cooperation as important as North-South cooperation.
- We see the integration of SSTC to all of the subprogrammes and POW as a good way to ensure effective implementation of normative and operative principles and increase sustainability. It is important to ensure SSTC activities are in line with the POW and MTS.
- The strategy remains on a quite general level which, given the wide scope of target audience (all staff involved in projects and POW), can be considered an asset. Concise document functions well as a guiding tool for practitioners.
- In particular, we welcome the multi-stakeholder approach, as the role of non-governmental organizations, private sector, civil society, academia and other stakeholders is very important in helping to achieve national sustainable development targets.
- In terms of funding, we would like to have more information on how the projects and activities proposed in the strategy will be funded. In particular, we would like to have more information on the proposed establishment and operational aspects of a specific fund for projects that focus on SSTC.
- In Section I (p.2-3), SSTC is defined based on the dichotomy of developing and developed countries. How are the economies in transition positioned in the strategy?
- Section III Objective 3 (p.8) mentions creation of new research groups as a part of fostering and enhancing innovative partnerships. We would appreciate some more information about this – what would be UNEP's role?
- The draft strategy notes that many UN agencies have prepared South-South strategies. We wonder were these strategies consulted as possible models for lessons learnt for UNEP's strategy.
- We would like to know, whether UNEP has a chance to participate in the preparation of the UN system-wide SSTC Strategy, expected to be released in 2021 – and whether there would be a possibility to strengthen the environmental dimension in SSTC through the system-wide strategy?
- It would be important to consult all MS prior to engagement in politically or otherwise highly significant cooperation initiatives.
- The EU and its Member States may provide further written comments by 27 September.