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**144th meeting of the Committee of Permanent
Representatives to the United Nations Environment
Programme**

Nairobi, 8 January 2019
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; 2:30p.m. to 5:00p.m.
Conference Room 1

Agenda Item 8: Briefing on South-South cooperation

**Response from the Secretariat: Question from European Union and its member States
on South-South Cooperation at the Sub-committee meeting on 8th November 2018**

Dear Excellencies,

The Secretariat is pleased to present the following responses to questions that were received on aspects of the South-South Cooperation work during the CPR briefing held on 8th November 2018.

1. Question on discrepancy between the number of Environment Fund projects mentioned in the briefing note and stated on the presentation slides (7), and the number of Environment Fund projects included in the Annex 4 List of South-South and Triangular Cooperation Projects (1):

Several projects are funded through the Environment Fund. A **Partnership Development and South- South Cooperation Fund** was established in 2015 to support projects that were exclusively focused on development of new partnerships or South-South Cooperation as the primary mechanism for implementation. Seven projects received funding. As of November 2018, six of the seven projects are completed while the project “Delivering Sustainable Development and Enabling the Transition to Greener Economies through Sustainable Public Procurement” remains under implementation. The briefing note as well as the presentation which were provided for the CPR meeting, referred to the overall number of projects which received funding, whereas the annex only included projects currently under implementation, hence the discrepancy. This has since been rectified to ensure that all materials show the same information.

2. Development of a South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) Strategy

As mentioned during the briefing, the South-South Cooperation Unit will, over the coming months, be working on the development of a South-South and Triangular Cooperation Strategy for the organization.

A road map for the development of the strategy will be developed during a workshop on SSTC that is taking place during 10-11 December. The workshop will bring together staff involved in SSTC from various offices and divisions. Consultations with Member States will take place at this time, and subsequently.

3. Extent to which the South-South Cooperation Policy Guidance from 2011 informs the implementation of the Programme of Work.

From 2011 to date, UN Environment Programme has been implementing projects relating to South-South and Triangular Cooperation largely in accordance with “Integrating South-South Cooperation in the UNEP Programmes of Work: Policy Guidance” (Policy Guidance). The following table summarises the implementation of Policy Guidance by UN Environment Programme in recent years.

	Priority actions in Policy Guidance	Status of implementation
<i>Stronger Policies and Institutional Support for SSC</i>		
1	UNEP senior management is committed to ensuring that agreed upon mandates and commitments on South-South Cooperation are translated into concrete action.	South-South Cooperation is widely encouraged by senior management.
2	UNEP regional offices will explore areas where there may be synergies between the priorities and programmes laid out in a given PoW and the identified priorities and needs of a given country.	Regional Offices provide information on relevance of projects to country priorities during review of project proposals.
3	With regard to the Programme of Work process and content, explicit provisions for inclusion of South-South Cooperation approaches will be included in the criteria listed for review by the project review and approval process.	In 2015 UN Environment developed criteria to characterize South-South Cooperation-focused projects for use in project documents. This was an effort to entrench the South-South Cooperation approach in project development and implementation and to develop a mechanism for monitoring of such projects. The SSC criteria guide UNEP staff in developing and implementing SSC projects to ensure coherence and clarity on the SSC elements in the projects as well as harmonized approach to SSC project design.
4	UNEP will continue to strengthen its involvement in the UNDAF processes. It will step up participation in key UNCT meetings to strengthen the integration of environmental sustainability into UN programming processes. UNEP's regional offices will also facilitate and strengthen opportunities for country-to-country exchanges in collaboration with other members of the UNCT in line with the BSP.	UNEP is engaged in UNDAF and other UNCT processes as well as the regional UNDGs.
<i>Towards Systematic Funding for South-South Cooperation</i>		
5	South-South Cooperation, including triangular cooperation, is a delivery mechanism for implementing UNEP's sub-programmes. UNEP will work to initiate and sustain South-South cooperation approaches in the UNEP Programme of Work with adequate funding that will be built into the biennial programming process.	UNEP has worked with government and Funds to mobilize resources for South-South and Triangular Cooperation activities. Support has been received from the Environment Fund, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the UN Development Account, the Brazil Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation and support to the implementation of the broader SDG framework, UNEP-China Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (Ministry

6	<p>UNEP will work with governments and relevant organizations to provide financial and other resources for further facilitating South-South Cooperation.</p>	<p>of Ecology and Environment of China) and the China South -South Cooperation Assistance Fund (Ministry of Commerce of China).</p>
7	<p>UNEP will work to leverage existing triangular partnerships with governments such as Norway, Sweden and Japan that have demonstrated strong support for South-South and triangular cooperation in the past with ongoing support to UNEP and UNDP initiatives on issues related to environmental sustainability. UNEP will also explore opportunities for catalyzing support from GEF, UN Development Account and in liaison with UNDP Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, opportunities offered by the UN Fund for South-South Cooperation, the India-Brazil-South Africa Trust Fund and the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund, among others.</p>	
<p><i>Strengthening UNEP institutional mechanism to deliver on South-South Cooperation</i></p>		
8	<p>UNEP senior management is committed to providing policy support for a strengthened institutional mechanism and operational procedures particularly at the regional level to ensure coordinated and coherent identification, development and delivery of South-South Cooperation activities in the context of PoW implementation.</p>	<p>Some regions regularly develop South-South Cooperation projects in their regions. Staff from these Regional Offices provided the technical support required for these projects.</p>
9	<p>The actual implementation and driving force for South-South Cooperation will depend on the strengthened coordination and capacities of regional offices with the support of relevant staff from technical divisions. Regional Directors will be accountable for developing South-South Cooperation initiatives and coordinating their implementation within and between their respective regions in line with the priorities and programmes outlined in the PoW through the various sub-programmes. Staff at the regional offices will be designated to oversee and assist in the coordination of South-South Cooperation activities and programmes.</p>	

10	UNEP corporate South-South Cooperation and related support functions will be carried out by a Coordination Unit located at headquarters.	<p>The South-South Cooperation Unit in the Policy and Programme Division coordinates South-South Cooperation efforts in the organization. The main components of the work of the Unit are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coordination and provision of support to projects that employ South-South Cooperation as a mechanism for project implementation; 2. Development and facilitation of innovative partnerships; 3. Coordination of a South-South Cooperation Community of Practice, and; 4. Interagency coordination and engagement. <p>The South-South Cooperation Unit acts as policy hub and focal point for South-South related activities in the organization. It is working towards enhancing internal coordination and systematically strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation within UN Environment Programme and across its regional offices. It is also working on improving the monitoring and reporting of commitments made under the Programme of Work.</p>
11	The Unit will also coordinate the development and promotion of the application of support tools, including further development, operationalisation and regular updating of the UNEP South-South Cooperation operational guidelines.	
12	Further, the Unit will engage in regular consultations among UNEP regional offices, divisions and sub-programmes to refine existing operational guidelines and approaches for integrating South-South Cooperation more effectively in support of capacity-building efforts at various levels.	
13	An important aspect of UNEP's strategy for integrating South-South Cooperation will involve outreach efforts to build awareness internally in UNEP as well as with relevant partners. The initiation and facilitation of these activities will constitute key tasks of the Coordination Unit.	
14	Further the Unit will continue to guide and provide oversight for the further development and maintenance of the South-South Cooperation exchange mechanism specifically to enhance UNEP's ability to meet requests for facilitating the matching of available South-specific expertise and knowledge to expressed needs.	
15	Relevant divisional staff will be designated as focal points for South-South Cooperation efforts within their respective divisions and their terms of reference will also be revised to reflect this support role.	No Divisional focal points have been designated yet although Division staff are contacted and engaged based on the relevance of their work to SSC.
16	The staff complement of the coordination unit will comprise at a minimum, one full-time professional staff at P-4/5 level supported by one full-time junior staff specifically to support the content management of the South-South Exchange mechanism.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The level and time allocation for of the SSC Unit is indicated below. - 1 D1-focal point (100%) - P3 staff (80%) - 1 JPO fully funded by Chinese government (100%) - 2 consultants (100% + 50%) 2 interns (100%)

<i>Participation in multi-lateral forums to promote South-South Cooperation in the Environment</i>		
17	UNEP will step up efforts to support policy dialogue regarding South-South Cooperation on environmental issues at international conferences including meetings of the COPs in order to promote partnerships for enhancing South-South and triangular cooperation.	UNEP-IEMP organized, on the sidelines of the COP20 in Lima, Peru, in December 2014, ministerial forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change. Emphasis was placed on the importance of cooperation and exchange of expertise amongst the Global South for addressing global challenges.
18	In addition, UNEP will continue to take the lead in the organisation of the solution forum on climate change and environment as a key component of the annual Global South-South Development Expo specifically to showcase UNEP- supported initiatives that have provided successful solutions to climate change/environment problems through effective leadership, innovation and partnerships.	<p>UN Environment has been participating in the Global South- South Development Expo for many years. In 2013, the Expo was hosted by UN Environment in Nairobi compound.</p> <p>UNEP hosted a solution forum focusing on “Delivering the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through innovative South-South Cooperation solutions” during the 2016 SSC Expo held in Dubai.</p> <p>2018 marks the 10th anniversary of Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo). UN Environment is hosting a solution forum on “promoting sustainable development through engaging youth and women in South-South Cooperation” and will be exhibiting a project “African Women Energy Entrepreneurship Framework” at the Expo which is being coordinated by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the UN General Assembly High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation.</p>
19	Further, regional environmental forums will provide an important basis for the identification of emerging needs and priorities, as well as inputs on relevant policy recommendations and the UNEP programme of work development processes.	It is envisaged that several high-level dialogues will be held through engagement in the China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Center and the Greening the Belt and Road Initiative.

<i>Enhanced Partnerships</i>		
20	UNEP will demonstrate and communicate the role and value of South-South Cooperation as an effective delivery mechanism for the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan.	UNEP has actively worked to develop and/ or support partnerships that embody the spirit of South-South Cooperation. These include: the Greening the Belt and Road Initiative; the China-Africa Environmental Cooperation Center; the International Solar Alliance; and the Global Peatlands Initiative.
21	UNEP will engage in regular consultations and exchange of information in areas where there are opportunities for joint programming and execution in the context of implementation of the UNEP programme of work.	There is enhanced collaboration amongst projects and programmes and increasingly lessons within and across regions are being shared.
22	Specifically, UNEP will continue to draw on the capacities and expertise of relevant collaborating centers, centers of excellence and networks to support joint programming and execution of identified South-South and triangular cooperation activities in the six sub-programmes of UNEP's programme of work. Partnerships and interaction with the Ozone networks, National Cleaner Production Centers, Climate Change networks, centres that support UNEP's work in ecosystem management, integrated environmental assessment and reporting as well as other emerging opportunities for programmatic and other substantive cooperation will be further explored.	Partnerships and interaction with the Ozone networks, National Cleaner Production Centers, Climate Change networks, centres that support UNEP's work in ecosystem management, integrated environmental assessment and reporting continue to be cultivated and expanded.
23	In particular, UNEP will actively engage with the CBD Secretariat to explore and identify opportunities for synergies and possible joint initiatives in the context of the implementation of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South cooperation.	Part of the Brazil Fund was support to CBD Protected Areas and ABS (Africa and LAC) etc.
24	In addition, close cooperation between UNEP, UNDP and GEF will be established and maintained to assist countries in their capacity-building and technology support needs.	Collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP and other agencies has continued and has grown.
25	Regular liaison, dialogue and consultations will be maintained with the UNDP Special Unit for South- South Cooperation, as the system-wide coordinator and facilitator for South-South and triangular cooperation.	UN Environment Programme is engaged with the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) which promotes, coordinates and supports South-South and triangular cooperation globally and within the United Nations system

<i>Development of communication and outreach tools</i>	
26	The South-South Cooperation Coordination Unit will adopt a comprehensive communication and outreach strategy to ensure coherence between headquarters, its divisions, as well as UNEP regional offices in the key messages and priorities that are conveyed, internally in UNEP as well as with external partners, consistent with the strategic actions of this policy guidance and operational approaches for systematic integration of South-South Cooperation across the work of the organisation.
27	The communication and outreach strategy will be guided by the UNEP corporate external and internal communication strategies as well as the Programme of work processes.
28	UNEP will also produce a range of products to strengthen the South-South Cooperation Outreach to target audiences.
29	It will be updated regularly with direct web links created to ongoing UNEP wide South-South Cooperation related activities to reflect up-to-date information on program priorities, tools and activities geared towards a wide range of UNEP staff and relevant partners.
30	A key component of the communication strategy will focus on the further development, operation and maintenance of the South-South Cooperation exchange mechanism specifically to facilitate effective information sharing among relevant stakeholders. Internally in UNEP, the exchange mechanism will serve to document and disseminate in a more systematic way, many of the South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives that have been built into previous and on-going UNEP's capacity building project activities.

Although a communication and outreach strategy was developed, it has not been implemented fully. It is envisaged that this work will be restarted once the new strategy is in place.

The UN Environment Programme website on South-South Cooperation: <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/green-economy/what-we-do/economic-and-fiscal-policy/south-south-cooperation> exists and is used to provide updates on South-South Cooperation activities.

<i>Appraisal, Monitoring and Evaluation</i>		
31	The South-South Cooperation Unit will continue to liaise with regional offices and divisions to promote and assist UNEP project managers to explore South-South Cooperation opportunities and strengthen the capacity building aspects of the projects particularly at the identification and design stage. The membership of the Project Review Committee (PRC) will include a representative of the South-South Cooperation Coordination specifically to help assess the adequacy of projects' incorporation of South-South Cooperation approaches.	In February 2015, a UNEP South-South Cooperation Community of Practice (SSC CoP) was formed to bring together resource persons involved in South-South Cooperation work and to help drive the South-South Cooperation agenda in the organization, develop common definitions and play an advocacy role while sharing best practices and lessons learned to enrich the practice of South-South Cooperation in the organization.
32	South-South Cooperation will be strengthened in the design, review, approval and implementation process of programmes and projects. In addition, these initiatives will also be regularly entered and updated in the Programme Implementation Management System with a specific module to track progress of implementation.	Criteria for South-South Cooperation in projects were developed to guide staff in developing and implementing South-South Cooperation projects and to ensure coherence and clarity on the South-South Cooperation elements in the projects as well as harmonized approach to South-South Cooperation project design. Key elements of the criteria are: 1. The project involves the following forms of cooperation among countries of the South: Capacity building; Knowledge/technology transfer; Partners from the South. 2. The Project uses knowledge/ technology developed in the South or technology from the North adapted to the needs of the South. 3. The project is replicable. 4. The project is scalable. 5. The project is bankable. 6. The project has linkages to the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) principles for implementation at country level. 7. A South-South Cooperation case study is expected as an outcome. 8. South-South Cooperation projects entered and updated in the Programme Implementation Management System (PIMS). However, no specific module to track progress of implementation has been developed.
33	The UNEP project manual has been revised to incorporate appropriate linkages and references to the South-South Cooperation operational guidelines.	