

## Input regarding UNEP's Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation

United States of America

9-9-2019

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The United States of America takes this opportunity to provide input on UNEP's Strategy for South-South and Triangular Cooperation. We refer to the page numbers and sections identified in the draft document circulated in advance of the September 5, 2019 briefing.

### Page 3:

#### Normative principles

- If UNEP is involved in a project, it should help raise environmental and socioeconomic standards. "Respect for sovereignty" and "non-interference" could be used as an excuse to overlook, ignore, or even harm environmental and/or social considerations.

The BAPA+40 outcome para 14 could be used for guiding principles in this regard:

- 14. We underline the need to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for achieving sustainable development, and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Good governance, rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, equal access to fair justice systems, and measures to combat corruption and curb illicit financial flows will be integral to our efforts.

### Page 7:

#### iii) *Knowledge Management, Communication and Outreach Tools*

- We are concerned about costly duplication of efforts with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). Duplication should be avoided.

#### iv) *Funding of SSTC projects and activities*

- Additional information about the SSTC Fund would be appreciated.
- "Work towards complying with the UN-wide recommendation of committing 0.5% of core funds to SSTC"
  - This sentence suggests that .5% of core funds are not being used for SSTC. It would be better to neutrally state that the UN-wide recommendation is to spend .5% of core funds and then state UNEP's actual expenditure so it is clear the recommended spending level has been met.
  - Per the Secretariat's briefing, UNEP has \$500,000,000 worth of projects, .5% = \$2.5m, which means UNEP already, meets the UN-wide goal.
  - The briefing document circulated for the October 31, 2018 CPR SC does not tally all expenditures for SSTC projects but the funding information in paragraphs 16-22 confirms that UNEP must meet the \$2.5 m target.

- EF – 7 projects
- GEF – 14 projects
- Brazil Trust Fund - \$5.2 m
- China Trust Fund - \$14 m
- China Asst Fund - \$1.3 m

**Page 8:**

***Objective 3: Fostering and enhancing innovative partnerships***

“Creating new research groups on emerging global and/or regional environmental issues and processes.”

- More details please. This sounds like the Frontiers report.

**Page 11:**

**SECTION V: Governance**

- This section must clearly identify UNEP’s duty to consult member states prior to making decisions in line with UNEA.4/L.29 paragraph 3.
- Would also be helpful to indicate that regular updates will be provided to MS through existing reporting channels.